

the roads, the unfavorable state of the weather, the distance of his residence from the place of worship are offered as ready excuses by the cold hearted christian for absenting himself from the public worship of God.

But another and a far more serious obstacle to the diffusion of the pure doctrines and worship he professes, he has to meet with from another quarter. A part of the people among whom his labours are to be bestowed, he finds most decisively hostile to him; a description of persons who, though descended from the same race with himself, have had every old association torn from their bosoms by the ruthless hand of rebellion; every opinion in church and state that had been hal- lowed by time, and which had stood the test of ages, eradicated from their bosoms:—and as the quarrels of brothers, and of children against their parents are the most cruel and bloody, so after the convulsion was over which had shaken every old opinion of their nature to its very center, they found a settled hatred to the mother country, and a determined malignity to her institutions and manners, the predominant feeling of their minds. These ideas are with difficulty forgotten, even in this country, where the tolerant principles of the church and the enlightened ideas of liberty and independence which distinguish the mother country are, if possible, carried farther than they are at home. And in contending against them, the Missionary of the Gospel has difficulties of no ordinary nature to encounter; he has prejudice, the most deep-rooted to overcome; for until the minds of his hearers are conciliated towards him, and until they can look upon him with that charity which is due from one christian to another, all his efforts are in vain; and afterwards, when he has obtained the friendly attention of his hearers, he has then the deepest ignorance to enlighten, for it is a fact, a deplorable fact that has been proved by the experience of ages, that the most deep-rooted of prejudices have their