

and who sent forth to America such a company of respectable brethren as I have named above ; neither does it in my opinion reflect credit on a periodical that publishes and recommends to its readers a communication containing such abusive language against brethren so deserving of respect. The law of doing as we would wish to be done to, seems to forbid speaking evil of absent parties who have no opportunity to defend themselves. The Roman law did not permit a person to be accused, but where the accuser and accused were face to face.

The Scotch Baptists with all their failings (and I admit these) were the first in Britain or America as far as I know, that made a real attempt at the restoration of the ancient order of things and the overthrow of the kingdom of the clergy; they were in the field as reformers before the celebrated and deservedly esteemed A. Campbell was born.

The abilities and boldness of Elder Campbell, which led him to abandon all the old land marks and launch out into the open ocean, trusting only to the compass of God's word, enabled him to steer clear of some of the shoals and rocks which proved disastrous to some of the Scotch Baptist churches; he seems to have been the first who taught the *distinction* between faith and opinion; a secret unknown to the Scotch Baptists, and to their ignorance of this (and not to electioneering strife and organizing their own churches) is to be ascribed most of their chief troubles. So I think. The prejudices of my education was altogether against the Scotch Baptists. I was in the 18th year of my age when I left my native Island, and there was not then, I believe, one person in my native parish but what adhered to the established religion of the Church of Scotland, and I was in the 21st year of my age before I entered a place of worship belonging to the Scotch Baptists. Circumstances which it is needless to mention here, led me to search the scriptures, which search I continued for about six months, and ended in convincing me that of all the sects in Scotland the Scotch Baptists were the nearest to the truth, and I concluded it to be my duty to unite with that people. I was baptized on the evening of the 4th of Sep., 1807, by Elder James Thomson, and on the 7th of the same month being Lord's day I was received a member of the church of which Mr. T. was an Elder. I continued in Paisley until May : th 1819, a period of about 10 years, and what I have stated in this paper was applicable to the Scotch Baptists at that time.

JAMES SILLARS.

River John, N. S.

---

#### MISSIONARY SOCIETIES, NO. 5.

'The same Lord over all' and 'Head over all' is the 'one Lawgiver' to all and for all his disciples. Hence there can be no separate or diverse interests among the companies of brethren under the Sovereign Legislator, since they are in the aggregate one Body, animated by one