

to the importance of giving in a correct return as to their denominational connection

Heads of families are also earnestly requested to give attention to the above matter in filling up the blanks which will be left at their houses by the enumerators.

Let it be especially remembered, that actual membership in a Congregational Church is not necessary to entitle any one to return himself as a Congregationalist.† Those who stately attend the worship of such a church, and look to its pastor for ministerial services, and even those isolated Congregationalists who are deprived of the opportunity of so doing, but have not renounced their denominational principles, though, for the time being, attending elsewhere, are fully authorised to enrol themselves under our name.

The whole family, unless there are special and express exceptions, should be returned under the same denominational heading.

The use of vague titles, which are so general as to mean nothing, should be avoided,—such as “Christian,” “Protestant;” even the time-honoured name of “Independent” will be taken by the officials at head-quarters, as designating a different denomination. Those who are strongly attached to it, should at least say “Congregationalists or Independents.”

In the Province of Quebec, we are advised by a high authority to use the double designation “Congregational Protestants,” inasmuch as some of the Romish Orders have the word, “Congregation,” in their titles. (See C. I., for January, 1871, pp. 272, 3.)

It is hoped that careful attention will be given by all concerned to this matter, which is really one of considerable importance. The figures in the census will be referred to, on innumerable occasions, as evidence of the relative strength of the several denominations. There is not one more likely to suffer from undervaluation than our own, for our principle of Purity of Communion both restricts our membership, and induces scruples on the part of non-members, as to calling themselves Congregationalists.

Although sustaining an official relationship only to Churches in Ontario and Quebec, the undersigned has taken the liberty to include those of the Maritime Provinces in this address, inasmuch as all are alike interested in the subject.

F. H. MARLING,

Secretary, Cong. Union, O. & Q.

Toronto, February 24th, 1871.

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## Gleanings.

—When Whitefield was asked whether a certain man was a Christian, he answered, “How should I know? I never lived with him.”

Punch suggests to Protestant clergymen going over to Rome to take return tickets, good, as we Americans say, “for thirty days.”

—One hour of love will teach a woman more of her true relations than all your philosophizing.—*Margaret Fuller.*

—It is very dangerous for any man to find any spot on this broad globe that is sweeter to him than his home.—*Beecher.*

—Do not mistake a tendency for a talent; nor conclude that what you dislike to do is not rightfully demanded of you.—*Curlye.*

—To bring forward the bad actions of others to excuse our own, is like washing ourselves in mud.—*Anon.*