

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE "ACADIA ATHENÆUM."

Gentlemen :

The Lecture on "The Great Ejection of 1662," now published at your request, advocates principles which I trust will ever be held firmly by you. Persecution is so hateful, in all its forms, that an enlightened christian will shudder at the thought of encouraging it in the slightest degree. And it is as mean as it is hateful. How despicable is the conduct of that man, who, instead of answering his adversary's arguments, hands him over to the magistrate, to be plundered, according to law !

Allow me to indulge in a reminiscence or two. The first time that I ventured to appear in print was in the year 1818, and it was in connection with the subject of this lecture. A sermon on Acts v. 29, preached on the 24th of August in that year, was published, bearing the title "*Bartholomew Day Commemorated.*" Great changes have taken place since that time. Protestant Dissenters in England were then subjected to serious restraints and disabilities. Their marriages could only be celebrated in the episcopal churches. There was no legal registration of births and deaths. No persons were permitted to serve their king and country, or even to take office in a city or town-corporate, if they could not prove that they had received the Lord's Supper according to the forms of the Church of England. The divine ordinance, as Cowper said, (himself a member of that church,) was made "an office key, a pick-lock to a place." The exigencies of government, however, sometimes rendered necessary the employment of persons who had not complied with the requirement ; and then the clumsy expedient of an "Indemnity Act" was adopted. Such an Act was passed at the commencement of every parliamentary session, graciously exempting from penalties those who had assumed public offices without "qualifying," as the phrase was,—that is, without using the "office key."

All these grievances have been redressed. We rejoice in our freedom. Let us thank God for the blessing, use it discreetly, and be always ready to help those who ask for a share.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your friend and well-wisher,

J. M. CRAMP,

*Acadia College, Nov. 20, 1862.*