

Unprovoked public attacks. Exposing and rebuking. True friend. Reciprocal respect and affection.

We stated, in giving insertion to the first of Mr. Harvard's letters, that it was with some degree of reluctance we opened our columns to a discussion, which could scarcely fail to partake of the nature of, at least, a *quasi*-polemical controversy; and that we only did so, from respect towards the writer and the estimable religious community to which he belongs, and in which he is a venerable and venerated Pastor.

Mr. Harvard has, certainly, occupied more of our space than we, at first, contemplated allowing him; but, we trust, our readers, whether Churchmen or Methodists, will find no fault with us for so doing. He was, in *simple justice*, entitled to the use of a public medium of vindicating himself, and the particular branch of the great Christian family of which he is a member, from—*we, at least, think*—the UNPROVOKED PUBLIC ATTACKS AGAINST HIM AND THEM, which appeared in our contemporary's columns; and, we feel satisfied that, in so doing, Mr. Harvard, while exposing and rebuking certain office-bearers in the Church of England, has shewn himself the true friend of that Venerable Establishment.

We farther believe, that, our Reverend Correspondent's letters, when perused in a spirit of candour, will have the effect of strengthening those bonds of mutual respect and Christian charity, which, in our humble opinion, ought to unite the members of the Church of England and their brethren the followers of WESLEY. Nor need we dread being accused of like-warmness or hostility towards the Church of England, of which, however unworthy,

we profess ourselves humble members—for holding with Dr. Southey, that—"WESLEY and WHITFIELD were chosen instruments of Providence, for giving a great impulse to religious feeling, when it was needed most."

We are fully satisfied that it was not the wish, or object of WESLEY to create a schism in the bosom of the Church in which he was an ordained Minister. And, although circumstances over which he could possess but a partial controul, have led to that result, we still trust that, in the fulness of time, means will be discovered by which the millions of his followers, now spread over the face of the whole Christian world, will, with their pastors, be re-integrated with that Church, which their Apostle—if we may so call him—never ceased to love and respect.

We think, that such letters as those written by Mr. Harvard, will tend to enlighten the members of the Anglican Church in Canada, as to the real sentiments and feelings entertained towards them by the Wesleyans; and, so far, aid in producing, if not, as above supposed, a re-union with their church, at least, a more kind and Christian feeling of reciprocal respect and affection, than unhappily has hitherto characterized their religious communions with each other.

We, therefore, see no cause to regret our having, under the peculiar circumstances, departed from our general rule of excluding all polemical controversy from our columns—a merely secular journal not being, in our opinion, a fitting or proper vehicle for such discussions.