

The witnesses are here divided between the Methodists and Presbyterians, the majority inclining to the former, but uniformly giving their answers in favour of the one or the other. Indeed, there seems little question that, if left to its unaided resources, this Province would present the same appearance in religious matters, that the United States do. There, I believe, the Methodists form the most numerous sect, and the Presbyterians rank next—the former acting as pioneers, and spreading themselves over all the newly settled countries—the latter coming after them, and gradually gaining ground as the people become able to support regular Preachers. This state of things naturally takes place, where no funds are provided by the State, for the religious wants of those, whose situation prevents them from maintaining Clergymen of education, from their own unaided resources. There the Methodists rapidly diffuse themselves, and though many of them are, of course, devoid of any pretensions to learning, and are actuated merely by a sort of blind zeal—yet, unquestionably their labours are, on the whole, productive of great good. They, however, who are best judges of human nature, will, I believe, agree with me in thinking that the advantages which morality and religion would derive from the state giving moderate support to preachers of a higher order, who would avoid exciting that spirit of fanaticism and delusion, which too often subsides into total apathy, would amply repay the expenses attending the measure. With this support, I believe that Presbyterianism would take the lead of any denomination of Christians in North America.

I conceive that I have now fully proved my third head of argument, and have established, that the feelings of the Protestant population of Canada are as decidedly opposed to the pretensions of the English Church, as they are naturally disposed to yield to the more moderate claims of that of Scotland; and that to give the reins to some church politicians and render the Colony, as they express it, English, by forcing over us a church establishment, like that of England, were a policy no less unwise than dangerous. It has already been acted on to an extent that has alarmed every true friend of Britain, and of Canada, and if persevered in, every succeeding year will, I am satisfied, serve further to demonstrate that it is both impracticable and unsafe. Could we ever suppose its supporters to be ultimately so far successful as to establish it in Canada as the dominant religion, I am persuaded that their triumph would be but of short duration. Let us just carry forward our views a little till the period when the dreams of our sanguine projectors are to be realised. Let the Church of England thrive and prosper among us, let her clergy rule over us, and let them be put in possession of such a portion of the good things of the Land, as may be consistent with her dignity, and with the share she claims in her native England. We shall admit that as a body they might be learned, and respectable; but then, by the constitution of their Church and the care of Government, they would be indepen-