

*Sine qua non. Doddridge. Very reverse. Eastern Canada. Dr. Coke. Dignified Episcopalians.*

have made no attack upon their National Establishment; for which, indeed, as before professed, I have ever entertained the most regardful respect. Both my age and station, unite to protect me from suspicion of sinister motive, in avowing this attachment. The circumstances of our still more beloved Wesleyan Church are so *completely solvent*, as that, we, as a religious community, can well afford to pay an occasional tribute of friendly regard to the ancient and honored Communion, of our own justly venerated Founder.

Men of respectable minds will not treat with scorn such an avowal, on my part; whether they may be found among Episcopalians or non-conformists. Were it otherwise, even, I trust my principles are sufficiently Scriptural and valued, to reconcile me to any disadvantage to which a suitable avowal of them might tend to subject me. With Christianly feeling towards those who, on that point may differ from myself, I nevertheless shall be permitted the privilege of saying, that I never have been a *dissenter*, in the sense in which those Christian people are, who deem an Established Church, *as such*, to be *essentially and necessarily* sinful and offensive to God. This, if I have not misunderstood those estimable brethren, is the position which is taken by devout and conscientious dissenters, properly so called.

In this Province, indeed, under all the circumstances of the question, I presume to think, with the official advisers of our Most Gracious QUEEN, that the establishment of any "dominant" and exclusively-favoured church, would be both unjust and impolitic. And my humble opinion is, that, with all religious bodies, our Colonial Government should make it a *sine qua non* of official patronage or encouragement, that, at least, they shall exercise a bearing of civility and good-will towards their fellow-citizens of other loyal churches. It will be admitted that those parties can have but a small claim on the *public funds*, who shew but little respect for the *public feeling*. On the subject of loyalty, I admire the sentiments of a lovely and learned dissenter of the last century, Dr. DODDRIDGE; whose words in relation to the British Crown, are:—"It is impossible, UNDER SUCH A GOVERNMENT, to be good Christians, without being good subjects, or to 'fear God,' if we do not 'honour the king!'"

It is freely avowed, and with great respect for them, that some of my Wesleyan friends have an impression, in relation to the Church of England, which is the very reverse of mine. In support of this, they produce their own appropriate reasonings. And they have the most undisputed right to their own private views in this matter. But I feel no reluctance in avowing myself to be a Wesleyan of the original school. And, as an individual, I again repeat it, however humble, "I am a friend of the Church of England." Those who have seen me condemned for this profession, will pardon my egotism. My attachment to her has been evinced in each of the four quarters of the globe; and during the entire exercise of my Wesleyan ministry, for the space of between thirty and forty years. Of this I have the most flattering documentary evidence; and forthcoming, Mr. Editor, should you desire it.

But let no man expect to find me a *sympochant*, because I avow myself to be "a friend." If, in order to prove himself a friend to that Church, a person must behold no defect in her constitution, which he would wish to see amended—must close his eyes to most manifest evils in her administration, unwilling to have them remedied—must tamely submit to ungentlemanly and unprincipled AGGRESSION on the part of such of her clergy or laity as are *ill-bred and unsanctified*—must raise no voice of remonstrance against "UNBLESSED FALSEHOOD" uttered by some termed her "MOST HONEST advocates;" then, I confess, I am neither such a friend, nor such a fool! If, on the other hand,—to have no sympathy with her avowed enemies—to be unidentified with any of their belligerent movements against her—to reprove sincerely when she spiritually prospers—to hold out the hand of affectionate fellowship to her ministers and members—and, on every convenient occasion, to communicate with them at her altars—if this be friendship, no one can deny my claim to the character of "a friend to the Church of England." And, whoever may sneer, or affect to disdain, a. unbought friend of this description, I intend to remain, so long as I may occupy a place in "Christ's church, militant here on earth."

In not a few of the sections of this our United Province, the Wesleyan ministers have long preceded the Missionaries of that church. And in my own Missionary District of Eastern Canada, her ministers and people have had the gratuitous use of our Wesleyan places of worship, until they were in circumstances to build for themselves. This is, however, a courtesy which has been seldom *reciprocated* by them: (and, Mr. Editor, be assured, by ourselves *never solicited*). It is said that their "canons" permit them, in that respect, to *borrow*, but forbid them to *lend*: a principle, in relation to which an *alteration* might be an *improvement*. Among our Wesleyan families, her Bishop and Clergy, in their itinerant labours, have ever found, and do still receive, the most hospitable entertainment. We ourselves do the same from those beloved Episcopalian families, from which unfriendly clergymen have either not ventured to attempt, or have not succeeded, in accomplishing, our exclusion. And, in my whole life, of between fifty and sixty years, I DEFY ANY PERSON TO PROVE that I have ever committed, or have been a consenting party to, a single act of hostility against the Church of England!

My principles, on that subject, have never undergone any change since, *upwards of thirty years ago*, I had the privilege, (with five other ordained ministers,) to accompany the devoted Dr. COKE, on his last Missionary undertaking to INDIA; when he became a martyr to the change of climate, in his then advanced period of life. In that memorable enterprise, among those of other distinguished individuals, we carried with us letters of introduction from Dr. BUCHANAN, Mr. STEPHEN, Mr. WILBERFORCE, Lord TEIGNMOUTH, (a former Governor General of India,) and Lord BATHURST, then Colonial Secretary of State. These celebrated and dignified Episcopalians, knew the Wesleyans full as well, as any can do who, in this Province, may now desire to degrade