

It has been said that we seek the destruction of the Episcopal Church in Upper Canada. The charge, let it be made by whomsoever it may,—and it has been made by high authority—is a vile slander. Conscientious Presbyterians as we are,—regarding, as we honestly do, the Episcopal Church of England as far, very far indeed, from giving a fair embodiment of Apostolic forms and practice in its establishment and ecclesiastical polity,—still we should but ill merit the name of Protestant Christians, did we not regard with veneration and esteem, a Church which has done such essential service to our common Christianity, by her distinguished learning and piety. Let it, therefore, be distinctly borne in mind, that we entertain no hostile feeling to the Episcopal Church, as a section of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. The field for the usefulness of the sister Church in this Province is abundantly large; and while her Ministers labour to cultivate the moral wastes, gather in the outcasts of Israel, and build up the walls of Zion, we can most cordially bid them God speed; and by how much the more successful they are in disseminating the precious doctrines of the cross, the more shall we rejoice. But when the Episcopal Church would be unjust, she must be restrained; and when she would be arrogant, she must be repressed; and when, in madness, she would take a position which would be at once fatal to her own usefulness, and utterly destructive of all genuine loyalty in the country, she must be repelled. Calmly, but firmly, must the claims which she now puts forth be repelled. They are unjust, arrogant, and, in the present temper of the times, unspeakably mischievous.

We say it, before God, and in the face of the world—and we say it more in grief than in anger—that the attempts to establish a Dominant Church in Upper Canada, have done more to alienate the affections of the people from their Rulers than the wisest of those rulers seem to be fully aware of. We cannot, we dare not, disguise our solemn conviction, that this measure carried fully out and all is lost. The most malignant ingenuity bent upon the destruction of this fair province, could have devised no measure better fitted to bring about the disastrous result. Did we, brethren, feel less attachment to our invaluable Constitution—were our loyalty but feeble, and our zeal for British connection less ardent, we might on this matter speak with greater coolness. But knowing well what interests are involved in the present struggle, and knowing how much the issue of that struggle must depend on the measure to which we have referred, we cannot but give utterance to the honest, the ardent emotions of our hearts.

But then, it has been said, all this is but selfishness under a thin disguise. It is affirmed that we wish the Rectories put down, and the Episcopal Church stripped of her high precedency, merely that we may engross the emoluments, and occupy the envied distinction to which she now lays claim. If our enemies

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