

CANADA BAPTIST MAGAZINE,

AND MISSIONARY REGISTER.

No. 9.

FEBRUARY, 1838.

VOL. I.

RELIGIOUS STATE OF CANADA.

To the Editor.

SIR,—Allow me to present to your readers a few remarks on the state of religion in Canada, and the best means of promoting its extension.

Wherever the lot of a Christian may be cast, he will not, he cannot, be indifferent to the moral and spiritual condition of the population around him; and every survey which he takes of that condition will produce upon his mind an impression either of pain or of pleasure,—will exhibit some grievous want over which his spirit mourns, or some encouraging token in which his soul rejoices,—will either gratify him with symptoms of piety and Christian love, or excite him, by the absence of these qualities, to devise means for introducing a better state of things.

The situation of this Colony is somewhat peculiar. The previous occupants being of a different nation and religion from our own, and the exercise of that religion being very properly secured to them as long as they should prefer it, the Romish faith was not only predominant, but almost exclusive, for many years.

Emigration has introduced a very “mixed multitude, both of persons and sentiments; some having a respect for true religion, some feeling its power; but the greater part, there is reason to fear, neither knowing nor caring any thing about the matter.”

In such a variegated population, changing its character every year by fresh accessions of emigrants, it is obviously a matter of no small difficulty to form a correct estimate of the real amount of religion amongst us, and scarcely less so to determine which is the best course to pursue, or the most eligible series of measures to adopt, for the purpose of supplying the want of instruction, and extending the benefits of religion around us.

No one can have resided long in any of the districts of either Province, without observing the lamentable destitution of the means of grace which prevail there, and the consequent ignorance, irreligion, and carelessness of the people, intermixed, however, with many hopeful signs of a desire to hear the word, and the appearance, now and then, of individuals who