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"ONE IS YOUR MASTER, *even* CHRIST: AND ALL YE ARE BRETHREN."

### The Topic for the Month.

#### SLAVERY AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

When the Rev. Alexander Campbell, President of Bethany College, visited Canada last autumn, the bigoted opponents of his views called upon all the churches over which they had any influence, to shut their chapel doors against him, lest he should have an opportunity of disturbing the minds of the faithful, by what they were pleased to style his dangerous and pernicious sentiments. To render these appeals the more effective, certain Baptists accused this foreigner (the Rev. A. Campbell) of aiming at the overthrow and subversion of their peculiar church institutions. And in addition to all these things, charges direct and indirect, were so ruthlessly hurled at him that the *Tribune* was constrained to speak in his behalf, in the full belief that he, as a Christian brother, was entitled to a fair and candid hearing. That no obstacle should be thrown in the way of his proclaiming to us the doctrines of his reformation—but that he should have every facility of convicting us of sin and of error wherever he deemed it his duty to make the attempt.

While in Canada, the Rev. A. Campbell was an advocate of liberty of speech and of freedom of discussion, even where the interests of peculiar institutions were directly at stake; and, where his sentiments could not be uttered without awakening serious and determined opposition. In Bethany, however, it seems to be far otherwise. In Bethany,—Ay!—in Bethany College! there is *one subject* on which students must be dumb,—one subject, the discussion of which is proscribed by the Faculty and by the Rev. A. Campbell, their President!—Is the subject one, the discussion of which necessarily involves blasphemy? Not at all. Is it one so intimately connected with unnameable pollutions, that decency

forbids its discussion? O no! So far from this, the practices involved in this subject are held to be scriptural by four-fifths of the students of Bethany College. Surely, then, it must be one so visionary and puerile as to be obviously destitute of all practical issues!—Wrong still.—So much so, that it is perhaps impossible to name a subject in which the whole American Union is so deeply interested by reason of the number and magnitude of its issues.—The subject is rocking the whole nation, North and South, by the startling character of its marvellous developments. And in it are wrapt up the highest and dearest interests of more than *three millions* of the American people. To show the utter fallacy of proscribing such a subject, it is not necessary to view the recent disturbances in Bethany College through the statements of the parties whom the proscription has driven from its halls; the folly,—the utter folly of the attempt to place the subject under key and pad-lock, is painfully apparent in the following humiliating defence of the Rev. President. Alas! that this noble champion of the freedom of speech should have fallen asleep on the lap of slavery: for surely the following is a dream:—

#### DISTURBANCE IN BETHANY COLLEGE.

So many statements have appeared in different quarters concerning the recent disturbance in Bethany College, caused by the indiscreet zeal of a few inexperienced young men, in the agitation of the much vexed question of slavery, and so imperfect and unjust is the impression which these seem to have made upon the public mind, that it becomes our duty briefly to narrate the whole case, precisely as it occurred. This is due especially both to the Faculty of Bethany College and to our numerous friends, North and South, who have hitherto approved our policy on this subject. Our apology for not having done so at an earlier day, is—*first*, that we left home a few days after the occurrence and have just returned; and *second*, that we did not think it necessary to give, in advance, a public explanation for what was simply