

ment to Constitutional principles, is a decisive proof of your loyalty, good sense and sound moral feeling.—Notwithstanding our persuasion that you will ever manifest these high qualities of the Christian Citizen, it is well known to you that there are not a few, who, seduced by wicked and designing men, or incited by their own malignant passions, cherish the deepest hostility against the Government of the country and the Constitution under which we live. We, therefore, caution you, dear brethren, to beware of the influence of such persons; beware of abandoning the known and certain good which you now enjoy; beware of resigning certain and substantial good for the visionary theories and fallacious hopes held out by unprincipled men. In the proper sense of the word, every *honest* man will be a reformer of abuses; but be assured of it, these men seek not to reform but to destroy; yea, to destroy all that is valuable in our sacred Institutions. They have never appealed to reason but to the worst passions of our nature, and now, as if the Constitution made no provision for the correction of evils, they have appealed to arms, an act which nothing short of the grossest outrage against the essential principles of the Constitution, and that manifested in acts of open tyranny, can in any sense warrant. But who that is not blinded with ignorance or passion will aver, that such has taken place in Upper Canada?

Let us, as families and congregations, offer up our special supplications to the Most High; let us go to a Throne of Grace, and while we earnestly beseech the God of Justice to interpose his power to save us from the wrath of man, and prevent the effusion of human blood, be sincere in the confession of our own sins, and seek to feel deeply our own unworthiness in His sight; for we may know assuredly that he who has his peace made with God, and can in strong faith call Him Father, is the best prepared for firmly supporting what is right, or calmly bearing such trials as may be laid upon him.

In name and by appointment of the Commission,

ALEX. GALE,

Moderator.

Toronto, January, 1838.

LETTER ON CANADIAN MISSIONS FROM.

J. D. BRYCE ESQ.

Toronto, 13th November, 1837.

TO THE EDITOR,

My Dear Sir,

During my visit to this country I have paid some attention to the state of the Church, and I grieve to think that neither her present condition nor future prospects are what could be wished. I see her ministers for the most part, very inadequately supported, and numerous Townships without any spiritual provision at all. Connected as I am with the Colonial Society I desire to be of use through that body, and as I propose writing to Glasgow, I should wish first to compare my ideas with yours, and to receive the benefit of any information or suggestion it may be in your power to afford.

It has often been urged at home, and I myself used to urge it, that the people here are earnestly solicitous of spiritual instruction, and from the best motives, but in this I fear there has been a mistake. That there is a prevailing desire for religious ordinances there is no doubt; but to suppose that this arises from a due appreciation of gospel blessings is to suppose the people already Christians. It is to regard the different settlements as so many spiritual churches wanting Pastors, whereas the people are in a state of alienation from God and need to be converted. I speak, you will perceive, of the country generally—of course there are many truly pious persons scattered abroad, who thirst after the ordinances of divine worship, but these are comparatively very few; the inhabitants generally, are I fear, as I have described them. Their wish for a ministry therefore, must have its origin in very inferior motives, and it is not difficult to imagine what these are. Conscience must have a religion of some sort, and those who have witnessed the decencies of the christian Sabbath at home, cannot feel at ease without something of the same kind here. That their children should be growing up unbaptized, they feel to be awful, and that they themselves should be without a church and a minister, they cannot help regarding as an open estrangement from God. From this state they seek deliverance, and when ordinances are obtained they are prone to rest in them as a mere form. That this is to a very great extent the case, is proved by many of the settlements which have taken place. A minister comes out at the urgent desire of the people, but what does he find? He meets with a people who speedily become lukewarm—who make feeble efforts to redeem the pledge given for his support, and who in many cases, treat him coldly and resent his fidelity. Persons fit for the Eldership he can rarely obtain, and in the issue, he is discouraged, while the people complain that they are burdened. Let me again say that I speak generally—of course there are exceptions.