

different to all these objects, or will she refuse her most strenuous exertions to extend to us the same blessings and privileges by which she herself has long been so nobly distinguished? The possession of these would ourt us still faster to the happy island that gave us birth, and to which—her scenes, her people, and her hallowed institutions—we still look back across the wide Atlantic with an inextinguishable regard. We trust that this appeal to the reverend Presbyteries of our parent church will not be in vain;—that it will be loudly and affectionately responded to by every member of their several flocks.

M. Y. STARK, Convener of Committee.

Hamilton, 8th March, 1838.

N. B. The Committee having received only one return from Lower Canada—and a considerable majority of the ministers in Upper Canada, having also failed to communicate any information respecting the districts assigned them—the foregoing report embraces but a small portion of the bounds of the Synod—and presents only a faint and imperfect sketch of the religious destitution which prevails over the length and breadth of the land.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

It is on several accounts matter of profound regret that so many ministers and sessions have failed to return answers to the queries circulated by the Moderator of Synod in November last. In this negligence there is a very palpable dereliction of duty. Can ministers and elders forget that submission and obedience which are due to ecclesiastical authority? Did they not, at their ordination deliberately and conscientiously assent and subscribe to the 8th question of the formula. "Do you promise that you will subject yourself to the several judicatories of this church?" This question every minister and elder must have solemnly answered in the affirmative, and they are therefore bound to render due obedience. But from forgetfulness of this obligation, more than one half of the ministers have disregarded the injunction of the Synod, and have failed year after year to send in their annual returns, and have even neglected to answer that special inquiry which the Moderator of last Synod was ordered to make. We are firmly persuaded that the temporal interests of our church in Canada have suffered irretrievable detriment from this continued neglect. In consequence of it the Synod, or its commission, have never been able to furnish to the Government, or the General Assembly, any thing beyond a most meagre statement of the number and spiritual destitution of the adherents of the Presbyterian church. We have reason to know that the *Blue Book* made up by the Colonial Government and

sent home for the information of the ministers of the Crown, contained ample statistical accounts of the Episcopal church in this country, while of the Presbyterian church it contained scarcely any information at all. We are surely much to blame for this. The erroneous and partial statements of ecclesiastical affairs in this country set forth in a late number of Blackwood's magazine, and the misrepresentation made by Mr. Pakington in the House of Commons in a late debate on Canadian affairs, should arouse us from our supineness and negligence. This latter gentleman affirmed "that in Upper Canada the number of the Episcopalians is more than one third of the population—that in Lower Canada it is above one half of the British residents—that there are above 200,000 members of the English church scattered over that great country." It is not necessary to say to the Canadian public that these statements must be dreadfully exaggerated. It is probable, however, they are believed in England. Indeed we cannot free ourselves from the suspicion that the information sent from this country by interested parties, may have been the basis of these statements. We have heard of a Rector in Upper Canada whose congregation seldom exceeds twenty persons, who in his own fancy claims a parish of several townships, and is in the habit of estimating his parishioners at several thousands! And if Mr. Pakington procured his statements from a few such persons as fond of hyperbole, he might perhaps venture on the assertion, that "more than one third of the population in Upper Canada are Episcopalians." Waiving, however, all remark on this matter for the present, we can sincerely declare, that we have no wish to diminish their actual numbers, even by one individual; although we wish to stand on our guard against every exaggeration of them which the political churchman may make for his secular ends. We have merely alluded to these things in passing to stir up those ministers who have not reported to the Moderator, to do so without delay. They owe this to themselves, to the church of which they are members, to the unborn generations. If many of those ministers who have not sent in their answers to the Moderator's queries have such statements to make as are contained in the following letter received too late to be adverted to in the preceding address, it would be rendered more evident that the Presbyterian population in Canada is not so insignificant a portion of the community as some of our enemies endeavour to represent it. The Rev. Duncan McMillan of Caledon, thus writes to the Moderator:—

CALEDON, APRIL 12th, 1838.

DEAR SIR,

I regret that my answer to the queries contained in your circular of November last, has been so long withheld. Among other causes that led to this delay, I would only mention the inconvenient extent of the district assigned me which contains seven or eight townships, and extends over a surface of upwards of 100 miles, in length, and my great distance from the Post Office, the nearest being 20 miles from my place of residence.

The result of my enquiries is as follows: