

vincial Churches ; extremely unfavourable to their moral and religious influence in the Country.

I sincerely lament the indisposition of individuals of influence, to adopt a course of conciliation, in this business : which, I am persuaded, would have better subserved their wishes, than the less friendly course, which, unhappily, has been pursued. To me it has ever appeared desirable, that the most influential persons, in the several Churches, should be associated in an amicable conference, on the subject, with each other ; when their several claims might have been freely and honourably proposed, and discussed. Such a cabinet of respectable and responsible men, might have saved the Government no little trouble ; and, wisely managed, would have secured some considerable points, which are now lost, forever. At the same time, the public mind, would have been saved the injurious excitement, into which it has been needlessly thrown, from the want of some precautionary measure, of this description.

This has been fondly desired by myself, and some of my friends. But there was an exceedingly unwise *superiority* to conciliation : which made the office of a mediator, among the parties, to be one of a truly irksome and unthankful character. I owe it to myself, to say, it has been, notwithstanding, my endeavour to act in that relation.—In that capacity, however, I have never been found to compromise the claims of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, of Upper Canada.

On my first interview, with SIR FRANCIS BOND HEAD ; having been through the Province, and unavoidably discovered the state of the public mind ; I felt it was my duty to communicate to His Excellency, my deep conviction, as an humble individual, of the vast importance to the general tranquillity of the Colony, of an early and amicable settlement of the Clergy Reserve Question. The Reverend Ephraim Evans ; at that time, the esteemed editor of the Christian Guardian ; and who was present ; will remember this.

SIR FRANCIS had the goodness to assure me, in the most unqualified terms, that such a settlement, lay very near his heart ;—that the plan he had to suggest, had received the most cordial concurrence of the Government at Home ;—that it was one, in which the interests of the Methodist Church, were considered ; as they well deserved to be ;—and one, which would afford us satisfaction. My friend, Mr. Evans, will probably remember, these were nearly the words used on the occasion.

Of course, I had seen too much of the world, not to be well aware, that merely-political men, even in their most sacred professions, have sometimes demonstrated themselves to be extremely insincere. But it was my fondly chosen alternative, to give His Excellency the fullest credit. In his subsequent proceedings, I cannot say, it was either generous, just, or politic, in SIR FRANCIS to do violence to the feelings of nearly a Hundred Thousand, of the Colonists ; most of whom, had given His Excellency's Administration, their most decided and effectual support.

Shortly after Mr. Cartwright's Parliamentary movement, respecting the Reserves ; to which I have already referred ; I addressed a letter to SIR FRANCIS : from which, and from the reply, the following extracts are given, for the information of my Wesleyan Methodist friends. They will, by this means, be well able to conclude, that their interests on this subject, have, by myself, privately as well as publicly, been most uniformly pursued.

Extract of a Letter to SIR F. B. HEAD ; Governor, &c. &c. &c.

" Toronto, Newgate Street, January 15, 1838.

" I should have felt it unpardonable in me, to have engaged the time of Your Excellency, the other day. Otherwise, I could have wished to complain of the proposed measure on the Clergy Reserves ; excluding, as I fear it does, all regard to the claims of our Methodist Church, in this Province.

" And after the candid manner, in which I was favoured, to have your own views on the subject, in company with my friend, the Reverend Ephraim Evans ; and that your plan of Settlement took us into the account ; I cannot but conclude, that the liberal views of Your Excellency, do meet with an unworthy counteraction, on the part of certain persons in the Colony : whose measures ; with whatever of good intentions they may have been devised ; are most manifestly

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