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Scotland, they utterly vanish in Canada." It cannot therefore be regarded as unreasonable, that, when called upon suddenly to make a change in our position, which we clearly saw would plunge us in unnumbered evils, without the smallest corresponding benefit, we should at least pause, and deliberate, before taking a step, which would be attended with such fearful consequences; and we certainly had a right to expect, that before being accused of acting from unworthy motives, and exposed to unjust censures, both here and in Scotland, as being indifferent, or hostile to the Redeemer's cause, we should have been, at the very least, requested in a calm and christian manner, to state the reasons of our conduct.

We claim for ourselves the same liberty of judging and acting which we concede to others, and we solemnly declare, that in all we have done in this matter, we have acted according to our conscientious convictions of duty, and with the most earnest desire to do what would be most conducive to the spiritual welfare of our people,—and we cannot but feel ourselves therefore deeply aggrieved, when we see charges which we must characterise as reckless and unwarrantable, brought against those who, to say the least, have been as faithful and laborious in the service of the Lord, as they who bring forward such allegations; men who have borne the burden and heat of the day, who have spent years of ill-requited labour in gathering in those, who but for their exertions would have been strangers to the means of grace.

Let it not for a moment be supposed, that we entertain any hard, or hostile feelings towards the Free Church. Many of its members we revere and love; we admire their devotedness and their zeal; and we cannot doubt that in taking the position they assumed, they acted on the most sincere convictions of duty; we should therefore gladly welcome that church, as a fellow-labourer with us, in evangelizing this country, and surely the land is wide enough for us both; there is work enough to employ all our exertions, and all our means. Why then may we not say to each other, "Let there be no strife I pray thee between thee and me; Is not the whole land before us?" Why should our feelings of Christian regard, and our desire of friendly co-operation, be thwarted by the stern aspect of hostility? Why should

MONTREAL,
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Sept. 23, 1844.

Letter to the
Free Church.