

religious instruction—On the contrary, it appeared daily to increase, for when a transient opportunity of hearing the word of God was given them, there was great difficulty in assembling them together, and the distance furnished excuses to the indifferent to justify their absence.—Moreover, few as their numbers were, they belonged to different denominations of Christians, a circumstance which prevented that unity of exertion which might have been expected from people of the same persuasion.

Persons going into a wilderness, though far better prepared than the generality of Loyalists, are found greatly to relax in their religious observances and to fall into a sort of moral bondage—They are not restrained by public opinion, or kept under any regularity of deportment by the rules of decorum—The eye of those whom they fear is not present to put them on their guard, nor are they often beheld by those whom they love and whom they are unwilling to offend.

Experiencing no moral restraint from the example and opinions of others, they feel at length little from themselves; whatever vigour and resolution they bring with them gradually diminish, their passions and appetites assume the reins; so that when many of their most pressing difficulties are removed, they have little or no disposition to support religion or to attend to its institutions.

The Loyalists were joined from time to time by Emigrants from Europe, who soon fell into the same indifference, if indeed they brought any religious principles along with them, illustrating the depraved nature of man, and how soon it becomes corrupted. When these strangers penetrate the woods to form settlements, they are at first too few to support a place of public worship, and they are accustomed by degrees to the want of one. Habitual estrangement from the performance of religious duties produces carelessness, so that after they are able to bear the expence, they become indifferent and avaricious.—In this way, persons coming from England and Scotland, where they were blessed with religious establishments, and had been circumspect in their attendance upon public worship and the ordinances of the Church of Christ, quickly sink into the most dangerous apathy, when deprived of these precious advantages.

That portion of our inhabitants which came from the United States, accustomed to no regular establishment of religion, and composed of various denominations, tended