

known. It is this partiality which is the ground of our complaint and dissatisfaction.

The Letter writer goes on to state.

"I find from documents before me, what would otherwise seem incredible, that the church constituting this case of hardship did not belong to a congregation of Presbyterians in connexion with the Church of Scotland; that it was never occupied by such a congregation nor was there more than one congregation of that denomination in the whole Province for many years after this church had been destroyed.

This is one of those oblique and crooked statements of which innumerable instances are found in these letters, altogether unworthy of a Christian minister and dignity of the Church. Honesty and candor would easily have ascertained that the hardship was sustained by the Presbyterians of Niagara, whether or not they were in communion with the Church of Scotland; and that the same congregation is still subsisting with as much continuity as any other congregation in Upper Canada can exhibit. But whatever documents might be before you, or however well acquainted the individual who furnished them may be with the Presbyterian congregation, we are able to state that even at that early period of the settlement, the majority of the congregation were from Scotland; that those who took an active part in the erection of the building were of the national Church; that the two individuals who furnished more than half the means belonged to it; that even at this early period, had it been within the power of the congregation, they would most gladly have welcomed a minister of that Church; and if it was not till 1828 that they obtained a minister of that Church—the Venerable Archdeacon at his next visit to Niagara, may catechise, if he please, some of the older inhabitants, and he will learn how deeply this circumstance was regretted, and how serious a detriment it occasioned to the interests of religion in this place. Farther the writer of the documents might have safely stated—that had the members of the Episcopal Church since 1790, when the Rev. Robert Addison was sent out to this colony, been burdened with the erection of their own church and the maintenance of their own minister, it might have been even later than 1828, before they had accomplished these objects; and should the present incumbent be removed from his place—which may God prevent—and they be left to themselves, as the Presbyterians have been for the last 30 years, it may earnestly be wished that they will prove as exemplary in bearing the charges of divine ordinances among them.

We quote the following:—

"The church of Niagara was occupied by the Presbyterians who now form the United Synod or Presbytery of Upper Canada. They were the sufferers and to them the remuneration, be it great or small, of right belongs."

The first assertion here made, whether founded on the document before you or not, is incorrect. The church of Niagara never was occupied by the Presbyterians who now form the United

ed Synod or Presbytery of Upper Canada. We have just looked over the names of the original contributors to the church, a few of whom, and many of their descendants, are still belonging to the congregation, and we verily believe, that not one can be pointed out who had ever any connection with the United Synod; and it is a fact notorious that the persons who have from the earliest period taken the most active part in the congregation, were never connected with that body, but were originally and always of the Church of Scotland. Many indeed from other countries, from Ireland, Holland, and the descendants of U. E. Loyalists, were joined with them in religious communion; but I am well assured that they have always been disposed to join most heartily with them in supporting a minister of the Scottish national Church, and at this day I, as the pastor of this church, may declare my conviction, that few congregations in Upper Canada of a mingled national origin, present a fairer spectacle of Christian unity, or have borne heavier burdens without repining. It is very true that at different periods since the congregation was first formed, as far back as 1795, they were under the necessity of engaging such persons, professing to be ministers, as chance threw in their way, and their fortunes in this respect, with perhaps one exception, furnish a melancholy lesson of the evils arising from the practice too common in new countries of receiving adventurers of unknown characters and unsettled principles as the teachers of a Christian people. But you can make nothing out of his admission in support of your assertion; for none of all those who preached to the congregation of Niagara, had any connection with the United Synod except one, and we presume his evidence will readily be given to the truth of the foregoing statement.

Let me repeat that the members in connection with the United Synod were not the sufferers; that they were not the contributors to the church; that the parties some of whom are still alive, were the contributors and the sufferers; that nearly two-thirds of the whole War Losses were due to Mr. Andrew Heron for 20 years, who for all that period was kept out of most of the principal and all the interest, and who received his last instalment only a few months ago. It was due to him because he advanced the money for the erection of the church, or purchased the claims of others. Then, sir, even admitting your assertion, which we have now proved to be inaccurate, that it was "occupied by the Presbyterians who now form the United Synod Presbytery of Upper Canada," you ought to know that the occupiers of a church may not be the proprietors, and conversant as you seem to be with all the proceedings of the colonial council, you ought also to be aware that the lot on which the church was built was originally obtained for the church of Scotland, that no temporary occupancy can invalidate the patent, and that in point of fact, "the remuneration, be it great or small," belongs to the adherents of that church. But it is not, sir, one of the least remarkable circumstances of your history, that your hostility to the church of Scotland effloresces on all