

degree to pronounce correctly on the merits of the case ; and not only so, but even were the letter a correct estimate of our internal condition, we consider its publication an evidence more of the spirit of self-vindication than of the charity that thinketh no evil. We know of what we speak when we state, that our churches have done more for the support of our principles in proportion to their numbers and wealth, than any other in the land. We know too, that no other Body has been so aggressive on the nominal ranks of other sects than our own, considering our numbers and duration of effort. It might seem egotistical to state that during our missionary efforts, covering a space of thirty years, hundreds have been brought by us to a knowledge of the truth, yet not ten of those were previously brought up under Congregational training, nor during all that time were ten added to our ranks though emigration from England, and of the whole of such, none were in advance of members previously gathered in, either for princely liberality, or christian zeal. Mr. Poore speaks of having found our ministers in more comfortable circumstances than he expected ; did it ever occur to that gentleman's mind that at least a number of those men were indebted to their own private resources, or to the help of relatives, for those circumstances, and had used up the patrimony of their children in order to cope in some measure with other ministers around them, so that the cause might not suffer in their hands by comparison in temporal conditions ? Or perhaps that the good sisters, ministering to his wants, had robbed several dinners, past and to come, in order that they might obey the apostolical injunction, "be careful to entertain strangers." And does Mr. Poore know that those circumstances might have been bettered, had they loved Congregationalism less ? Why then, are our supposed deficiencies paraded to public gaze ? is it because many of us were drawn into the employment of the London Colonial Missionary Society, by the promises of its committee and agents, and have faithfully carried out its instructions, that an excuse is thus sought for deserting us, after we have expended all our private property, that so the funds originally pledged to Canada, may be distributed in Australia ? if so, we reject the reasons given, and as a matter of simple justice, call on the London Committee, and the Congregational churches in England to remember, that an essential principle of Congregationalism declares, that "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety," and therefore, any decision arrived at on the testimony and judgment of one man—and he a mere visitor of a few weeks duration, in opposition to the testimony of a large number of men just as intellectual and as honest, and more intimately acquainted with the matters to be pronounced on, must not only be thoroughly uncongregational, but necessarily unjust.

I am not, however, of that number who conclude that Mr. Poore's visit has greatly damaged our cause in Canada ; if it could thus easily be permanently injured, it deserved annihilation. On the contrary, I believe that good will flow from the unpleasant agitation thus produced ; for whilst we do not consider our churches will suffer by contrast with the same denomination in England, or any elsewhere, still we might do better, and will, I have no doubt, do better, for the castigation that we have received, provided we have as much of that christian manhood left in us as has characterized us hitherto, sufficient to lift us over the obstructions thus unwisely placed in our way. An old Scotch divine has quaintly said, that "the lamb has to box the udder ere it yields its milk ;" friend Poore is certainly an adept in that philosophy.

I am dear sir, yours ever cordially,

Belleville, 19th December, 1865.

JOHN CLINIE.