

but we do not see how, with their sentiments, they could possibly do otherwise.

We have only to add of this church that her ministers are about 8,000 ; her congregations near 11,000 ; her foreign missions amongst the most respectable in the world ; whilst her apparatus for doing good is so extensive that she can reach the whole United States, and act with such impression and efficiency, as to answer the great end of her being. K.

POSITION AND PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLES.

No. III.

One governing principle common to Disciples is the principle of frank dealing and free intercourse (as far as possible) with those who rank themselves in opposition. Controversy, for the sake of controversy, exhibits, we think, a very different spirit from the spirit of the christian religion. Still, we cannot and do not wholly condemn controversy. Nay, rather, we approve of it—guided and restricted by a love of truth. The Lord, when he appeared among men, was a great controversialist ; Paul, James, Jude, together with Peter, engaged deeply in controversy ; and in them we have a divine model. They contended not for victory nor for vain glory. They contended for truth. We desire to be as bold as, but no bolder than they ; and to teach our zeal to flow in the same channel. The timidity and pious fearfulness about disputation, so often seen and felt in the ranks of those who are very happy in christening themselves the evangelical, we cannot always approve ; and here we would ' show a more excellent way.'

These remarks are made with the design of introducing a species of controversial letter, or a letter that may claim some such title. It was not our intention when commencing these papers to introduce this topic until we had offered much more on other topics ; but recent events prevent us from being more orderly. We shall resume our regular doctrinal principles and practical position in our next. Meantime we have judged it expedient to let the following letter see light without farther delay. It will serve in some measure to illustrate our spirit of controversy :—

TO MR. TAWS, A PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER :—

DEAR SIR : It is credibly and confidently reported, that, when invited the other evening to be present at a meeting held by messengers or evangelists of co-operating churches of Christ in Canada, you offered various reasons for rejecting the invitation, among which were those that claim some little attention from me, as one of the parties