

years ago, the late Mr. O'Connell moved for some ecclesiastical returns. These were all destroyed in 1833, by the fire in the House of Commons with the exception of the County of Lancaster. According to this return furnished by the ministers of different denominations, the aggregate number claimed for the different forms of Dissent, was 261,840. As the total population of Lancaster was 1,532,830, the number of Dissenters was subtracted from this, and the residue was claimed as the undoubted children of the Church. The like process, we remember, was adopted by the late Dr. Cleland, in his religious statistics of Glasgow. Get returns from dissenting ministers of their flocks, add them all up, subtract this sum from the aggregate population, and thus by a method as accurate as it is easy, you arrive at the number of persons who claim connection with the national Church! Mr. Bailey in reply to the statement of Mr. Robert H. Inglis, regarding the Lancaster returns, presents returns of 1843. And what is the general result, for we do not wish to load our pages any more with figures! The Dissenters have nearly three times more churches, and nearly five times more sittings than the Establishment in Lancaster. A general impression is given, that of the persons who attend public worship in England, five parts attend the Churches of the Establishment, and four parts the Dissenting Churches,—the Establishment preponderating in the agricultural, and Dissent in the manufacturing districts. The Establishment in England is thus much stronger than it is in Scotland. In Scotland not more than one-third of the Church-going population are connected with the Establishment, the rest worship in Dissenting churches. And had we a national parliament sitting in Edinburgh, the separation of Church and State, notwithstanding the Tweed, would not cut us much trouble.

We are acquiring from various sources, a valuable collection of facts on the ecclesiastical condition of Great Britain. They are weapons which shall yet be wielded with advantage. Two important conclusions are drawn from these returns. First, it is possible for religious societies to sustain their own worship on the Voluntary principle. And second, the hardship of Church-rates is very extensive, as pressing upon a large number of persons who support their own religious ordinances, and who, for the most part, do not belong to the more wealthy classes.—*Un. Free. Mag.*

All orders, payments, and communications to the Editor, are requested to be sent (Post-paid) to the Rev. JOHN JENNINGS, Toronto. We intend, in the meantime, to publish the Magazine on the 15th of every month, and request that all literary contributions be forwarded ten days previously.

## The Canadian Presbyterian Magazine.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1852.

### THE MAGAZINE.

We particularly request that we have the names of all *intending* subscribers not later, if possible, than the 1st of February: because, by next number we intend to confine the issue, as near as may be, to the supply of those then actually on our list. Many of the congregations have given us support far exceeding our expectations; many have come quite up to them; but a few want the ecclesiastical spirit *de corps*, which is not simply desirable, but absolutely necessary for denominational progress, and for their own congregational prosperity. Let us not be misunderstood. We are not urging from a selfish motive, for we can prosper though those congregations which have aided us so little should do no more, or though they should do nothing at all—we can rely safely on the energetic ones that will do more still—on those ministers who consider the interests of the Magazine in their keeping as much as in ours—but we urge for their good, and that, whatever the Magazine can effect, they have a share of the benefit.

We are gratified and encouraged, by receiving, from every quarter, approbation of the way we are conducting it, and our desire is, to make it more and more worthy of the support of the Church. We are responsible, not the Church, for what appears in its pages; but our desire is, never to put a face in, that the Church, as such, would disclaim. We consider ourselves unfettered in judgment, but still we mean to be, though unofficially, the representative of the denomination in Canada. Now, then—and it is the last we intend to say on the subject, for we are tired of harping on this string—let there be one more vigorous effort to put it into every family in our communion. Take the tide at the flood, and it will lead us on to fortune. At this date, with one exception, we believe, on good evidence, that we have the largest circulation, by *bona fide* subscribers, of any denominational periodical of the kind in the Province; and while we have not the same accurate data to judge by, we believe

that we do not err, when we say, that there are not many more than half a dozen newspapers, if so many, in the Upper Province, that surpass us in circulation. All that may go as Editorial egotism, and let it go—but it will easily manage to know it, and therefore it is right to tell it. Our motto? let it be re-echoed through the Church? "Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward."

The Board of Missions in Scotland have unanimously nominated the Rev. Dr. Taylor, of Acheronmouth, as a Professor for our Church in Canada. Dr. Taylor has not pledged himself definitely to come though invited by our Synod, but has, on the nomination of the Mission Board, allowed his name to be sent out for consideration.

According to the new Post Office regulations between Canada and Great Britain, this periodical, by being called a Magazine, was charged 7½d. per copy, when sent to Britain. We found this to be a severe restriction, and that it *exactly* came under what was meant by a magazine, in the British sense of the term. Having applied to the Hon. James Morris, Post Master General, he took the same view of the case with ourselves, but as he had no power to alter or amend, he very cordially agreed to lay the matter before the Post Master General in England. We are now favoured with the gratifying reply, "that his Lordship is pleased to decide that your magazine may pass through the post in Great Britain, under the privileges afforded to Newspapers." Subscribers desiring to send numbers to their friends in Britain, have now the full privilege, without a postage that amounted to an interdict; and, to use official language, they may govern themselves accordingly.

BTOWN, PERTH, AND SMITH'S FALLS MONTHLY VISITOR.—We have received several numbers of the Visitor, and take blame to ourselves for not noticing it sooner. It is published by the Rev. Messrs. Wardrop and Duncan, Ministers of the Free Church at Bytown and Perth, and Rev. Mr. Aitken, United Presb. Church, Smith's Falls, and distributed gratuitously in that section of country. We heartily commend their effort, and wish much that they may be imitated in this by ministers in other localities. There is much virtue in a tract published in the place, for the people of the place, and we have no doubt but this monthly will do more good than the tracts of Foreign Societies, though scattered thick as snow flakes. These brethren have formed a basis of union on which to do a good work. We wish them God-speed—and will chronicle with delight the Christian patriotism of any other three ministers who may follow their example.

We learn that the Rev. Alex. Henderson, formerly of St. Catharines, has received a call from the U. P. Congregation of Heslam, Northumberland, England.

Dr. Robinson, the Oriental scholar and traveller, sailed for Palestine by the Arctic, from New York for Liverpool, on the 20th December, to make additional researches of importance in respect to the topography of the Holy Land, with special reference to Biblical history.

The Toronto Presbytery meets on Tuesday, the 3rd of February, and all the members are respectfully requested to have the statistical reports of their congregations for 1851 filled up and forwarded then.

It is hoped that there will be a full meeting, as the following business should be taken up, viz: The Synod's remits respecting (1.) the Draft of Dred for Congregational Property; (2.) the Report of Committee of Synod on the Literary and Theological course to be pursued by Students. There will also be several discourses to be heard from Students, as well as other exercises and examinations to be attended to.

JAMES DICE, P. C.

### PRESBYTERY OF WELLINGTON.

The Presbytery of Wellington, in connection with the United Presbyterian Church of Canada, met in Guelph, on the 25th November last; and after sermon by the Rev. Mr. Duff, from Rev. i. 15—"And his voice as the sound of many waters"—was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Barrie, moderator. The roll being called, the following members answered to their names:—Messrs. Barrie, Duff, and Torrance, ministers; with