

MONTREAL,
Monday,
Sept. 23, 1844.

Letter to the
Free Church.

Page Thirty Fourth.

unquestioned right of jurisdiction in all things spiritual ; we naturally supposed, that we were not called either by duty or expediency, to agitate questions which neither did, nor could practically concern us.

Amid many difficulties and privations, which are neither experienced, nor conceived of, by ministers of any denomination in Scotland, we were engaged in the peaceful prosecution of our labours in this extensive region. In such circumstances we should naturally have expected, from all churches professing the same faith, every possible encouragement and assistance. It was therefore with much surprise and regret, that we observed in some of the organs of the Free Church, expressions of a desire to produce, or at least to countenance, a disruption in our Synod, and division and strife among our congregations. We were for a time willing to ascribe this to ignorance of our condition, or to a want of due consideration of the position of our church ; but from the subsequent conduct of the Free Church in publishing and sending out letters, addresses, and other documents, calculated to excite the feelings of our people, and commissioning deputations for the same purpose, we are compelled, however unwillingly, to conclude, that there exists a desire, on the part of the leaders of that church, to disturb and distract the congregations under our care. We cannot regard such conduct, as wise, generous, or christian, but still, when we think of the high character, and the beneficent efforts of many of the members of your church, we cherish the hope, that when the case is fully and fairly represented, you will see cause to adopt a different line of conduct.

We enjoy the very same liberty, and stand in the very same position, as that for which those who now constitute the Free Church so long contended ; a position similar to that of the Irish Presbyterian Church. We are as entirely free, in every sense of the word, as the Free Church itself, or as any church in the world, whether established or not established. It was admitted by every member of Synod, present at Kingston, in July last, even by those who left us, "that none of the causes which led to the disruption in Scotland exist here," and in the published words of one of those very persons, it is declared, "whatever may be the differences, between the Established and Free Churches in

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