

tian Public—Give what you have to give to the poor *directly*, and not through the costly channel of extravagant and irresponsible managers of Theatres and Balls, whether the dresses are silk or calico!

STRIKE, BUT HEAR!

A Baptist brother in Warwick, Ont., who, we are glad to see, reads the *Canadian Independent*, sends us the following, under date of January 12th:—

"SIR.—In the *Canadian Independent*, for the present month, is an article headed, 'More about Union with Baptists.' With your permission, sir, I wish to make a few remarks on that article, through the medium of your Magazine. Truth is never afraid of examination, consequently I would say, 'strike, but hear!'

In speaking of the Baptists you say, 'We have no wish to speak uncharitably in regard to the usages of our brethren, but we cannot help thinking that for any denomination, and that perhaps not the most learned, to set up its opinion against nearly the whole of Christendom, and *unchurch* it, on the score of an honest difference respecting the mode of baptism, savours too strongly of the claims put forth by a certain old man in the chair of St. Peter's, at Rome.'

I am not aware sir, that we claim to be the most learned denomination. As far as learning is concerned, we claim equality with other religious bodies. Supposing, however, it were granted for the sake of argument that we were the most learned denomination, that would not prove that our usages are right. In religious matters the most learned men are sometimes the most ignorant. The truth of our principles and practices must be tested by God's Word, and not by our learning. If you, sir, consider that our usages are wrong, you ought to prove your charges. It is quite an easy matter to tell us that we resemble a certain old gentleman at Rome. I could tell you the same thing, with perhaps as much reason, but it would serve no good purpose. I am quite willing to discuss the matter with you on scriptural ground; to hear your opinion, and shew mine. I affirm that baptism ought always to precede church fellowship; this you deny.

Now then, sir, will you take up the gauntlet? All I ask is a fair hearing."

Our correspondent writes temperately and courteously, and we shall endeavour to reply in a similar spirit. The "*pinch*" of the article upon which he animadverts, seems to be in the mild allusion to the "old man in the chair of St. Peter's," and the reason why he takes that unkindly is, doubtless, that our Baptist brethren are constantly saying something very similar with regard to our practice of infant baptism, which they never tire characterizing as a "rag of Popery." It is to that, probably, he refers when he retorts, "I could tell you the same thing, with perhaps as much reason, but it would serve no good purpose." Our brother is mistaken. He will always serve a good purpose if he can drag error to the light, and when he can show us that we are liable to such an indictment, we shall take his smiting as "a kindness," and his reproof as "an excellent oil."