

against patronage was carried on in Scotland. —And when in this distant land I heard of the steadfastness of Dr. Chalmers in behalf of the Christian people, and read his noble speeches expounding the just and Scriptural distinction between the province of the civil magistrate and the church courts; and when I read too of Dr. Makeilar, the present moderator, and others, appearing at the bar of the Court of Session with the ministers of the Presbytery of Dunkeld, willing, like the ancient worthies, to suffer shame for the cause of Christ, I felt that the Church of Scotland was far dearer to me than ever, and I could say with Deborah and Barak—"My heart is toward the governors of Israel who offered themselves willingly."

My advice then is, that in a great fight of afflictions, we should give what help we can to our fathers and brethren. Our voice may be feeble, but a voice lifted among the woods of Canada, bearing testimony to the truth that the church has her privileges which no law of

man may overbear, is well fitted to strengthen their hands. It is well known how much the Presbyterians in Holland encouraged our church while in her sufferings from the prelates after the second Reformation. I have seen a whole volume of epistles from Christians in that country to their suffering brethren in Scotland, sympathising with them in their afflictions, and charging them to be faithful, for it was the cause of God they had espoused. I think, therefore, sir, connected as we are so closely with the church of Scotland, it is our duty, for I hope it is not too late, to come forward at this great crisis, and to give an expression of our devoted attachment to her interests, and our cordial approval of the principles for which she is contending. Hoping this will be received in the spirit in which it is written,

I am, dear sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN HOGG.

York Mills, 22nd Sept., 1840.

## HISTORY AND CULTURE OF RHUBARB.

**HISTORY.**—The first species of Rhubarb cultivated in this country, was the Rheum raphaniticum; it is a native of Asia; but by whom it was introduced is unknown. The ancient Greeks called the root of commerce "Rhabarbarum," because it grew plentifully on the banks of the river Rha, (Volga) in Russia. The Greeks, however, of more modern times, changed its name to "Barbaricum," because it was brought to Barbary for sale. The species so much in use at that time, has till lately been generally believed to be the *R. palmatum*; but Mr. David Don has satisfactorily proved it to be the *R. australe*, of Mr. Don's "*Flora Nepalensis*," and the *R. Emodi* of Dr. Wallich. It is, however, very probable, that the roots of various species are used, as the bark of various species of *Cinchona* is collected as the true bark. By what means, or to whom mankind is indebted, for the discovery of the medicinal quality of the roots, is totally unknown; it is, however, probable, that its virtues were appreciated by the ancient physicians: for Dioscorides, physician to Anthony and Cleopatra, wrote on its qualities, in his work on Botany and Medicine, published just before the Christian Era, where he recommends it against weaknesses of the stomach, diseases of the liver, &c.

&c. Galen also, another Greek Author, who wrote on medicine about a century, afterwards, strongly recommends it for diseases of the liver. Paulus Aegineta, who is said to have been the first man that practised midwifery, appears to have first used rhubarb as an opening medicine. The roots were brought from China, where Michael Boyne, in his "*Flora Sinensis*," published at Vienna in 1656, says the plant is a native, and grows in great abundance. It was introduced from thence by Tartary into Aleppo, Damascus, and Alexandria, and thence reached Vienna. It was not known to Europe, till 1585, when the Chinese brought the roots for sale to the city of Goa in India. Valmont Beaumare states, that some soldiers in the army of Charles the V. brought it to Spain from Africa about the same time. This does not appear unlikely, for the dreadful disease, which the followers of Columbus brought from America into Spain, spread with such fearful rapidity, that it became indispensable to adopt measures to stop its violence; it seems therefore probable, this drug was introduced as a remedy; for Garcilasso de la Vega, who died in the year 1556, mentions rhubarb as a sovereign cure, for the evil of the newly discovered world.

The Portuguese were the first who brought