

it should be left free and unfettered in the exercise of its spiritual functions, it should be incorporated with the state in inseparable union. To attain this grand object, they were content to be spoiled of their earthly possessions; and even to peril life itself. They kept God's glory constantly in view, and He blessed them, and prospered their efforts. The fruits of their daring and deeds are abundantly evidenced in the land. In the many precious blessings, civil and sacred, dispensed through the National Church, it is made plainly to appear that God is in the midst of them—their God and King—and as he has blessed them in times past, so will he bless them still.

In reviewing the benefits that have been derived from the National Church, we should consider its operation and efficiency as an instrument for the moral and spiritual elevation of mankind, as developed in that admirably devised and faithfully executed agency, usually denominated the "parochial system," comprising—First: The legal recognition of the Sabbath, not only as a Divine, but as a National Institution, and, essentially connected with it, the public worship of God. Second: The Eldership, or the religious superintendence of the community, and the management and support of the poor; and Third:—The Parish Schools, blending religious and secular instruction in a way that is consistent with the great spirit of toleration, and the widest extension of a good general education. In illustration of these topics we must confine our remarks far within the limits that their vast importance demands.

Brethren—It is a benefit which we cannot sufficiently appreciate, that the Sabbath of the Lord is strictly guarded from profanation by positive statutes, and that "Christian people" can worship the Lord their God, according to their consciences, none daring to make them afraid. If the principles of religious liberty have not always been so well understood as they are now, and days of darkness have arisen out of an overstrained interpretation of the law, yet the law is holy, and the commandment holy, just, and good. If the Kingdom of Christ is not of this world, yet it is for this world, for man as a social as well as a sinful creature. Though it refuses to mingle with its material elements, and has no connection with its shifting politics and ignoble pursuits, yet its grand design is to humanise, and elevate man's condition and consecrate them to the glory of God.