

We are not yet awakened even to the discussion of the principles upon which a sound and durable state of social existence depends, and the very necessity which seems to exist for such discussion demonstrates not as we trust, the hopelessness of the thing, but the *difficulty* of founding such institutions as are necessary for the well-being of the country, a difficulty that may remain when the measures relating to them, shall even be wisely, liberally and firmly carried into execution. The quack and the accredited practitioner are too much regarded in the estimation of the people as an equal match. Between the experienced and sagacious man, and the ignorant talking man, it is thought that nothing has been decided, and measures that have an obvious and direct relation to the morals and religious character of future generations, are still, it is to be feared, an uncleared lot, a wood in which men wander, and may yet be long lost.

When I look abroad upon the face of this new land, whose latitude and length, its inhabitants have scarcely travelled far enough to measure, when I think of the exuberant productiveness with which God has endued it, how his careful providence has caused through a long series of ages, many great revolutions of nature to minister to that productiveness; and how, in the silence and solitude of so great a part of the surface of the globe, his spirit was long moving upon the face of the great inland deep collecting within it, the refined materials of a former world, and in the oozy beds depositing them beneath, that a new world thereafter might lift up her countenance to the sunny sky, her locks entwined with every flower, and with wreaths of yellow corn; when I recal how his hand unseen has thus been fashioning an abode for generations of men in which to fulfil their destinies till the end of time, moulding it into shape, and sloping its hills and dales, hollowing out the beds of its mighty lakes and marking out the courses of its rivers and rills, it seems a sad and melancholy thing to believe, that he will ever suffer the husbandmen of such a garden of his making, to become rebels against the God of nature, aliens from the kingdom out of which he peoples heaven. And yet when we reflect how insecure are the means of supplying full religious instruction, how partially the good seed must of necessity be sown, how easy for a good shepherd to be hunted from his pasture, and for the enemies of Christ to sow tares and brambles in his vineyard—when we consider in what manner distant and extensive districts may grow up