

it leaves the people at the mercy of the Church Courts for any relief; and finally the decisions of the Church Courts may be reviewed or reversed by the Court of Session or the House of Lords. This is an unvarnished statement of the fettered position into which the State Church of Scotland has of late years brought herself. She has virtually admitted the supremacy of the Crown in all causes ecclesiastical, against which our glorious forefathers contended to the death. Let the people of free Canada know that this is what the State Church of Scotland has to submit to, and we are persuaded that they will not ally themselves to such a fettered institution. Now, it is because we cannot in conscience have any connection with a Church that has thus proved unfaithful to her spiritual calling, and to the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ in his kingdom, that we have withdrawn from the communion of the State Church of Scotland. As long, too, as this Church at home remains in this, as we conceive, unscriptural position, we can have no alliance with it; and as long as the Church here which the "Presbyterian" represents identifies itself with a Church so fettered, union between us and it is, in our judgment, a thing impracticable. We have, however, hope that our countrymen at home, when the fever of past conflicts has abated and a new generation has arisen, will not be satisfied to lag behind in the march of religious progress. We trust to see an earnest movement in our day for the repeal of the iniquitous "Act" of Queen Anne, and the no less iniquitous so called "declaratory act of Lord Aberdeen." Let the people of the State Church of Scotland emancipate their Church from these bonds and re-assert their ancient spiritual independence, and none will more readily hail such a consummation than the members of the Free Church. We have also hope that in this country a Canadian party will arise in the "Presbyterian's" Church, who will not consent to take upon them the responsibilities and burdens of the State Church of Scotland. The new generation in this country have, we are persuaded, no sympathy with State Churchism in any form, or with the disabilities of the State Church at home. To them we look for a better spirit and a more liberal policy than we find at present to prevail in the Canadian Church of Scotland. Through their agency a union on equitable terms may be possible in the lapse of a few years.

We would further say that the writer in the "Presbyterian" is not satisfied with making a sweeping charge against the Free Church, for holding property to which he alleges it has no just claim; he also particularly refers to the Church and Manse of St. Gabriel Street, Montreal. In regard to the general question we say that the legal quibbling is all on the other side. Our people built most of the Churches which have been wrested from them by invoking the rigid interpretation of the law. The Church of Scotland has pounced upon Churches both here and at home to which it had no claim in equity, which it cannot use, and never, to all human appearance, will be able to use. As for St. Gabriel Street Church and Manse, the "Presbyterian" shows by its statements great ignorance of the whole question. The matter is at present *sub judice*, and at the proper tribunal it will ere long be decided to whom of right the Manse belongs. Meanwhile the proprietors of St. Gabriel Street Church think that the Church is theirs, and the minister thinks that the Manse is his. They assert that the Church was never intended to be put for all time in connection with the Church of Scotland as by law established, much less with the Canadian Church of Scotland. A rule of the proprietors put it once in connection with the former Church, but never with the latter; but that rule was simply a by-law revocable at pleasure. The rule has been revoked and the proprietors maintain their right to possess their own property, and to govern it as they please, without the interference of the Church in Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland. The administration of the property is the same as it has been from the beginning. The proprietors have violated no obligation and no usage, and