

proved it undeserving the support of those, who might have had the misfortune to have been educated under it;—as the fosterer of sedition and disloyalty, were it justly regarded with suspicion and jealousy by our rulers;—shame would then shut our mouths, and prevent our advancing aught in its defence. But, on the contrary, we love, we honour our religion—and were it allowed to pride to mingle with such a sentiment, we might well be proud of it. It is the religion of our fathers; that religion, in the cause of which, they toiled and bled; which they raised up amidst suffering and persecution, and left to us as a rich inheritance. Its worth our national character itself speaks, in all that is good and honourable, in which it enters as a vital element. If we are to judge of the tree by the fruit, we need not shrink from a comparison with any Church under the sun. Teachers and taught, alike evince the excellence of the institutions of our own. In learning, in diligence, in virtue, in all those attributes that fit a set of men for becoming the moral and religious instructors of a people, the Clergy of the Church of Scotland are acknowledged to stand pre-eminent. And, if pure religion, the religion of the Bible, that religion which rests in the heart, and displays itself, not in vain parade and empty show, but in subduing evil passions, and training up its votaries to virtue here, and happiness hereafter, exist on earth, it is to be found among the people to whom they minister.

Or, were our relative numbers and respectability small, when compared with those of the rival sect in this country, we should submit even to a compromise of our rights with more patience, and should feel unwilling, that the interests of an inconsiderable part should disturb the harmony of the whole. But what renders the injustice done us the more galling, is the undeniable fact that, were the numbers of Scotsmen and Englishmen, who, in Canada, wish to adhere to their respective Churches, fairly estimated, we shall be found to outnumber and outweigh our opponents in a seven-fold proportion. If, again, we turn to the recorded principles of national union, we find nought in them on which our adversaries can build their extravagant claims; on the contrary, we find a full equality throughout; we find ourselves guaranteed in all rights, privileges, and advantages, which do, or may belong to the natives of the sister Kingdom.

When I reflect on these things, Sir, I am so far from acquiescing in the justice of the charges of heat and animosity which have been brought against us, that I feel we have hitherto exerted a very remarkable forbearance—a forbearance that can only be well explained, from our habits of deliberating with caution, as of acting with energy. Had we longer stood aloof, and allowed our adversaries to follow out their plans without complaint or remonstrance, we had ill performed our parts towards ourselves or posterity. In taking measures to place the question fairly before the Legislature of the Empire, we have done but our duty. Having done so, we have no cause to dread our final success. The British Government has too high a sense