


there should be so little friendship among professors of religion, and that in the same communion we should, not unfrequently, discover a lamentable deficiency in this respect. Indeed the Cynic is no longer a rare member of society.— He is found in every circle. With the wealthy and with the poor; and with the members of the church, where he regularly approaches the Holy communion! The following is a description of this character:—

“The Cynic is one who never sees a good quality in a man, and never fails to see a bad one. He is the human owl, vigilant in darkness and blind to light, mousing for vermin, and never seeing noble game. The Cynic puts all human actions into only two classes—*openly* bad, and *secretly* bad. All virtue and generosity and disinterestedness are merely the *appearance* of good, but selfish at the bottom. He holds that no man does a good thing except for profit. The effect of his conversation upon your feelings is to chill and sear them; to send you away sore and morose. His criticisms and innuendoes fall indiscriminately upon every lovely thing, like frost upon flowers. If a man is said to be pure and chaste, he will answer: *Yes, in the day time.* If a woman is pronounced virtuous, he will reply: *yes, as yet.* Mr. A is a religious man: *yes, on Sundays.* Mr. B. has just joined the church: *certainly; the elections are coming on.* The minister of the gospel is called an example of diligence: *It is his trade.* Such a man is generous: *of other men's money.* This man is obliging: *to lull suspicion and cheat you.* That man is upright: *because he is green.*— Thus his eye strains out every good quality and takes in only the bad. To him religion is hypocrisy, honesty a preparation for fraud, virtue only want of opportunity, and undeniable purity, asceticism. The live-long day he will coolly sit with sneering lip, uttering sharp

speeches in the quietest manner, and in polished phrase, transfixing every character which is presented; *His words are softer than oil, yet are they drawn swords.*

Some of our readers may think our picture overdrawn; but our knowledge of the world is proof to ourselves that we have not gone beyond the mark.— That there is friendship in the world, we readily admit. It would be a dark picture—a deplorable state of things indeed, if, amidst all the professions of friendship, so common at present, there should not exist any portion of this disposition. True, and tried friends there are; but, they are few in number, compared with what should be the state of society in this enlightened age of the world. Let, then, the man who has a friend, know how to prize him. And when true, enlightened, and pure friendship exists, let nothing that may arise have the effect of marring, nor breaking it up.

NOTICES.

 THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD.—This is a monthly, in octavo, published in this city. It is a religious periodical devoted to the interests of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Dr. Burns and several other ministers of the Free Church, write for its pages, and its editorial department is ably conducted. While this work guards, closely, the interests of the denomination, it is of a character to promote religion, generally, and morality, where it circulates; affording explanations and illustrations on portions of the