

THE  
**Wesleyan Repository,**  
AND  
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Our Canadian Work and Ministry.

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OUR CHURCH AND POLITICS.

Political men and their newspaper organs claim the peculiar and exclusive privilege of being the sole expositors of public opinion, and the directors of that opinion in all matters affecting the material prosperity of our country, as well as the sole guardians of our rights and privileges as British subjects. There is also a strange anomaly that some of the smallest denominations or churches exert over these partizans a powerful influence, whilst our church has no influence at all, notwithstanding our numbers and position. We have often regretted the passage of what we may term "the self-denying ordinance," by our Conference in reference to the organ of our church, in forbidding the advocacy of important political principles. Perhaps it was just and necessary at the time; but we really cannot, in the present state of our country, and the aspect of its affairs, see that such an abnegation of right, we might say of duty, is any longer advisable, or justifiable.

No idea can be more untenable and opposed to truth, than that because the primary cause and chief end of our connection as a church is religious, and that our first and constant duty is religious instruction, and religious development, and religious advancement, that there are no secondary duties incumbent, and these not very remotely related to the weightier matters, and which a casuist would find hard to separate,—being about as closely connected as the second part of the great command-