

will be called upon to exercise a valuable privilege each, by discharge an important duty. You should discharge to explain this, like all other duties, in the fear of God and for gratifications public good. We disclaim all connexion with any political party; we do not desire to influence your choice whether is best for God the Father. Finally, these matters; not that we admit that we have no right of interference in the expression of that opinion, but as Ministers of Jesus Christ, ministering to persons of conflicting political opinions and different party predilections, especially in the present unsettled times, we judge it most prudent to waive the exercise of our right in the political affairs, as a sacrifice to Christ and his cause, leaving secular affairs to be managed by secular means. On this ground we have unanimously resolved that the Christian Guardian be an exclusively religious and literary journal, under special limitations, that an arrangement which we doubt not will be acceptable to our people generally, and we hope will secure to the Guardian an extensive circulation and efficient support. Our only advice on this point is, that whatever side may be given to the proper and unrestrained exercise of elective and civil rights, you will avoid the manifestation of a party feeling, which is unbecoming in a disciple of the meek and lowly Redeemer; a spirit which is injurious to the unity and tranquility of the Church, and detrimental to personal piety and growth in grace. All extremes are dangerous; and we are liable to injure our own spiritual enjoyments and interests in a good cause, by the spirit in which we may strive to promote it.

To the various branches of our Pastoral Office, it is our fervent desire, and firm determination to devote ourselves more zealously than ever. We deeply feel that there never was a time when we were more strongly called upon to go back to first principles,—to the simple Scriptural doctrines and rules of our excellent discipline.