

CHURCH AND STATE.*

The rulers of this nation, after deliberate and careful examination of the matter, were impressed with the decided conviction, that the doctrines taught by this church are verily the true, pure, undisguised, and uncorrupted doctrines of the word of God; and that the order and ministry of this church are also agreeable to the divine appointment, and in strict unison with the same divine record: and they accordingly entered into an alliance or compact with it, and engaged to afford it such support, such aid and countenance, as should enable it, with the greater efficiency, to pursue the duties of its hallowed commission among the people of this land; instructing them in the way of life, and in every social, civil, and religious obligation.

How large a measure of benefit, in various forms, has arisen to the population of this country, from the alliance thus formed between the church and the state; and, especially, from the increase, both in extent and regularity, of the means of grace supplied to them, in consequence of that alliance, it must be for eternity to declare. And how much greater that benefit would have been, had both the church and the state been alive to their sacred obligations, it comes not within the limits of any contracted powers of man to calculate.

When we think of the careless inactivity, and the spirit of slumber, which, for a long period hung over and pervaded every department of our church, both ministers and people, we cannot, nay, we would not, desire to do otherwise than be humbled for our unprofitableness, and admire the patience and long-suffering of that gracious God, who has not "removed our candlestick out of its place. And we are the more constrained to adore that sovereign mercy, which has, of late years, in so unexampled a degree, poured forth upon us the spirit of grace and supplication, and vouchsafed to us so large a measure of spiritual increase; thereby affording us, as we trust, even more glorious prospect for the future; and encouraging us to entertain the most assured hope and confidence, that our church shall yet shine, with more than any former brightness, 'as a light in the world,' and be more extensively than ever a 'blessing in the midst of the land.'

It is also to be lamented, and regarded as a matter of the deepest regret, that the state has, in like manner, been grievously wanting in the fulfilment of her part of the sacred contract, which she has made with the church, and on which the alliance between the two is founded. The population of our country has been allowed far, very far, to outgrow the existing means of religious instruction; and immense masses of our population are suffered to be destitute of all spiritual culture, and to wander from the fold of God, like sheep without a shepherd. O! how much were it to be wished, that our rulers might, by the grace of God, be led to a better, yea, to a complete discovery of their duty in this respect; and to take measures to remedy such crying evils, by providing more adequately, both by the erection of churches, and the support of ministers, for the supply of the existing and most urgent necessity. Most sure I am, that a blessing, an increase of prosperity, temporal as

well as spiritual, would be the result of such active fidelity to the cause of God and of truth.

In the mean time, we would neither despise nor oppose the exercise of the voluntary principle, which, by the blessing of God, is vigorous in operation in our church: and we rejoice and praise God, that we are permitted to see our people, in large numbers, rising to supply, in some degree, the lack of service of the state, and we would hope, that the time may not be far distant, when our rulers of the present generation may be stirred up to a godly jealousy;—may be led to feel that it is "righteousness which exalteth a nation," and to act upon this conviction, with an earnestness suitable to its depth and sincerity.

But allow me, dear brethren, in conclusion, to remind you, that the value of an established church, like that of every other great and acknowledged privilege, depends, so far as we are individually concerned, upon the use which we make of it. Surely, when the great truths and duties of the gospel are thus, with abundance and systematic regularity, presented to our notice, we should consider that God gives us much, and will, therefore, assuredly require of us the more. Well convinced I am, dearly beloved brethren, that God will hold us deeply responsible for so high a privilege. We contend for the lawfulness of an established church, and we do well:—but let not our zeal terminate here! Let us seek, in the sanctified use of the ordinances of that church, thus regularly administered, the growth of our souls in grace; or otherwise, that which should have been for our help, will be an occasion of falling.

Let us remember, that when God denounces threatening against the ungodly, he declares that it shall be to the 'Jew first, and also to the Gentile.'—And why so? Doubtless, because of the vast extent of the spiritual privileges which the Jews had enjoyed, in comparison with all other nations, and the aggravated guilt incurred by the neglect of them. Among those privileges, beyond all doubt, the chief was, 'that unto them were committed the oracles of God;' but it was not the least of them, that they had an established church, in which all the divine ordinances were regularly administered. Let us, then dear brethren, take warning by their example, and be admonished that we fall not into the same condemnation. And let us, in all sincere humility and earnestness, approach the footstool of mercy; and while we pray that by the careful study of God's word and diligent use of his ordinances, our own souls may 'grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;' let us pray also for our rulers, that they may be always like Jehoshaphat, directed and disposed to stimulate the church to the diligent performance of her sacred duties; and by every lawful means to promote her efficiency for the great work for which she is designed: let us pray in like manner, for all the ministers of our church, that they may have grace to exercise their ministry with affection, fidelity, and zeal: and let us pray, also, for all the members of our church, that they receive the truth of Christ "in the love of it," and exhibit living examples of that truth; and that thereby they may afford such sure and indubitable manifestation of the blessing of God resting upon our sacred communion, and attending the means of grace ministered within her sacred pale, that many, who are now,

whether through ignorance or prejudice, or for whatever cause, estranged from us, may be constrained to say, "we will go with you, for we perceive that God is with you."

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

LUNENBURG, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1840.

ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, LUNENBURG.—The annual examination of this School took place on Tuesday last, being the festival of St. Michael and all Angels. There were about 150 children present, who were examined in Scripture lessons, explanations of the Catechism, the Church Catechism itself, Bible Catechisms, &c. Their answers afforded satisfactory evidence of the industry and care of the teachers, and of the improvement of the scholars; and it was matter of regret that so few of the parents and others concerned with the school, were present to share in the satisfaction which others appear to enjoy. There are few exhibitions more truly interesting to the serious mind, than the one in question. A large amount of the word of Inspiration has been committed to memory in the past as in the preceding years, besides hymns, collects, and other prayers; and the substance of all that is learnt, is sought to be grafted into the children's minds by constant and thorough catechetical exercises. It was a pleasing sight to see the eagerness with which the younger ones, especially, pressed forward to repeat the little hymns, or other lessons, and to mark also the disappointment they showed, if time did not permit the Evangelist to hear them. Fourteen years have passed since the establishment of this school; and it is humbly hoped and believed, that it has in that time been abundantly and manifestly blessed as an instrument of good, while doubtless we may hope for the development of greater fruits as years roll on. But Eternity alone declare the benefit of such institutions. Light and comfort have been cast on not a few dying scenes by the instruction of this humble school; and the poor dying sinner whose early Sabbaths were spent there, has found his solitary and suffering hours on the lonely ocean cheered, we trust sanctified, by the Books and lessons of our Sunday-School. "Not unto us, not unto us, O Lord, but thy name be the praise."

The Rector thankfully acknowledges the faithful labours he has so long received from several kind teachers, who have not grown weary in this well doing; and he trusts that others may be led by the love of Christ to enter the same office. May both teachers and scholars be blessed with the "laugh of the Lord," and so, have "great peace" and ever.

We understand that there was a meeting of the Governor's of King's College at Windsor, about a night ago, attended by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, the Lord Bishop, &c. We have not heard the proceedings took place. His Excellency afterwards returned on to Clermont, and returned in a few days to Halifax from whence, we presume, he has since set out on a tour to the Province of New Brunswick—his original purpose having been unavoidably deferred.

"To pay every man his own" is a good maxim which should be remembered and acted upon by all who subscribe for a paper. If it is forgotten by them, the Printer be expected to reduce it, to practice especially request that all who are in arrears for the COLONIAL CHURCHMAN, will abide by this salutary rule, and settle accounts with the Printer or the nearest Agent, up to the end of this Volume. (12th November 1840) And it is earnestly desired, that Agents will use their exertions in procuring such settlement, and in remitting without delay, whatever may be received.

* From "The Lawfulness of Rulers employing their Official Influence for the promotion of true Religion;" a sermon preached by Thomas Tattershall, D. D. Minister of St. Augustine's, Liverpool.