

of life, which takes place with his departure from the home and the land of his fathers; and then, when after years of toil, he comes to have time at command, his taste for reading is gone, and he is but little allured to cultivate it anew, either by the books to which he has access, or the habits of the neighbourhood in which he dwells. Now, a monthly publication, which shall abound in interesting expositions of Biblical and Theological truth, and of the history of the Church, and its devoted Ministry in the present and former ages, should be to our rural population, the dwellers in the woods, a very Magazine of the most precious instruction and entertainment.

*THURSDAY. The Examiner will tend to bring out to view the principles by which the Church should be guided in circumstances of difficulty and perplexity.*

The Presbyterian Church aims at a visible Unity, and acts in the mass if we may so speak, or as one body. And if the individual Christian sometimes finds it difficult to discern the path of duty, we need not wonder that the Church, in her more complicated movements and relations, should be perplexed in the same way. She experiences difficulties in the exercise of discipline over her Members and Office-bearers, and in the execution of measures for her support and existence. Our Church, in this Province, is, as yet, in a very immature state, being still dependent on the Church in Scotland for the supply of Missionaries and Ministers, and partially dependent, also, on the State for the support of her Ministers: and thus, important and difficult questions come to be agitated in her judicatories. And if public bodies are too apt, in matters in which the personal interests of their members are concerned, to yield themselves to an accommodating expe-

diency, as the rule of their conduct, and that, especially, when their deliberations are private, our Church Courts have hitherto been little indebted to the restraint of public opinion, for in many cases, Sessions have failed to send Elders, and our Presbyteries have met sometimes in private chambers, and sometimes in empty Churches.

Now the EXAMINER, by reporting their proceedings, even in the way which the Courts themselves may warrant, will tend to bring them before the Church at large, and this will be favourable towards the elucidation of the scriptural principles of our policy, and also, towards their obtaining their rightful influence in our proceedings.

The present, is a most critical period in the Ecclesiastical History of this Province. Principles of Church policy, which have long ago been adopted or rejected in other lands, are yet under discussion amongst us. Our branch of the Presbyterian Church, holding the same Confession of Faith as the Church of Scotland, agrees of course with her respecting the duty of the Civil Magistrate in matters of Religion: but yet, it by no means follows, that we should in every and all variety of circumstances advocate a Church Establishment, or the endowment of Religion.

We cannot, for example, adopt the doctrine advocated within and without our Parliament House, that any form of Religion which is allowed the name of Christian, and has a numerous body of supporters, is, on this account, to be endowed. We bear in mind, that our Church has, in other days, contended in the face of reproach and persecution, against error and apostacy; and that, in admitting us to the Ministry, she has called on us to concur in the testimonies to the truth which she bore amidst dangers and troubles: and desiring our-