

fellowship, and to whom they looked perhaps, expectingly, as their "joy and crown in the day of the Lord"; but now charged with mutual rancour as holding opposite political principles. In all past times we believe that when political feeling has run high, those branded as *Dissenters*, have had a very ample share of abuse, and in this instance they had much to bear; and had they not been able to "consider Him who endured the contradiction of sinners against himself," they could ill have endured to hear *Dissenters*, classed as almost synonymous with *rebels*. Still, in looking back to this sifting period, we have often thought that beyond most others, in the history of our Mission, it is one, in regard to which, we have cause of deep gratitude to Him "who hath delivered, who doth deliver, and in whom we trust that he will yet deliver," all who confide in him. These "troublesome times" were overruled for good. They brought out the worldly and false-hearted, in general, in their true colours. True, some congregations were sorely shaken by the introduction of political animosity, under the influence of which, numbers separated themselves to join a *pensioned*, because held out to be, a more *loyal* Church. But while such congregations were numerically weakened, they were delivered by the same means, from the elements of strife, they retained those attached on principle, and in most cases—we believe in all—have been since more prosperous, both temporally and spiritually. It is to be hoped that after the effervescence of political partisanship has passed off; that those who, on the score of loyalty, so called, went out from us, but really "because they were not of us," have not been forgetful of loyalty of a higher order; but keep in view the fact, that while the follower of Christ is to "honour the king," it is especially incumbent on him to "fear God."

Since these commotions ceased, and their causes have been investigated by the highest authorities, and a Public Mind formed, circumstances have of course been greatly more favourable to the extension of our cause. The very distinguishing characteristics, which at first constituted an objection in many cases, constitute now a general recommendation among the most enlightened portions of the Canadian community. It is now well understood that upon the great question of ministerial support, our principles are identified with the views of the great body of the people. The historian of some future period will discover that the Missionary Presbytery, now the United Presbyterian Synod in Canada, bore an honourable and not undistinguished part in maturing the sentiments of the interesting population among whom its destinies were in eventful times cast.