

vants of their Congregations, holding their situations from one term of years unto another, and consequently, exposed to be thrown loose upon the world, whenever their own infirmities, or the caprice of their hearers may lead to the belief, that they are less fit than formerly, to discharge the duties of their office. If we take, in conjunction with this, the very limited extent of their incomes (averaging I am assured less than £150 currency per annum) we shall be disposed to allow that they can scarcely possess that independence, or hold that rank in society, which would draw men of education into the ministry, or give full effect to the exhortations they deliver.

Besides, I am led to believe, that the burden of maintaining a well qualified Clergyman, has been felt to be so severe, when it had to be borne chiefly by the poorer classes of society, as in many instances to have kept the people without Pastors, or to have contributed to the appointment of pastors of less respectable acquirements than were to be wished. From these causes, our North American neighbours have, I believe, a greater sprinkling of fanaticism, and are somewhat less moral and less religious, than if the ministers of religion had been connected with the state, and supported by it. They may shortly feel other evils arising from this defect in their constitution. That rivalry of interest and feeling, which every day is increasing, between the sections of their extended empire, must be met by a spirit of mutual forbearance and concession, or must ultimately terminate in the dissolution of the confederacy, and the conversion of that fair portion of the globe into a scene of commotion and bloodshed. The ministers of an established church, forming a bond of connection between the remotest parts of the most extensive dominions, and prompted no less by interest than duty, to maintain that connection, to allay the heats of civil controversy, and to cherish peace and good will among the people, whose devotions they direct, would have been the natural guardians of the unity of their Empire.

For these reasons, I must think, that, in this case, the United States hold forth to us an example, not to be imitated, but avoided; and it seems to me, that the only fit answer, that they can make, who most admire the character and maxims of their legislators, is not, that in this case they have acted wisely, but that they acted, as they were unavoidably compelled to act. At the time of the separation of her North American Colonies from the Mother Country, all controlling power being withdrawn, it was impossible for any one of the numerous rival sects to be raised over all others. It is very different in Canada; this country is in the very act of assuming a form, and the people of acquiring a character. That form and character must, in some measure at least, be determined, by the influence which Great Britain exerts, nor does it seem to me, that that influence can be, in any way, more powerfully and beneficially exerted, than in the formation of those religious establishments, which may be raised up, by its fostering care. In this case, the circumstances of the times, and the principles of justice and sound policy seem to point out one course.