

tions to an inconvenient length, and will therefore merely state what in the particular case ought, and it seems to us, before this to have been done, and what ought now to be done by those who legislate for Canada.

From what has been previously said it seems to us, that it was the duty of Great Britain to provide the means of religious instruction to the colonists whom she settled in these provinces. It also seems to us, that she ought, for this purpose, to have employed the services of the two national churches, and that, if, after a fair trial of them, they were found incapable of discharging the office, it would have been her duty to employ any other instrumentality, not inconsistent with her protestant character.

She did early engage, or endeavour to engage, by every reasonable encouragement, the services of the church of England in this great work. To such of the clergy of that church as would enter on the arduous, doubtless, but glorious labour of missionaries to the infant province, she gave the countenance of the government of the colony, and afforded an ample provision against pecuniary want. Besides what their flocks might contribute, £200 sterling was secured to each missionary of that church. Unfortunately, for a long period, these her efforts had but very partial success. It is in reference to these times, that Dr. Strochan was wont to complain of the difficulty of inducing gentlemen of education to leave the comforts of England, and encounter the privations of a Canadian wilderness. The consequence was that they who had dispersed through this wilderness to give to it the beginnings of fertility and civilization, neither saw nor heard of the church of England, and what her missionaries might have accomplished, had they come among them, was unknown. It was also unfortunate, that, to supply the want of English missionaries, a system of proselytizing from other churches was adopted by which to fill her ranks. On this subject we may refer to the evidence of the Rev. Crosbie Morgell, chaplain to the Bishop of Quebec, given before the committee of the House of Commons, on the civil government of Canada 14th June 1828. "Question. Is there any difficulty in procuring persons to serve as clergymen in Canada, who have been educated in the doctrines of the church of England? Answer. Certainly. I should say there is difficulty in procuring them in Great Britain. Q. Is not that the reason why they have been induced to take so many persons into the service of the church who have been formerly belonging to other denominations of christians? A. When a mission becomes

vacant, it is very desirable to fill it up as quickly as possible, and if we were to exclude all who have not been regularly educated in England, we should have to wait several months, and in the mean time sectarians would come in and perhaps disperse the congregation. Q. To what circumstance do you attribute the cessation of so many clergymen from their own church, and their conversion to ours. A. I must hope they are the purest motives, but I cannot dive into men's thoughts——." Concurring with Mr Morgell in our hopes it must nevertheless be admitted that this circumstance, in conjunction with the conduct of prominent individuals thus brought over to her, has had great effect in giving a character of worldliness to the English Church, of which it is to be hoped she is undeserving, but which has been greatly injurious to her usefulness in the land. It is only of late years, that her clergy have really spread themselves through the country; and we believe it will appear that the numbers of her real adherents, make but a small proportion of the population of the colony.

As to the Church of Scotland the unhappy policy of the state has rather been to discountenance than to encourage it. It is unnecessary to remind the readers of the Examiner of what privileges this cruelly injudicious policy has deprived us, what grievous privations it has inflicted, what mighty evils it has entailed on us. Had the same encouragement been given to missionaries from our church, as from that of England, or even far more moderate encouragement, there cannot be a doubt, to one acquainted with the particulars of these times, that there would from the first have been an abundant supply of our clergy to minister to the spiritual necessities of our countrymen throughout the province. To what extent their ministrations might have been acceptable among others than those originally belonging to their church, how far they might have succeeded in supplying the religious blank which the province long presented, and yet, unhappily in so many directions continues to present, are questions not now to be satisfactorily answered.

All must at least admit that a deficiency so much to be lamented would thus in a great degree have been supplied. Meanwhile religious bodies not connected with either establishments have laboured in this field with zeal and with success. Of these the Methodists have been most prominent in their exertions, and most successful also. In the number of their congregations and ministers, and in the amount of their annual contributions for religious purposes, they exceed, and we should conceive in the number of their real adherents, they