

you to stop? It is not needful the people should be able to pen and compose a letter—well—it is only going a step farther to say that it is not needful the people should be able to read with fluency—let them be only taught to *spell* their books as was the case at no distant period—and so by piece-meal deductions, you would soon bring it to this, that there was no need for education at all.

It is with much satisfaction that I would hail the improvement made by our government by their late legislation on this matter.⁴⁷ They have thrown open a door for the advancement of education among the labouring classes which had previously been closed. Members of Parliament and the Peers of the realm had possessed the privilege of franking their letters; that is, they could send them to any part of the kingdom at the small cost of one penny. But this privilege is abolished, or rather is equalized, and now the peer and the peasant can alike forward their letters to their friends on the same terms. Of course this branch of the revenue

has fallen off in consequence of such a reduction.—But as the capital of the country is in no respect diminished, the needful amount can be re-appropriated by the government by means of a less odious impost. The effect of this measure will assuredly tend to the encouragement of education among the people. It will give to general education that fair scope of which it had been formerly deprived—and if the Reformers had cause of rejoicing when the art of printing was invented, saying that it would no longer be in the power of Popes or councils to bar the door of scriptural knowledge, the philanthropists in our times have a like cause of joy, in the passing of an act removing a grievous incubus from the educated part of the community, an act that will enable the humblest as well as the highest in the land to maintain an uninterrupted correspondence with their friends and relatives—and though absent in body to be present in spirit—to bear each other's burdens; to rejoice with them when they rejoice, and to weep with them when they weep.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADIAN CHRISTIAN EXAMINER.

DEAR SIR,—I was disappointed when reading in your excellent Magazine some account of the proceedings of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, to find among the various Addresses they had voted, there was one they appear to have omitted, I mean an Address to the Ministers of our Church at home, who have so nobly resisted the attempts of the Court of Session, to lay the yoke of an unlimited patronage on the necks of the people.

I am an old man, and I have been acquainted with the wrestlings of the Church of Scotland to be free of this yoke almost from my infancy. It was always refreshing to my spirit when I read of ministers persevering in this good cause, and like Gideon and the three thousand that were with him, though "faint, yet pursuing." I remember in my youth, hearing many godly ministers and people bearing their testimony against patronage. It has been accounted a grievance for more than a hundred years. And the original burghers, for I do not speak of the voluntaries, took up this ground in opposi-

tion to the ruling party in the church, who did their utmost to force high-handed patronage upon the people. It is a cause, however, of much joy and thankfulness that the grounds which led to the secession are removed by the downfall of that party and of their Erastian policy, and better days have begun to dawn upon the land. It was no more than what was required of those on whom the garment of Witherspoon, Erskine, and Moncrieff had fallen, when, in the course of a gracious Providence, they found they had a majority in the General Assembly to act upon their own testimony, and restore the privileges of the Christian people according to the constitution of the church, whatever consequences might ensue, and this they did by virtue of the veto law passed in the Assembly, of 1854. One good turn leads to another, and so this, as every one knows, was the signal for the original burghers rallying around the church of their fathers. I was one of that body, and I need hardly say, therefore, that it gladdened my heart exceedingly to hear of the vigor with which the contest