

from Presbyterian Ireland, much of that ignorance and distress which prevail in other parts of your native land, and made it like an Oasis in the midst of the desert!

To all Presbyterians, of whatever Country, we would appeal whether they have any reason to be ashamed of that faith which led their fathers to stem the torrent of tyranny and despotism on the one hand, and to stand aloof from democratic fury, and wild licentiousness, miscalled liberty, on the other—of that faith, whose Apostles and Founders were the parents of civil and religious liberty, at the same time that they were the firmest supporters of the Throne and Constitution!

“By their fruits ye shall know them,” is the criterion of Christianity, which its Divine Author has himself laid down as the only infallible one; and if we apply this test to those countries which have adopted the form of Religion which we profess, we shall find that knowledge, learning and good morals have, in an eminent degree, been its accompaniments. Indeed, to the Presbyterians and Puritans, (a kindred race,) we shall find that mankind are almost exclusively indebted for the most inestimable benefit, that perhaps was ever conferred on the world, viz. the establishment of an effective system for the general diffusion of knowledge. They are the founders of national education; and possessing a wisdom as profound, as their zeal for Religion was ardent, they deemed that they could do nothing more effectual for the advancement of genuine Christianity, than to make provision for the universal diffusion of knowledge; assured, that in its course, all the influences of Christianity would necessarily flow as their natural and proper channel.

To them, therefore, belongs the noblest distinction which can be claimed by any of the benefactors of mankind, that of having laid the foundation of those admirable institutions for the advancement of learning, which form the peculiar glory of Switzerland, Holland, Scotland and New England. With such claims to the gratitude of mankind, it is impossible that any, save those whose minds are influenced by bigotry and prejudice, can refuse the due meed of praise to their merits, or stand forth in hostility to a system, of which the effects have been so diffusive and beneficent; and we conceive it impossible that any enlightened member of our Church, can feel ashamed to profess that faith which animated their exertions, and enabled them to bequeath so invaluable an inheritance to future ages.

But whatever may have been the fruits of the system in former times, and in other countries, it has been demanded by our adversaries, what has the Presbyterian Church done in Canada. To this, we frankly answer—as a Church, nothing. How could she? She has never been favoured with the means of operating in her corporate capacity.—Presbyterian Church government cannot be said to have as yet existed in these provinces. Had we been provided for in a suitable manner, we should have had, not only a competent number of Churches