

were concentrated on a single subject. From this, however, have resulted disadvantages neither few nor small. It has made Religion in almost every age, seem to consist in the belief of some particular doctrine, or the practice of some particular duty. Christian character and the hope of eternal life have seemed to hang on a single point; truths of high importance have been overlooked and neglected; and that beautiful symmetry which the Christian System has, when viewed as a whole, has had few to see and admire it. Our own times are not free from this. Many of the Sects into which the Christian Church is divided, appear to be nothing else, than continuations of parties which in their day contended for some favourite—often minute articles of faith or worship. Their successors drag on a difficult life, wondering that men are indifferent about what they think all-important; forgetting, that the zeal and excitement which first called their peculiarities into notice was local or temporary, and has passed away. This monomania—this inability to view the various parts of the Christian System in their relative proportions has at no time been altogether at rest. In its paroxysms—for it has had many such, it has produced in abundance, fanaticism, extravagance and folly. A Religious Periodical, therefore, which would aim at being useful, while it ought to take part in all the discussions of the day, ought to use its influence to prevent valuable truths from being lost sight of amid contentings for favorite opinions. The Church is in the most healthy state when the whole system of Revelation is brought to bear in all its entirety, on the minds and hearts of the Christian people.

Every person who has confidence in his own creed wishes that all men may embrace it; and moreover, all have a right to propagate their opinions in any way they think best; provided they do not interfere with the rights of others. Recognizing therefore, the right of every man, to form and propagate his own conscientious opinions, the Missionary Presbytery claim for themselves what they cheerfully concede to others. They consider it a duty to the truth which they have received, to publish it. They have reason to believe that their principles are not generally known, and also, that in many quarters they are misrepresented. Hitherto they have had no means of disabusing the public; calumnies have gone forth uncontradicted—the issuing of this Periodical is therefore, a measure of self-defence.

To defend themselves and their doctrine the Missionary Presbytery have an unquestionable right; but they have no right to bring railing accusations against others. Acerbity and fierceness, often mistaken for genius and talent, shew only the unsanctified temper of those who employ them; and they always do injury to any cause, particularly a religious one. Soft words and hard arguments ought to be the law in all religious discussions. “The wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”

Another object which the Presbytery has in view is to make the readers of the “Presbyterian” acquainted with the efforts which are being made