

him the church of Geneva lost a faithful and devoted pastor, the city a wise, philanthropic, and public spirited citizen, the college a learned and able professor, and all, a common parent and friend. His funeral was attended by the authorities, civil and ecclesiastical, of the town, and a great proportion of the citizens. Many tears were shed on the occasion, and for some days a gloom seemed to be thrown over the city. According to his own directions no monument was erected to his memory. Neither was this necessary. Calvin can never be forgotten. *Si monumentum quaeris, circumspice.* "If you wish to see his monument, reader, look around you."

#### THE RELIGIOUS INDIFFERENCE OF CANADA AND ITS POLITICAL EFFECTS.

We find the first evidence of the religious indifference of our Provincial community in the very general opposition that has been raised against all public provision for the maintenance of sacred institutions. This opposition has oftener than once been manifested even in the deliberations and decisions of the popular branch of the Legislature. Its origin, we are aware, may be traced to the illiberal and unwise policy which the local government has uniformly pursued in maintaining the exclusive right of the Episcopal church to the whole of the munificent endowment made for the support of the Protestant religion in this colony—and it has of late been greatly increased by the jealousies of sectarian rivalry; but its true and more latent cause may be discovered in that prevailing indifference to religion and all its institutions, which forms so remarkable and sad a feature in the character of our Canadian population. To multitudes among us it is a matter of small concern in what form religion exists, or whether it exist at all; and while they are loud and virulent in their condemnation of every legislative measure which may favor its support—they themselves will not assist it—no not with one of their fingers. On such a question as that of religious endowments we admit that there may be a diversity of opinion even among wise and good men; for alas! it cannot be denied that they have often been so grossly abused—so prostituted to unholy purposes—so often granted for the dissemination of error—that very colorable pretenses might be alledged against them; and the enemies of religion in this country have most industriously availed them-

selves of these accidental circumstances to turn the public mind against them. Nay, we have sometimes had the mortification to witness, those whom we esteemed the true disciples of Christ, lending their aid to the infidel and profane to alienate and destroy those resources for the support and extension of religion, which under the control and management of an enlightened and christian administration could not fail to be of signal advantage to the country. But to prove that this opposition has arisen in general from indifference to *all* religion, we might ask the attentive observer, whether the opponents of a legislative provision for the support of religion have appeared to evince their concern for it by liberal voluntary aid? Are they found among the zealous supporters of the gospel in their own neighborhood? Do we find them acting for this end with that unwearied spirit and energy, and with that personal sacrifice which the love of God and the faith of a christian, and concern for the souls of their own family and those around them, would inspire? On the contrary, is it not rather observed that these opponents are chiefly found among such as have put off all regard even for the outward forms of religion, or who are contented with such occasional and imperfect ministrations of it as chance may throw in their way? We have no fear in hazarding the assertion that if all in this province were as deeply convinced of the importance of sacred institutions as they ought to be—both for their own and their country's good—they would manifest their convictions not only by a greater liberality from their own substance, but they would rejoice in any other mode of extraneous aid which the providence of God might open up. And whenever the spirit of a devoted piety shall pervade our population and legislators, religion will share in their legislative beneficence as well as education. The training of young men for usefulness in the state is an object worthy of the statesman's care; and when the fear of God, and the knowledge of Christ's gospel shall be regarded as essential elements of all that is great and good in the human character, the means by which these may be instilled into the national mind will not be left to precariousness and adventure. Meanwhile as to these, our provincial community is in an unsettled and perilous stage of its existence. Gathered together from the four winds, each has imported with him—along with whatever he may have possessed of true and good—the prejudices which he imbibed from his native soil; and the condition of the people in a recent colony seems peculiarly favorable to the growth of opinionativeness and conceit. From these causes there arise daily a discordancy of opinion and sen-