

But has any attempt been made to test the question? There is a large endowment existing in the State of New York, from which assistance and support are given to Episcopal Clergymen of different congregations. Has a close investigation been attempted, to ascertain whether such a system has proved beneficial in places where wealth does not abound, and having arrived at the conclusion that it does so, (which would have been the case,) have any of the waste lands of the Union been set apart to create, by their sale, a fund for the promotion of religion generally, and not to any particular denomination?—I fear not. Has any portion of the land we shall call *conceded*, Black Hawk notwithstanding, been set apart for the purpose of christianizing or civilizing the savage and heathen tribes from whom it was received, for the purpose of bringing them within the fold, and thus affording to the zealous, sure and permanent means of making the attempt? I fear not, but rather that the prospect of driving them into the sea, or wholly exterminating them, is very coolly looked at—very little felt.

In Britain, there are twelve Missionary Societies, which disburse sixteen hundred thousand dollars annually; by other societies, five million six hundred and seventy thousand five hundred and twenty-three bibles and testaments have been distributed. Besides all these, means have been publicly provided to put it in the power of the destitute, the indifferent, the hardened, and the guilty, to approach their Maker, in his own sacred temple, which has always been considered an object worthy of a great and beneficent nation; and in the midst of perils at home, and wars abroad, it has never been lost sight of. When armaments for the safety of other countries were required—when distant dependencies were threatened with internal dissensions, fomented by our allies,—when legislators were at issue on subjects of important policy, and arrayed against each other in eager debate, religion was never forgotten.

The beneficed clergy, alone, of England and Wales, with their Curates, in number, amount to nearly fifteen thousand, not including persons who do not belong to the Established Church. To the poorer classes, who pay no direct taxes, they are not any expense, being provided for them,—and having been sworn to administer to their spiritual wants, they are distributed throughout England and Wales, furnishing aid, instruction and religious consolation in more than as many different places, and affording an example of learning and piety, meekness and excellence, not surpassed in any country in the world; they are removed from dependence and want, by their annual stipend,—they therefore can teach the true doctrine without heeding the cavillings of persons, too loose in their doctrines, or too rigid in their scruples, or too visionary in their zeal.