

In looking, Sir, at the principles and the action of the times, many melancholy thoughts are forced upon us. A provision is made for law, common law, the law of the land—that which looks, and only can look, to the outward actions of offenders—on the grandest and costliest scale. To keep persons from crime and injustice by the simple restraint of fear, we have a Judiciary staff for this United Province nearly equal in numbers, and little inferior in cost, to that which is supplied for England and Wales, with about ten times the population. But to restrain persons from crime through a higher and more effectual principle, the fear of God—to inculcate and give force to a law which influences the issues of life, and directs the motives of action—in a word, to uphold and diffuse the great, and binding, and purifying truths of religion—our country, through those who profess to speak her voice, declares explicitly that she will pay nothing; and worse, that she will, violently and against all law, withdraw the small provision which, in an age when such things were better reasoned, was allotted for the maintenance of religion.

With such dishonour to Almighty God, sanctioned by the public voice, can a country prosper? Can we, in such a condition of rebellion against the Most High, hope for bountiful harvests and commercial success,—credit abroad, or trustfulness amongst ourselves? Not, if we are to believe in the immutability of the plans and purposes of the Divine Providence. It was said of old, by the voice of the Almighty, and the solemn words have never been recalled: “Ye are cursed with a curse; for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.”

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient, humble servant,

The Rectory, Cobourg,

A. N. BETHUNE.

May 20th, 1850.