

or eighty years ago, made use of a workman in Scotland whose instrumentality is now being felt in Salem, Prince Edward Island, and Brighton in Canada.

But whence comes this term independence? From the scriptures? Nay, verily. It was born and nurtured in a very dark day. It belongs not to gospel phraseology. It grew up under, or rather was a natural off-shoot from, a church with an earthly head. It signified a step, one short step, in the direction of reformation. We frankly and rejoicingly admit that the term independence, with an ecclesiastic head before us, has not a very bad meaning, though always incorrect; but in view of the heavenly Head, the rightful and authoritative Head of the church, it is we judge wholly astray from the mind of the Spirit.

Well do we know that in these British possessions and in the American States there is such a peculiar unction in the very word independence, that a person ought to be prepared for a Roman or anti-Roman purgatory the moment he calls in question its political or ecclesiastic orthodoxy. But really, in all humbleness of soul, we desire to be so loyally attached to the Divine Prince, and so thoroughly in love with his wisdom, as to treat with due indifference the whole host of pleadings in church or state which virtually hide heaven's volume, more or less, by a surroundment of popular enchantment. 'Whether shall we obey God or men?'—is, with us, *THE* question. It is not *our* doxy, or *your* doxy, or *their* doxy, but *bible*doxy that we seek to approve.

Two articles on this very scopeful topic may be looked for within the coming month. And is it possible to deal with due pointedness in reviewing sentiments and denominationalisms without a single unpleasant or unworthy feeling toward any person or persons? We shall try it. In the name of the Master we shall make the effort.

D. O.

---

### TO THE PENITENT SINNER.

---

An impenitent heart may truly be called *stony*, for it is unproductive of the noble fruits of righteousness. Real penitence is of great esteem in heaven, and ought to be highly prized on earth. It takes the place of that haughty and imperious mind generally possessed by the rebellious. It fits the offender for an obedient and humble return to duty. It prepares the heart to bow submissively to all the require-