

INTRODUCTORY LETTER FROM A BROTHER CLERGYMAN.

*To the Editor of the CHRISTIAN SENTINEL.*

REV. SIR,

It is with unfeigned pleasure I have received the Prospectus of the Christian Sentinel. The Clergy of the Church of England, in this Diocese, having long felt the want of a periodical publication, conducted on the principles of their Church, will surely rejoice when they read your Prospectus, as it promises to embrace all those subjects which a Churchman is bound to hold in veneration. The Press, it is well known, has been employed of late years, on several occasions, as a vehicle of propagating evil surmises and popular clamour against the Church, in the shape of pamphlets and newspaper articles; while the Clergy, partly for want of a channel, in which they could convey their sentiments, and partly, perhaps, from an excessive Love of Peace, certainly not from indifference, have hitherto remained, with but few exceptions, silent and passive.

The time now seems to have arrived when they ought to do something, at least, in their own defence; when they ought to have a channel of their own, through which they may be enabled, "to answer every one that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear." It is a very common thing among the advocates of separation to cast all manner of reflections on both the Clergy and the Liturgy of the Church, as if the former had no religion at heart, and the latter a mere form without the spirit; and many are brought up in the belief that these are indisputable facts, in which all are agreed, on no other ground than that it is constantly and unweariedly repeated in their ears by the enemies of the Church. A publication, therefore, conducted on the principles of your Prospectus, will, through the blessing of God, it is to be hoped, tend to remove prejudice by a development of the truth; and to conciliate the inveteracy of opposition, by giving a fair statement of the doctrines of Christianity, as taught and held in the Church; which, if it will not altogether convince, may, at least, produce a belief that we are not so very bad as we are represented.

From the increasing numbers of the Clergy, and from the influence which they may be presumed to have among the inhabitants of these Provinces, where they are severally stationed, there must necessarily be a just expectation, that a body of religious teachers, so numerous, and so respectable as they are, should speak for themselves, by employing the Press, in advocating the cause of religion and the Church, in addition to their personal ministry in isolated, scattered congregations.

I therefore, trust, that the Clergy generally, according to their diversified abilities, and leisure from other duties, will devote a small portion of their time to contribute to your Magazine.