

Synods or Presbyteries. This is due, we should fondly hope, in most instances, to the character of the individuals whom we ordained as ministers for Colonial stations. The spirit of Presbytery also seems to us to require, that the right of government should not, in ordinary cases, extend beyond the limits of representation. And these limits may safely be determined by considerations of convenience, from the inherent power of the Presbyterian system, as a scriptural institute, to adapt itself to every variety of circumstances.

But, while we decline all authoritative jurisdiction over the Colonial Presbyterian Churches, we can never cease to cherish the warmest interest in their welfare; and we consider ourselves authorized—as our Christian sympathies may prompt, or as their circumstances may require—to address to them the words of counsel and exhortation, of encouragement or reproof; and when offered in the spirit of love, we feel assured that they will be received in the same spirit.

The following passage of this most excellent letter, coming from an authority which they profess to revere as paramount, I would specially recommend to the attention of the Presbyteries of Bathurst and Montreal, and those ministers who, in manifest contempt of their Supreme Ecclesiastical Court, have given in their *bona fide* adherence to the Establishment:—

As honoured to bear rule in the Church of Christ, keep constantly in mind the great ends for which the great Head of the Church has committed a system of government to the office-bearers in his spiritual house—that order should be maintained, that ordinances be rightly administered, that due means be employed for repressing vice and error, and for encouraging the progress of knowledge and righteousness—and in the meetings of your courts, let all your proceedings, whether legislative or judicial, be conducted with an eye to these important ends. Let the different Courts, Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries, Synods, be kept in due subordination the one to the other. It is essential to the existence of the Presbyterian system, that individual members of the Church, and that inferior judicatories, should yield a ready obedience to their spiritual superiors! so that, while no one individual possesses jurisdiction over the rest, all should be subject to the voice of the whole.