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LETTER TO THE HONOURABLE Mr. STANLEY, ON THE RELATIVE CLAIMS OF THE ENGLISH AND SCOTCH CHURCHES IN THE CANADAS; BY JOHN RAE, A. M.

SIR,

RELIGION and country are sacred names. The love of them is natural to good men, and is so connected with the best feelings and affections of the heart, that to be wanting in them, throws a shade over the whole character. Unhappy must be the condition, or debased must be the spirit of the man, who can calmly and unresistingly stand by and watch the progress of measures inimical to the interests of either. Unhappy must he be, if the circumstances of his lot have left him no choice, but that of patient endurance; base and debased, if, having the means to avert the evil, he yet wants the will to employ them.

With what sentiments then, can my countrymen, can Scotsmen, regard their present situation in this Province. We leave our native land to come to a British, not an English, Province; and therefore with the assured confidence, that we are there to enjoy equal rights, privileges, and advantages, with those possessed by the natives of any other part of the British Empire. But we find here a party, a powerful, and hitherto an all prevailing party, who tell us a very different tale, who tell us we must submit to bear the burden, and wear the badge of inferiority and subjection.

We have a national Church, and a national form of worship, to which we are sincerely attached. If we adhere to them, we are regarded with the jealousy, and stigmatised with the name, of dissenters. Is a teacher of our persuasion to be appointed? He finds the powerful interest of a dominant religion arrayed against him. Is an university to be established? Men of Presbyterian principles are incapacitated from holding office in it. Our Clergy can perform the mar-