

resulted in all the partyism which now prevents the triumph of the cross.

A democratic church is an anti-Christian association ; because it vests the supreme power in the body of the people, and not in Christ.

The Scotch Baptists have given us a fine demonstration of a democratic religion. They have persisted in their course for many years, with all the firmness characteristic of their everlasting "high-lands," without approximating the Apostolic order. But what have they done for the conversion of the world—nay, for the conversion of their own nation? They have organized themselves and met—they have met and wrangled ; and wrangled and divided ; and sub-divided, till they have little or no influence where they meet.

They hold that a church can organize itself—ordain its own officers, and govern itself. In all the creation of God, there is not a self-organized thing. A self-constituted church is not a church of God—a self-officered church is not officered by God ; and a self-governed church is not governed by the Lord. It is purely a human institution. Jesus never said, *On this rock shall my church build itself*. Paul never said, *The church chose some, Apostles ; and some, Prophets ; and some, Evangelists ; and some, Pastors, and Teachers*. He never said, *That God had highly exalted the church, that she should govern herself ; but that he had supremely exalted Jesus, "That at his name every knee should bend, of the heavenlies, and the earthlies ; and the infernals ; and that every tongue should confess that he is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father."*

They talk of the independence of churches : there is not an independent thing in all God's creation. There is nothing on the earth independent of other things—there is nothing in the heavens independent. Mutual dependence and co-operation characterize all the works of God, and constitute all the music of the spheres.

The notion of a democratic religion, and the independence of churches has led to electioneering, strifes, disorganizing, and scandal to the Christian cause. Members of the same church have separated into two distinct and hostile churches. Members have been expelled from one church, and received into another "of the same faith," without making any satisfaction for their offences. If the laws of Christ, relative to the discipline of members of churches, had been regarded, such instances of folly and shame could never have occurred. According to the laws