

another Prince, and arrogantly claims the power of giving laws to a community that knows, and ought to know, no King but Jesus. This is a stretch of prerogative as unreasonable and absurd, as it would be for the French King to pretend to give law to the British subjects, or for the King of Britain to assume the power of prescribing laws to the subjects of a foreign prince.

"Every civil magistrate ought to have the power of judging, in matters of religion, for himself, for this belongs to him as a man and a christian, and therefore he ought not to be deprived of it by becoming a magistrate. But, as by becoming the Supreme Magistrate he does not lose the unalienated right of judging for himself in religious matters—so, by being raised to supremacy in the state, he acquires no right over his subjects, to prescribe to them in matters of religion, or to interfere with the sacred rights of christians, to regulate their faith, conscience, and religious worship, according to the information and conviction of truth and duty, which they have received from the Word of God. In these things the conscience is sacred to God, the alone Lord of the conscience: and christians, in these matters, are accountable only to Christ, as their master and Lord, and must stand or fall by His judgment. As the civil magistrate is a member of the Church he is not a ruler, but a subject of Christ's Kingdom; and, if he is a good man, he will account this a higher honour and privilege, than to be the head of the State. As he is a member of the Church, he is upon equal footing with other christians. The meanest subject of Christ's Kingdom has as good a right to all the privileges of it as the greatest prince on earth; for here is no respect of persons, and no man is known after the flesh.

"Though in matters of religion, and things pertaining to the law of their God, christians are the subjects of Christ's Kingdom, and not of the civil state; yet in things pertaining to this life, and the outward man, they are the subjects of the worldly kingdom, and in these things the civil magistrate has a right to command, and to be obeyed. The law of Christ commands all the subjects of His kingdom to be subject to every ordinance of man: by which is meant, a cheerful and ready obedience to all those ordinances of the civil magistrate, that are of a lawful nature, fall within his jurisdiction as the head of the state, and do not interfere with their rights as christians, and members of the Church of Christ.

"Earthly kingdoms indeed owe a duty to the Church! But how? Earthly kings may be nursing fathers, and their queens nursing mothers to the Church, without interfering with the rights of her members. By their own example they may recommend religion to their subjects. They may exert their influence in promoting the interests of Christ's Kingdom a great variety of ways, without abridging the rights of conscience, and private judgment in matters of religion. But if they in harassing and distressing the rest, as was too much the case in the cruel state uniformities of the last century, they are rather tyrants, than nursing fathers and mothers to the Church, as they invade the sacred prerogative of Christ, and the rights of His people. And every such invasion is a step towards the overturning of their throne."

Such are some of the sentiments of Mr. Hutcheson on this subject; and of the same amount are the following, with which we shall conclude, by another Minister of the Body, the Rev. Mr. Smith. They were published towards the close of last century:—

"The Church is Catholic, composed of all the faithful in Christ Jesus scattered abroad over the face of the earth; of the redeemed out of every kindred, tribe and nation; of all who in every place call on the name of the Lord Jesus out of a pure heart, and love him in sincerity and truth. These, and these only, are the children of the Kingdom, and are all brethren, however they may be distinguished from one another by birth, language, complexion, education, station, local situation, or other accidental circumstances. This is the Church of Christ; and its Catholic nature shows at first view that it cannot be thrown into any national or provincial mould. Yet in nations where the christian