

such by her own Confessions, she would act, contrary to her own conscience, were she authoritatively to declare that dissent should be tolerated. The Test and Corporation acts, which were not many years ago repealed, were a great grievance to dissenters, because they secured to Kirkmen a monopoly of government offices and municipal privileges; but the Kirk, as such, never sought, and, in all probability, never would have sought their repeal. Were she truly to act up to the letter and spirit of her established creed, she would openly denounce the wickedness of tolerating error, and would remonstrate with the government to repeal their anti-christian Act of Toleration. Her annual General Assembly—the venerated relic of the Scottish Parliament, is attended by circumstances which strikingly exhibit her character and what spirit she is of. Her Royal Head, who may sometimes be a female as at present, takes the pre-eminence by a Commissioner and the Kirk herself glories in giving it to him. The splendid pageantry of armed infantry, dragoons, and halbert-men, and the flourishing of trumpets, the din of drums, and of fifes, and other martial music, which attend the procession of the Commissioner to the house of Assembly, is certainly much more like the opening of Parliament by her Majesty in person, or the Carnival at Rome, or the meetings of Mahometan Ecclesiastics before proceeding to propagate their religion with renewed vigour, by the lethal instruments of fire and sword,—than the meeting of the first Synod or Council of the Christian Church at Jerusalem: armed hosts and martial music are opposed to the spirit and character of the Church of Christ. The Assembly being opened and dissolved by the Commissioner, who is not more necessarily a member of the Kirk than the Queen herself, divests the assembly of any title to a spiritual character; and the Lawyers being admitted into the assembly, *as Lawyers and even irrespective of their being members of the Kirk*, to plead the cause of those who may employ them, assimilates it closely to a civil Court; and sometimes, by the wrangling and pettifogging trickeries of the lawyers, the Court exhibits most strikingly the spirit and character of the world.

The Canadian Kirk of Scotland holds and defends the same doctrines that the parent State-Kirk does; but the Governor has never yet personally or by a Commissioner, taken the high seat in her Synod which she declares it to be his duty to take as her nursing Father, and which, of course, she would rejoice to see him take. She has not, however, as yet, officially called him to take the place which she has prepared for him, and very probably she has no expectation that he would do it. She believes and maintains, that the Governor ought to suppress all heresies, which heresies were originally understood to mean, all Prelatists, Papists, Independents, Baptists, &c.; but he, instead of doing his duty, is more a nursing Father to Prelatists and Papists than to her. And why does she not remonstrate against this unchristian policy? It must be because she believes remonstrance would be vain, or because she is afraid that