

the *vulgar tongue*. Mr. Irving then shifted his ground, and refused to be tried by those, or any human creeds whatever; and appealed to scripture, insisting on substantiating the truth of all the doctrines and practices of his church on *scriptural authority alone*. This was exceedingly specious, and took mightily with the people, but such a proceeding was as false as it was specious; and really as *anti-scriptural* as its pretence was that of a peculiar regard for scripture: it was doing what the whole of these ministrations are doing, viz. acting contrary to the life and *spirit* of God's word, under a hollow pretence of honouring the *letter* of the law. Now the scripture tells us: "not to lie one to another;" not to defraud one another; to be men of honor, whose yea and nay may *bona fide* be depended on; yet, Mr. Irving having received his ministerial appointments from the church of Scotland under a sacred pledge to administer for her in ecclesiastical affairs according to what *she believed* the truth of God's word exhibited in her *written standards*, now refuses to be tried as a minister of that church by those standards. The Moderator, however, very properly refused to permit such a defence, alleging that as Mr. I. had accepted his ministerial office upon the conditions of the observance of these standards, by these standards they as a court of that church must examine and judge. If Mr. I. had after his ministerial ordination in this church found, or fancied he had found, such discrepancies between her standards and the alone and supreme law to which *every christian* must conform all his thoughts, words, and actions, both private and public, that he could not conscientiously abide by them; his path was quite clear; the church of Scotland assumed no infallibility; supposed errors might be brought before her courts for re-consideration, and if there considered *anti-scriptural* would be corrected, and if not, and the complainant remained still dissatisfied, he was quite free to leave the church and follow in some other way the dictates of his conscience; but to take up his defence as he required would be quite unsuitable and out of place, and would be opening the door to a theological controversy which might not terminate before that day when all error and falsehood should have passed away for ever. Upon this Mr. I., with his arm extended and his face averted, denounced them as a court of Anti-Christ, and soon left the church, nor would he return to attend the continuance of his trial, which lasted from 9 A. M. to half-past 9 P. M., when he was condemned. The Moderator summed up the judgment of the court by saying: they considered Mr. I. as a pious and holy man, endowed with talents and attainments of uncommon eminence; to many of them the object of high