

ness of His house, whether as individuals, in families, or in congregations, they will be still praising Him,¹ heart answering to heart, "Bless the Lord, O my soul : and all that is within me, bless His holy name."²

LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE IN ITS RELATION TO CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

That conscience should be free, and that in matters of religious doctrine and worship, man is accountable only to God, are truths which are plainly declared in the New Testament ; and which are confirmed by the whole scope of the Gospel, and by the example of our Lord and His disciples. To rule over the conscience, and to command the spiritual allegiance of his creature man, is the high and sacred prerogative of God alone. In religion every act ought to be free. A forced worship is plainly a contradiction in terms, under that dispensation in which the worship of the Father must be in spirit and in truth.³

We have ever maintained that it is the duty of Christians to obey the enactments of civil government, except those which interfere with our allegiance to God. We owe much to its blessings. Through it we enjoy liberty and protection, in connection with law and order. Civil government is a divine ordinance,⁴ instituted to promote the best welfare of man, hence magistrates are to be regarded as God's ministers who should be a terror to evil doers, and a praise to them that do well. Therefore, it is with us a matter of conscience to render them respect and obedience in the exercise of their proper functions.

MARRIAGE.

Marriage is an institution graciously ordained by the Creator Himself, for the help and continuance of the human family. It is not a mere civil contract, and ought never to be entered upon without a reference to the sanction and blessing of Him who ordained it. It is a solemn engagement for

1. Ps. lxxxiv. 4. 2. Ps. ciii. 1. 3. Jno. iv. 24. 4. Rom. xiii. 1, I Pet. ii. 13-16.