

and as religious bodies must do, and about which the laws of the kingdom say just not one word, neither could be expected to say, as these must always be regulated by *times* and *circumstances*. Some of these I shall now mention.

Every church has authority to appoint the hour and place of meeting, whether for worship or business ; some churches meet in a rented house, some purchase a house, others meet in a school house, some in a private house, and there have been meetings in barns, and even in the open fields. I have attended church meetings in all such places myself. Other churches have built houses for worship, and when this happens the church has authority to determine the shape and size of the building, also of what materials, wood, stone, or brick ; authority also to appoint proper persons to superintend the building, purchase ground, &c. Now as about all this the constitution of the kingdom is silent, every church has full power and authority to follow their own judgment and discretion, and choose that plan that suits best their own circumstances, providing that nothing be done to oppress the christian people, or transgress the laws of the kingdom. Take away from the churches the power of doing all we have mentioned above, and the churches are left powerless indeed. Transfer the power of doing all we have named above, to any man, or class of men, call them evangelists or what you please, and it will soon reduce the churches to a state of tyranny and oppression, very like popery, and ultimately to confusion and disorder. Let any man, or class of men, enter the churches, and attempt to claim the power of doing all we have named above, and I feel confident the churches will rise in their might, and ask by what authority they do these things, and who gave them such authority. And as I believe that no man can prove that he has such authority from the Head of the Church, it will follow as a matter of course that the authority is in the church, the only place where it ought to be, or where it can remain with safety.

I have examined Dr. Shepard's address with some care, and I cannot help saying that in my humble opinion Dr. S.'s address has a striking resemblance to popery, in more than one particular. Let us examine a little. Any one the least acquainted with popery knows that popish churches are powerless, that is, the common people who of course compose the churches, must yield a blind obedience to the priests, the whole power is in the hands of the clergy, chiefly in the hands of these