

stances of this individual case, and come to a decision upon liberal and comprehensive views. I shall suppose that the youngest son of a great family gets a living of 1000*l.* a year, and takes orders; and that soon after, by the death of his elder brother, an estate of 80,000*l.* a-year devolves to him;—will any one say, that this case may not happen? Will any one say, that, if it should, this young man would be refused a seat in this house?—Pray what does my having been in orders prove, but that forty-one years ago I was a young man of a fair character. We no longer live in times of popery. A man is not now all his life influenced by the prejudice that he imbibed from his nurse or his mamma.

What are holy orders, sir? What change is operated upon a man when he receives them? Does ordination instantaneously change the human form, or the human faculties? I was not sensible of any transformation of this kind, nor am I now sensible of differing from other men. The Roman Catholics reckon seven sacraments, and ordination as one of these. At the reformation, ordination was declared to be merely a ceremony. Will any one then say that a ceremony works such an alteration in a man as to disqualify him for the office of a legislator for ever? Between the popish priests and the protestants there is a great difference: the former are enjoined perpetual celibacy; ours are allowed to marry, and upon trial, are declared by the best judges able to perform all the duties of a husband. Shall it then be said, sir, that he who can govern a wife is unfit to assist in the government of a kingdom? I have been told, that I have a voice in the convocation. It is above forty years since I took orders, and I never once was summoned to the convocation, spoke in it, or gave a vote in it. Clergymen are ineligible as they have the care of souls. Sir, I have no soul to take care of but my own. They ought to stay at home and exercise the duties of hospitality. I have no residence, and no funds given me for this purpose. Nor have I