

years, our Church has occupied the position of *dissent* from the National Society. In the maintenance of that position we have oftentimes been accused of "hair splitting," of "magnifying trifles," of being "righteous over much," &c. We have oftentimes been charged with folly in depriving ourselves of those civil advantages which others enjoy, and all for the sake of what are considered by some *mere bagatelles*. But to use the language of the son of Jesse on a memorable occasion, "Is there not a cause." If Britain has vilely cast away her Covenant with her God, and so has the guilt of national apostacy resting upon her, is there not a cause why we should stand aloof, lest we be partakers of her sins, and so receive of her plagues. In maintaining this position of dissent, we disclaim all hostile feelings towards the government of the country. We revere our beloved Queen as much as any people could do, and pray that all new Covenant blessings may be vouchsafed to her; we honor the subordinate rulers as much as others do; we are as seldom in courts of law for breaches of the peace as those that identify themselves with the national society; our taxes are as cheerfully and as punctually paid as are the taxes of those who claim all the civil and political privileges of British subjects; our lives and our properties are as freely at the disposal of the rulers, for the defence of the country, as are those of others. One thing only we cannot do, incorporate with what we believe to be *morally wrong*; swear an oath of allegiance to what is plainly at variance with the oath of the Covenant—a covenant to which our *ancestors* were bound, to which we are bound, and to which our *posterity* shall be bound, until the glorious objects shall be accomplished.