

power was, that they left the principle untouched, and only, to a certain extent, interfered with the practice : for as they did not necessarily lead to the intrusion of an obnoxious man on a congregation, they left the fundamental principle of the Church unscathed. The people of Scotland, according to immemorial usage, had what was denominated a right of call in the choice of their Ministers, and in the purest times of the Church that right was exercised in its fullest extent. The principle above referred to was adopted to prevent the possibility of the intrusion of an obnoxious Minister on a reclaiming people, which was an evil so monstrous that only an Erastian Church and an oppressive Magistrate could unite to sanction it ; and he (Mr. Bayne) could positively speak for himself, that if he had believed that the Church of Scotland had not the power to prevent the intrusion of an obnoxious Minister over the heads and the bleeding hearts of a religious people, he would never have been a member of that Church. The design of the Veto Law, then, was merely to enforce this principle of non-intrusion, and to counteract the evils which resulted from the ascendancy of what was called the "Moderate Party" in the Church ; and as so much had been said of that Act, and so much stress laid upon it by the party adhering to the Establishment, and as it was a very short document, he would beg leave here to read it.

The Rev. Gentleman then read the Act as follows :

"Edinburgh, May 29, 1835.—The General Assembly declare, That it is a fundamental law of this Church, that no pastor shall be intruded on any congregation contrary to the will of the people ; and, in order that this principle may be carried into full effect, the General Assembly, with the consent of a majority of the Presbyteries of this Church, do declare, enact, and ordain, That it shall be an instruction to Presbyteries, that if, at the moderating in a call to a vacant pastoral charge, the major part of the male heads of families, members of the vacant congregation, and in full communion with the Church, shall disapprove of the person in whose favour the call is proposed to be moderated in, such disapproval shall be deemed sufficient ground for the Presbytery rejecting such person, and that he shall be rejected accordingly, and due notice thereof forthwith given to all concerned ; but that, if the major part of the said heads of families shall not disapprove of such person to be their pastor, the Presbytery shall proceed with the settlement according to the rules of the Church : And further declare, that no person shall be held to be entitled to disapprove as aforesaid, who shall refuse, if required, solemnly to declare, in presence of the Presbytery, that he is actuated by no factional