

Church of Scotland. Some gentlemen rose to say that they did not consider themselves qualified to sign the paper, as they were not acquainted with the standards of the Church of Scotland; upon which Mr. Irving rose, I expected to say, that they were not so voluminous but that gentlemen might easily convince themselves on this matter in time,—but instead of this, after remarking that he had no personal concern whatever in such a document, as his standing in the church of God rested not on any human testimony,—he said that if gentlemen were desirous of putting their names to that paper they need not be prevented by the difficulty mentioned, as “*they may take my word and that of my elders here* (pointing to gentlemen on his right and left) *that it is so*”!!! and that seemed quite satisfactory to these disciples of Mr. Irving, as some of them immediately signed it!!! I was astonished, and could scarcely believe my senses, that a man of Mr. Irving’s intelligence and high moral character could lead his people into so egregious a fallacy and on so solemn an occasion; and that his people could be so blinded as to permit themselves to be thus led to act so deceptively. I asked one of these gentlemen, a lawyer, how he came to do so? He really did not perceive, *at the time*, the inconsistency. When Mr. I. appeared before the London Presbytery shortly after, I could not but be struck with the remarkable contrast exhibited between this scene and that in which our adorable Redeemer stood before his judges: between the character, conduct, feelings, and whole bearing of the accused, the court, and the accusers, on these two occasions. Especially between him who “in all things came to set us an example that we should tread in his steps;” who, when he was reviled reviled not again,—and Mr. Irving exclaiming, in the pomp of highly theatrical intonation, look and gesture, “I denounce you as a court of Anti-Christ!” And this high and haughty bearing was evidently no burst of impassioned feeling which the Christian spectator might hope would speedily give place to the compunctious relents of godly sorrow; but it was just the acting out of a *principle*, and in strict accordance with the arrogant pretensions to a something so much like Popish infallibility, that it is difficult to draw any line of distinction, if indeed any real difference exists—a high assumption of such divine authority, presence, and power, as forbids and repels enquiry and investigation. Mr. I.’s first plea was, that nothing had been sanctioned in that place of worship, while under his pastoral care, contrary to the standards of the Church of Scotland: in this he was palpably disproved by one article in these standards, which expressly prohibited any part of the service being in any but