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tical establishment of Scotland. Wherever there is a parish church there is also a parish school. The law of the country gives the Clergy a power to inspect colleges, schools, and all seminaries of education. The clergyman of every parish is constituted judge of the qualifications of candidates for the office of parochial schoolmaster, and clerical residence being strictly enjoined, he is always on the spot to watch over the teacher and the taught; whilst the church requires him to call in the assistance of his brethren of the Presbytery to examine the school *at least* once every year, and to report to the Synod and General Assembly as to their fidelity in the discharge of this duty and as to the state in which every individual school is found. The effect of this vigilant inspection over the education of the young is manifest not only in the information by which the peasantry of Scotland are distinguished, but also in the prevalence of those virtuous habits which are the best supports of civilized society. Whence is it that there are so few *criminal trials* in Scotland compared with the other divisions of the Empire? that the number of capital punishments is so vastly disproportionate? that the poor of a parish in Essex are supported at the enormous expence of £1500 per annum, whilst those of a parish not less populous in the county of Fife, are comfortably maintained at the annual rate of £24? * Whence the vast difference in the condition of the Irish compared with that of the peasantry in Scotland? Among the former, with every advantage in point of climate, soil, and intellectual capacity, you behold sloth and its attendants, beggary and wretchedness; whilst in Scotland, a degree of decency and comfort, the fruit of temperance and industry, are conspicuous among the lower classes of society. To what is this disparity to be ascribed but to the vast difference in point of education? In Ireland, the education of the poor is shamefully neglected, very few of them can read, and they grow up in a total ignorance of what it most befits a rational creature to understand;† while in Scotland the establishment of schools in every parish, brings the means of instruction within the reach of the poorest, who are there inured to habits of piety, industry, decency and order. These are better arches of triumph and of safety than those built by the bones and cemented by the blood of our fellow creatures. These I hope and pray, should the storm again arise and launch the flashes of Almighty vengeance on a guilty world, will arrest the lightnings in their course, and conduct them innocuous to the ground.

Such are the principles, such is the constitution, and such the tendency of the Church of Scotland;—that Church in the bosom of which many of you received your first and best impressions; which is associated in your minds with some of your dearest recollections; and which, I trust, will be carried forward on the stream of time with a reputation ever gather-
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* See Chalmers's on the influence of Bible Societies on the temporal necessities of the poor. † This fact in regard to the Irish is so notorious and so melancholy, that it has frequently come under the consideration of our enlightened Parliament, and means will doubtless ultimately be employed with effect to ameliorate their condition. In the meantime the exertions of the Hibernian Society in the same cause are attended with the happiest effects. May they go on and prosper!