

decent and respectable place of public worship, set apart for the rites and ordinances of the Church of Scotland.

But, in setting apart a place for the performance of Divine Service, it is not the practice of this Church to use any particular ceremony, or formal dedication. This kind of formality is dispensed with, on the following considerations; namely, because it is believed that no place is capable of being rendered more holy than another, by any rites or ceremonies that we can perform; because, God, who filleth Heaven and Earth with his presence, “dwelleth not in Temples made with hands,”* as saith the Scripture; and because, if by consecrating to God one particular spot of ground, we thereby mean, as some understand it, to surrender to him what right we have in it, and to make him the sole owner,—this, it is conceived, were only to make a show of surrendering to our Maker what before belonged to him; for, “The Earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof.”† In setting apart a place for the purpose of divine worship, we, therefore, merely devote it to that particular use; not conceiving that God is, at any time, actually more present there, than he is every where throughout the bounds of the Creation. Yet,

* Acts 7. 48.

† Psal. 24. 1.

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