

The Spirit of State Establishments.

JOHN BUNYAN'S TWELVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT.

"They found him praying without the Common Prayer Book, in a place not permitted by the decree of the King; they found him with the Bible in his hand, worshipping God in a Conventicle, and forthwith according to the King's decree (like Daniel in Babylon) they threw him into prison (the Lions Den) to remain there for no crime whatever, twelve years, as a common malefactor!" During this cruel imprisonment he wrote "*The Pilgrim's Progress*" which has immortalized his name.

"And where, and by whom, and for what, is this man imprisoned?—In a christian land, BY AN ESTABLISHED CHURCH, for preaching the Gospel to the poor, the ignorant, the destitute, and for not praying with a Common Prayer Book! For this a heaven commissioned minister of Jesus Christ languishes twelve years in prison! For this he is kneeling on the cold stone-floor of a narrow cell, in secret with his God, because he chose, without a commission from the Government, to worship God in public and to lead the devotions of others by the Scriptures merely without the liturgical form imposed by the State upon the conscience. Yes! astounding as the fact may seem, John Bunyan is shut up within iron bars and stone walls as men would shut up a wild beast or a murderer, because he would pray without a Common Prayer Book."—*Cheever's Lectures on the Life of Bunyan.*

Extract from the Conventicle Acts of 1654 and 1670, under which Nonconformists were punished for worshipping God according to their conscience.

"If any person should be present at any assembly, conventicle, or meeting, under colour or pretence of any exercise of religion in other manner than is allowed by the Liturgy or practice of the Church of England; or if any person shall suffer any such meeting in his house, barn, yard, woods, or grounds; they should, for the first and second offence, be thrown into jail or fined; for the third offence transported for seven years, or fined a hundred pounds; and in case of return or escape after such transportation death without benefit of clergy!!!"

The Bishop of Peterborough referring to the last of these Acts remarked—"It hath done its business against all fanatics, except the Quakers; but when the Parliament sits again a stronger law will be made, not only to take away their lands and goods, but also to sell them for bond slaves!!!"

FREEMEN OF CANADA! While you sleep in fancied security, the demon of priestcraft is awake, and with satanic skill is weaving around you the fatal web of the same hierarchy which imprisoned and persecuted the immortal Bunyan—Read on the 26th and 27th pages where you will learn that your chains are being quietly forged.—Are you prepared to wear them?—If not, keep your Religious Teachers in their right place, and send true and honest men to Parliament to guard your rights: this is your principal security.

A Lucrative "Apostolic" Business.

"His Watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant."

"Yet, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand; they all look to their own way, every one for his gain from his quarter." ISAIAH, lvi, 10, 11.

The *Eclectic Review* for January, 1846, says that the Bishop of London has consecrated 500 Buildings (Churches) at a fee of £150 each, pro-

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