

things which they would fain have it believed to be that which already exists—because if it did exist, it would remove or diminish the necessity of our being supported in the decided character of an establishment.—But the manner and spirit in which these particular attacks have been conducted are reprobated, I fully persuade myself, by the respectable members of other denominations, and the mischief will be made ultimately to return upon the heads of its authors.

At the same time there appears to be a great difference of opinion between ourselves and parties who are worthy of our christian regard, with respect to the justice of some claims which, whatever may be the issue of the pretensions advanced on either side, it is in the mean time impossible for us to forego. My experience of twenty years in this Diocese in different capacities, and with particular and very extensive opportunities of becoming acquainted with its religious condition,—opportunities which according to my ability, I trust that I have not neglected to improve,—assures me that the cause of the Church of England is not now to be abandoned like a wreck, nor are her circumstances and prospects such as to justify on our part any voluntary surrender of her interests, or to call, in themselves, for any diversion into other channels of the means provided for her **AS THE ESTABLISHED RELIGION OF THE COUNTRY.**

In using this expression I am very far from meaning to say that either the positive advantages of our own Church, or the relative situation of other religious bodies, are or ought to be here what they are in England or Ireland. In this Country there are no civil or political distinctions founded upon those which are religious; nor any contribution drawn for the support of the Church from those who profess a creed different from hers; and there are privileges not conceded at home, enjoyed here by the Branches of other Churches established in Europe, of which I should be the last person upon earth to wish them deprived.—In some instances I should be heartily glad that the benefits extended to individuals of these Churches should be greater than they have yet been made.—But ours is, and has been

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