

regards and disturbs the established law or the constituted order of a society, civil or religious, incurs great and complicated guilt, even in a moral point of view. He, who embroils the church, and scruples not to ingender bitterness, and strife, and schism—is his offence to be viewed as light and venial? Let our Ecclesiastical Judicatories therefore be firm and decided in the performance of their duties, strict in their adherence to the law, and inflexible in the application of the discipline of our church; and especially let them remember that, in the first exercise of their power, however mild and lenient that exercise may be in its measure, it ought to be enforced in its execution with a steadfast and unflinching determination. If this is the spirit and conduct of the Church Judicatories, recently established, happy will it be for us all; and great as may be the partial mischief involved in the case, now submitted to arbitration, it will be subservient to general good, if it afford happily the early example of a vigorous and determined firmness, (should that be necessary,) in the exercise of government and enforcement of discipline.

With a view to facilitate the labours of our Arbitrators, I subjoin a few references to the laws of our church, in the various applications of them, which this case appears to involve.* With these preliminary remarks, I proceed to take up the subject of this arbitration; and with a view at once to order, brevity, and perspicuity, I shall divide it into the following parts:—First, I shall consider the charges against my moral character. - Secondly, I shall give a narrative of the proceedings, with such comments as I shall deem needful. Thirdly, I shall furnish an appendix, containing my remarks and strictures on the various documents of my accusers, which I may deem worthy of notice, and such other points as are too minute to be incorporated with my general narrative. Fourthly, I shall collect from a review of the whole, the various grounds of complaint which I may have to submit against my accusers. This four-fold division will, I expect, exhaust all that can be necessary for me to adduce by way of explication, evidence, or comment. The papers now transmitted contain only the first two heads of division aforesaid. I must crave an extension of indulgence from our arbitrators a little longer, to enable me to finish the two remaining subdivisions. Of the extent of the work, and the labour which it has or will yet cost me, the arbitrators will be able to judge from the number and variety of the documents submitted by my accusers; on many of which severally it is necessary for me to comment, with a view to deduce from them proofs or illustrations of my general statements and remarks, contained in the papers now submitted by me, or the grounds of those charges which I purpose, in the last place, to submit against my accusers. I have, I conceive, just cause to complain, *as well as the arbitrators*, that those papers which I craved, were not furnished to me at a much earlier period

* See Appendix, No.

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