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important principle, that every thing external is merely a means for accomplishing something else—that the design of all ordinances is to promote the conversion of sinners and the edification of saints; and that, in so far as these objects are not accomplished, the very end which all outward arrangements are intended to attain, is entirely lost. Others are apt to disregard every thing that is not essential, and to think that as good men are to be found among all classes, the external arrangements of the church of Christ form a subject altogether unworthy of their regard. We cannot but view this as another extreme, and a very pernicious one. It will be found that some of these outward institutions are closely connected with some very important principles. To some of these I may afterwards have occasion to advert.

I cannot here forbear quoting on this subject the language of a respectable clergyman of the English Church. I mean the Rev. John Scott, son of the well-known and excellent author of the commentary on the Bible. This passage occurs in a note appended to a late volume of his father's truly valuable letters. "There is scarcely an error," says he, "more prevalent, or one that is employed with greater effect in the present day than this: Various denominations of Christians all agree in essentials, therefore it is of no consequence to which we attach ourselves. That is, if any thing is not essential to salvation, it is of no importance, at least of no material importance at all. If a man has but a head and a heart, his wanting a leg, or an arm, or an eye, is of little moment."\*

I have known some, who, while altogether ignorant of the manner in which public instruction

\* Scott's Letter's, p. 402.