

*tendency of the whole*—That we may habituate our judgments to examine what perhaps our prejudices have held in veneration—That we may see that nothing is too sacred for enquiry—that nothing is too wise for amendment.

I have not been able, in my researches into Holy Writ, to meet with that particular passage of the Scriptures which gives us an authority to propagate the faith, by a perversion of morals—nor shall I presume to determine how far it was *ever* justifiable, for the sake of ceremonial uniformity, to build a code of religious laws upon the ruin of every moral virtue and obligation:—to sport with the most sacred feelings;—to violate the fondest prepossessions of the human mind;—to seduce even filial duty; to tempt the son to become an interested and a base informer against the piety of his father, and to break the bonds of all family affection and fidelity.

Possibly there may be something so sacred in the object of these laws, as that the enormity of the means, through which they operate, is to be overlooked or forgiven! But certain I am, that whatever peculiarities of circumstance may have originally suggested;—whatever necessities may have originally justified the institution of those laws—the spirit of the present time opposes them; and the prosperity of this country absolutely re-