

iv.

and rights of the Church, which rendered a disruption inevitable. *To this Protest, no answer has ever appeared.* The Remanent Assembly, after the disruption, instructed the Commission in June to prepare an answer. The Commission in June postponed it to August—from August its consideration was deferred till November, and at last it was passed over altogether as not requiring a reply ! Such is the fact ; and the Protest goes down to posterity unanswered, because in truth unanswerable. Neither have the grievances there protested against been at all redressed. Lord Aberdeen's new Act, by which every step in the courts of the remaining Establishment is now carefully regulated without indeed the slightest reference to a higher authority, and a more enduring code of laws for the government of the Church, has failed in shielding the Establishment from the evident signs of hastening decay. Its only effect has been to deprive the Christian people of any real control over the appointment of their pastors, and to vest in Presbyteries an arbitrary, inquisitorial and unprecedented power. Did space permit, some striking instances of the working of this new system might be taken from the proceedings of the Establishment Presbyteries. The Established Church of Scotland with its now altered constitution, is no longer the " Church of our Fathers."