

a sect for which a part feels entire indifference, and another part utter abhorrence, there is abundant reason for objection. The compulsory payment of tithes by the whole people is a great curtailment of the liberties of Britons, and is a great set-off against our boasted privileges. The church that nurtures herself by the present compulsory system, and that gladly approves of such a system, must have me without rather than within her pale and jurisdiction.

XII. I am not a member of the Episcopal Church of England, because there is too frequently found a want of that kind and degree of spiritual knowledge and ability among the ministers, necessary for the enlightening of the ignorant, the regeneration of those 'under the law,' and the sanctification of those 'under grace.' It is a well-known fact, that the enlightened sinner, 'occupied partly with sorrow and heaviness, partly with an earnest desire to be delivered from the danger of hell and damnation,' (Homily of Fasting,) meets usually with little satisfaction by consulting the successors of the holy Apostles; and therefore, if enlightened in their church—which, however, is not common—usually leaves it, and applies to pastors of more spiritual discernment, and of more evangelical knowledge. The fact is not only well known, but it is even complained of by the ministers who are left by these persons. Such ministers know still less of the manner of feeding 'the flock of God,' and of furthering the 'life of God in the soul of man. The evangelical part of the clergy is of course an exception to the charge; but that part forms but a small minority of the whole. As the clergy generally were ignorant of the essential doctrines requisite for the formation and growth of personal piety and devotion to God in the times of John Wesley and George Whitefield, so there is no proof to the contrary but that they remain the same to the present day. A man who desires to flee from the wrath to come runs no little risk of being defeated in his end, should he place himself in that fold of which such shepherds are the guides and feeders. *'Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar: Say unto them which daub it with untempered mortar, that it shall fall: there shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it.'*

XIII. I am not a member of the Episcopal Church of England, because there is great cause for fearing that, however moral, a large body of the ministers are destitute of that 'peace of God which passeth all understanding,' which is derivable only from a state of favour with God and regeneration of heart. It is true that the bishop, in the form of ordination, says of each on whose head his hand hath fallen, 'We, solemnly administering holy orders under the protection of the Almighty, did admit our *beloved in Christ*, (of whose virtuous and *pious* life and conversation, and competent learning and knowledge in the Holy Scriptures, we were well assured)