

The cowl is either reversible, or loose, or removable. It is furthermore accuminated, funnel-shaped, heart-shaped, short, elongated, with a pointed top.

ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.

MR. OLIPHANT:—Please insert in the pages of the *Banner*, the following remarks on Church Government, and oblige,
Yours, Truly,

A BIBLE CHRISTIAN.

Presuming that the Christian Oracles are alone sufficient, without the aid of Creeds and Confessions, to guide the Christian enquirer into all truth, and satisfied as I am that an impartial examination of the Word of God will prove to a demonstration, that *independency* is the *only form of Church polity* taught therein; and that Presbyterianism, whom Milton designated as "old priest writ large," conjointly with the Episcopacy of the English church and Episcopacy among Methodists, cannot trace their origin to the Christian primitive church, but rather to the "Mother of Abominations," who has her seat on the banks of the Tiber, I proceed to prove from the Bible the "divine origin" of that form of Church Government called "Independency."

What, then, is the Church of God, which he has purchased with his own blood? What is its *nature* and *constitution*? and what are the permanent officers and ordinances of a Christian Church?

1st. It is well known that the lapse of time alters the signification of words, so as to make it difficult to ascertain their original import. And perhaps this remark holds good respecting the various appropriated appellations used in the Scriptures as generally as with any class of words whatever. The word *Church* is the one we have to do with at present. In the language of the New Testament, it means in its civil and unappropriated application, an assembly of any description in a state of association. And in a religious sense it means an assembly of Christians, called out from the world, and united by the bonds of christian love; or the whole society of God's people. But as Professor Campbell says, "in any intermediate sense between a *single congregation*, and the whole community of Christians, not one instance can be brought of the application of the word in sacred writ."

In the language of modern sectarians, however, its meaning is very different. When used by a Romanist it means, the Pope and Cardinals in conclave assembled. When used by Protestant Episcopalians it means an assembly of Bishops, Archbishops, &c., associated together; and in the mouth of a Presbyterian it is used for the purpose of showing that a number of congregational delegates, viz. Ministers and Elders, assembled as a synod form a Church. When used by a Methodist it means the Presiding Elders and Preachers meeting in Conference; and among all these not one of them has any resemblance to the use made of it in the word of God.

That the word Church, in Scripture, is descriptive of an individual