very little con lies to the Govad Protestation In those Gentle-20th of Septem-

been to turn off from the true ons foreign and ters which have ik therefore that an enquiry into and which is exs of our Church, Petition was prepassed and signed on account of the ad with Relation ording to the Copy it, containeth the present Consistory nd to take all the pursuance thereof; is Instrument, such and the honourable the bottom of the used by the subtle tempt to impose upit may be expected

necessary to explain ning else, that this nswers that I have f Mr Alexander my

lledge, p. 2, in order and the Council, in the trouble of interposing & intermeddling in our Differences, That "they acknow" ledge no Jurisdiction in any Civil Court within this Province, "over the private Affairs of their Church, merely Consistorial, "and amongst themselves, &c." Indeed! this is astonishing, and what could not have been expected. Here are, if I am not mistaken, the true Principles of the Independents, (b) so expressly condemned in our Discipline of France (See among the Observations upon the 6th Chap. the Regulation, made at the Synod of Clarenton, in 1644, against those Sectaries, pag. 199 and 200, of the Editio in duocim. & p. 118. in 4to) and Tom. 2. in follo, p. 467.

Here is a Principle capable of throwing us into Confusion and Disorder, as we see already by experience. Here is what openeth a door to all sorts of Irregularities and Extravagancies, and absolutely takes away all means of applying a Remedy. Here is a Maxim, not only very prejudicial to God's Church, but likewise very dangerous to the State, since it is easie to conceive the dreadful Consequences that will follow from it, if it took place. In fine, Here is a Principle which makes the Lot and Condition of a Minister persecuted among us, and in these Countries not only unhappy and dangerous, but even desperate, and without Relief. To Refute this abominable Principle, and to shew how false it is, and how contrary to the true Principles of Religion and the Constitution of our Churches, I need only Refer to the 46 Article of the first Chapter of our Discipline, compared with the 39 & 40 Articles of our Confession of Faith, & especially with all our Books of Divinity, as for instance, that of Mr Pictet, Professor at Geneva, see his 2d Tom. p. 476, 477, 478, where he treats this Question at length. Here also we may add the Scripture itself, see Rom. 13. v. 1, 2. 1 Pet. 2, 13, 14, 15, etc.

My Third Observation is on what they are continually alledging concerning their Freedom and Liberty Saving and Reserving to our selves now and at all times, the free use and exercise of that Liberty of Conscience belonging and appertaining to the French

<sup>(</sup>b) Yea, of the Papists themselves, see Fascicul, Epist. pag. 181, et 30, and byn. Purlor. Theol. p. m. 764, n. 21, &c., and Tur. Theol. Elen. T. 3, p. 353. 4, n. 2.