

For proof of the latter read the following, "Proinde, in rebus agendis, ea est nobis perspicienda Dei voluntas quam verbo suo declarat." "Furthermore, in our doings that will of God is to be followed, which we have expressly declared to us in the word of God."* Hooker, whose name you introduce more than once with profound respect, and who was a *rigid* episcopallan, says of Calvin, "I think him the wisest man the French Church did enjoy, since the hour it enjoyed him. His bringing up was in the study of the civil law. Divine knowledge he gathered, not by hearing or reading, so much as by teaching others. For though thousands were debtorsto him, as touching knowledge in that kind; yet he to none, but only to God, the author of that most blessed fountain, the Book of Life; and of the admirable dexterity of wit, together with the help of other learning, which were his guides." And in the same preface to his Ecclesiastical Polity he also says, "Two things of principal moment there are which have *deservedly* procured him *honour throughout the world*; the one his exceeding pains in composing the *Institutions of Christian Religion*; the other, his no less industrious travels for exposition of Holy Scripture according unto the same *Institutions*." Such was my "progenitor Calvin" in the opinion of one who was not warped by prejudices against the very *name* of that Reformer, because of the austerity of those tenets which are ascribed to him, though in reality taught by Luther long before Calvin appeared; and because of his supposed connection with *the Kirk*, though in reality he had as much to do with *the Church*.

The only specimens of your critical powers with which you have favored us, involve both *errors* and *fallacies*. You may call us *Presbyterians* for any reason you please, for we certainly do not admit of the authority of *Bishops* as distinct from, and superior to, *Presbyters*. Nay, we maintain that by attending to the original meaning of the words, *Presbyter* is a more honourable designation than *Bishop*. The one is expressive of *authority*, the other of *duty*; Presbyter implies the dignity and power of a *ruler*, Bishop conveys the idea of *work*, or of executing a *prescribed task*.—Your remarks on

* Instit. 1. 17. 5. Article Seventeenth.

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