

principles are yielded up upon the impulse of a moment, without regret, without the slightest consideration, and when mankind appear willing to throw away all reason and submit themselves to the blind guidance of their feelings. In such an age, restraints upon all classes of men are evidently more necessary, though more irksome, than in an age remarkable for its order and regard for authority. But what is the condition of our church in this age, abounding with confusion and every evil work? Where is her discipline? Where can we find laws binding upon all her officers? Where are the rules, by the observance of which she may appear "*semper et ubique eadem*?" If there are any such, I know them not. If it be answered, that there are the canons of the church, which all admitted to minister at her altars are bound to observe, I reply that *they are not observed; that in a country like this they cannot be observed.* The evil that might and in some cases actually does arise, from this want of canons suitable for the state of things in this country, must be manifest to all. So great is the difference that is to be found in different churches, in the order observed in the services, in the doctrines preached, in the different standards of holiness held up to the people, arising from this circumstance, and the want of regular schools of the Prophets, that a person removing from one parish to another feels himself as no longer a member of the same church, but as a stranger in a strange house. Under a kind and lenient Bishop, every man is, from this want of suitable canons, almost at liberty to do what is right in the sight of his own eyes. If his conduct be not grossly scandalous; if he be tolerably diligent in preaching, and his other parochial duties, and, if so inclined, he may, in a measure, set the Bishop at defiance, although he break through the customs and regulations of the church, as contained in her canons; for his plea may be, if your Lordship will shew me any code of laws, binding upon me, I will be happy to observe them. If he is answered, by having his attention called to the canons of the church, he may reply, I cannot observe them in a country like this; your Lordship does not observe them all yourself, and if your Lordship chooses which to observe, and which to omit, surely I may be allowed the same privilege. A knowledge of this fact must make an indulgent Bishop pass over many things which appear trifling, but which, like the first letting out of water, bring with them troublesome consequences. Again, should the diocese come under the charge of a tyrannical Bishop, he could make the situation of his clergy extremely unpleasant, removable from place to place, as many of them are solely at his nod; in some instances, placed entirely under his absolute authority; at a time, too, when they know that he has no precise laws, by which to be guided in his decisions; when there would be no probability of obtaining redress, and, when from his situation, in this distant country, a