

commandments. The Church being actuated by this spirit, is characterized by non-conformity to the spirit, principles, maxims and pursuits, of the world; and also by the hatred which the world bears to her. She is characterized as the bride, and spouse, and body of Christ, which implies the possession of purity and privilege unknown to the world. Her subjects are expressly called "the people" and "the sons of God" and they are characterized as being "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people." There can therefore be no community of spirit and character between the Church and the World.

But State Churches being the device and creation of the kingdoms of the world, are assimilated, so far as possible, in spirit and character, to their creators and founders. The spirit of the world necessarily pervades and actuates them; and this spirit has often been exhibited in their hatred and open persecution of those who chose to make conscience of religion and to dissent from them. The character of the civil government is also necessarily stamped upon them, and this character has often appeared the reverse of the moral purity and benevolence which Christianity inculcates: their standard of discipline must always accord with the manners and customs of the royal courts, and with the standard of morality adopted by the civil governments, by which they are respectively upheld. They are, in their very nature, of an intolerant, persecuting spirit; and, in every religious persecution, their clerical dignitaries have been the prime movers and chief actors. This great characteristic of antichrist stands out in bold relief on, almost, every page of the history of popish-state-churches; and the innocent blood which the ghostly hosts of Rome have shed is not yet purged, "by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning." The Inquisition Courts of that Church were originally the device of its clergy, and in them clerical influence always prevails. Every line in the history of these courts is stained with innocent blood; and of all the institutions founded by man, none have surpassed these for injustice and cruelty; but and if the Church were not connected with the State,—such courts would not, for one moment, be tolerated by the people of any nation. During the dark middle-ages, when the popish priests had every where the balance of civil power,—it was death to call their power in question, or to utter a word against the dogmas of the state's religious creed, or to refuse yielding implicit faith and blind obedience to the decrees of clerical councils. By this means the human mind was every where enveloped in the thick darkness of gross ignorance, and prostrated in the mire of filthy and contemptible superstitions. The established clergy were then in the most favourable position, in which they have ever been, for being an effective, *national moral-police*; but never, in any age, were the *self-called* christian nations in such a state of moral degradation, wretchedness, and misery. The churches of the nations were then in a state of perfection; but to what can we trace the darkness and misery of that period, but to the perfection of the State-Churches. Such Churches, however, have most assuredly for-