

THE Home and Foreign Record

OF
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MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

A SHUNON BY

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When so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.—1 Cor. ix. 14.

PART II.

Paul argues that faithful ministers should be supported; for if this is not done you will be compelled to give to other men, either to abettors of false systems of religion, or to constabulary force, one or both, more than is required for the gospel ministry. (See v. 12.) Did a nation ever exist without teachers of some kind?—or a generation ever pass away who contrived to rid themselves of this burden? Never! Do we find in the faithful records of the past that falsehood costs a people less than truth—that it is more expensive to support Jehovah's arrangements than man's? Is superstition, with her altars and her priesthood, her holy days and sacrifices, less expensive than Biblical religion? Do the fane and groves of heathenism demand less time, less means, than the temple and worship of the true God? Are her priests less exacting than his servants? Is the pure and holy system of Jesus more burdensome than the gross sensual system of paganism? Mahomedanism answers by the groans of its oppressed devotees;—Hinduism answers by hereditary pagodas, by her gods of gold and silver, by her sacred streams, red with the blood of poor innocents, and by the desolating march of the

zoty Juggernaut. The red man of the forest liberally shares the spoils of his dangers by land or sea with the teacher of his strange and airy mysteries, imagining that the God he thinks he hears in the wind will be kind to him as he is kind to his ghostly instructor, and thus answers our question. All natural religion grinds its subjects to the dust, casts not only an impenetrable veil over the future world, but binds the multitudes who confide in it by chains of superstitious fear, to the feet of a wily priesthood. Popery, bearing the name of christiandy bids us look at her holy days, her penances, at her expensive purgatorial fires, at her avaricious and enriched hierarchy, and a people prostrate before a lordly caste, while she rules with a rod of iron over impoverished countries.—Spain, with her gold and silver, her rich and varied resources, cannot supply the demands of that religion, which ever cries, Give! Give! but lies before our view peeled and stripped of her wealth as if an army of locusts had swept over her broad and fertile fields.—I see the withered arms of Italy, old and sinewy, bare and outstretched to heaven, in the attitude of supplication to the Righteous Governor of the universe to pour out vengeance upon that system of iniquity whose insatiable lust has impoverished and darkened the homes and hearths of her belated children!—and thus receive her answer. How much does Rome pay for her cathedrals and chapels, her monasteries and manerics, her pigements and pomp, for her popes and cardinals; for her bishops and archbishops, metropolitans, cardinals and