

cles, we all know what a clamor the Associationists and their sectarian friends would raise against him, and the whole of his tenets would be set to the account of the wicked ritualists and "Oxford heretics;" the smell of Popery would be immediately perceived by a far scented and discerning public, paper No 9 or 10 would at once be issued, and Protestants would be called upon to be on the "look out" as their civil and religious liberties were in the most imminent danger. But how harmless these dogmas appear when found to be uttered by those who have no authority to utter them. To the present day, they are subscribed by the whole Scottish establishment, and other friends of the Church Association.

Nor was it in theory alone that these sectarian disciples of Geneva Theology asserted the power which was communicated to the Officers of the Church, by the donation of "the keys," but in a melancholy case, well known in Scottish history, and still the subject of much glorying among the covenantors, we have an instance of its practical working, which, for the information of our readers, we shall now take the liberty of laying before them.

It is nothing to our purpose whether the Scottish Bishops of the seventeenth century governed the Church arbitrarily or otherwise, we think they did not, our only business is with the views of the Seciarians with regard to ecclesiastical authority,

When the celebrated assembly

at Glasgow was convened in 1638, by which episcopacy was abolished, Mr. Alexander Henderson was chosen Moderator, in which capacity on the 13th day of December, in that year, having first preached a sermon, which was afterwards published under the title "The Bishop's Doom," he publicly pronounced the sentence of excommunication against them, which had been previously passed by the Assembly. It is to be observed that the Bishops had been cited to take their trial at the Assembly, but had of course, very properly declined, not acknowledging the jurisdiction of the court. Their declinature, however, had little effect upon the minds of the Anti-Church party: they were judged, condemned, and sentenced to be excommunicated by those who were at the same time both their accusers and judges. Mr. Henderson, in an address, summed up the charges against them; and subjoined, that, instead of their repentance they added to all these evils *extreme contempt of this Church*, declining and protesting against this honorable, reverend, and duly constituted Assembly, they have incurred, and justly deserve, this fearful sentence of excommunication. After a lengthy harangue addressed to the Divine Being in prayer upon the subject, he then pronounced the sentence in the following words:—"Since the eight persons before mentioned have declared themselves strangers to the Communion of Saints, to be without the hope