

whilst it ministers to the purest gratification and the truest blessedness of those who have been experimentally taught the truthfulness of the saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive?" Is it not fitted to advance, in no ordinary degree, the catholicity and the unity of the Christian Church? And oh! the giant power of this principle, when allowed free and unfettered scope. Behold its operation in the erection of the ancient tabernacle! Such was its buoyant success, that Moses required even to restrain the people from bringing more. Behold its influence on occasion of the Pentecostal effusion! "For as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the Apostle's feet, and distribution was made unto every man, according as he had need." Behold its transcendent effects on the Churches of Macedonia! "How that in a great trial of afflictions, the abundance of their joy, and their deep poverty, abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power, they were willing of themselves, praying us with much entreaty, that we would receive the gift." Behold its exhibition in more recent times, in the history of the Parent Church, for though it be just about eight years since the Church of Scotland became dis-established, she has had thrown into her treasury during that period, the munificent sum of Two Million Four Hundred and Seventy-five Thousand Pounds, being about a Thousand Pounds every day, and the past year she has raised, for purely Missionary objects, not less than Eight Thousand Pounds more than she has yet done during any year of her existence. And this principle will, we believe, go on, striking its roots yet more deeply, and extending its branches yet more widely, if that Church but knows the day of her merciful visitation, and is faithful in her allegiance to her glorified King. And why but just because it possesses a self-generating, and a self-propagating power. Like the Banana Tree of the East, of which we read so much, it grows but to fasten itself yet more firmly in the soil of the human heart. And what is the effect of the full operation of this principle on the Ministers of the Gospel themselves? Does it minister to their indolence and inactivity, or to their own personal and family aggrandizement? No! No! It but tends to make them more frugal and more economical in their temporal affairs—it but inspires them with greater vigour in the work in which they are engaged, for they too, by the grace of God, have realized the melting and soul subduing influence of this principle, and in its purest gratification they stand prepared to make themselves the servants of all, that they may gain the more,—in its purest gratification they are ready to deny them-

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