

constituted the church, and the church constituted the kingdom, which was of this world. The choosing of the priests, the people, and the place of worship; and the framing of the creed and all the laws of that church, were the work of him who alone is infallible; even Jehovah who was their king, and chose David to rule under him. He who established that church gave no toleration to the least departure from the creed or any of the laws; but said, "Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them." That church was typical of, and preparative to the Christian church. Jesus whose kingdom is not of this world, as mediator, now sits on David's throne; namely the throne of the Christian church, which has never been constituted a nation or kingdom of this world. The members of the church, as men, are subjects of various kingdoms, and in duty bound to observe the laws of their respective kingdoms; but as Christians, they are the subjects of Him alone who is King of kings, and Lord of lords. As the surrounding nations had no right to make laws for, or to interfere with the arrangements of, the Jewish church; so the nations in which Christians reside have no right to make laws for, or interfere with the government of the Christian church. The choosing of the people and the rulers, and the framing of the creed, and all the laws of the kingdom of Christ is the prerogative of King Jesus alone.

They who imagine that the higher powers of every nation, after the example of God, should establish a church, seem not to be aware that the task requires infallibility; and that He to whom all power in heaven and earth is given, has not required any such thing from the hand of man.

Churchmen frequently say, that dissenters have a toleration, an unlimited toleration, what more would they have? What more can they reasonably desire? Would it not be a gross insult, were the state, after robbing a man of affluence of his all, and then supporting him in a poor-house, to say to him, you have plenty of food and clothing, what more would you have? What more can you desire? *

The state after it had assumed an illegitimate authority and thereby robbed the people of their inalienable right, did, by the toleration act, restore to dissenters that of which they had been robbed, with the character of being weak in the intellect, and of having departed from the truth. The Bible is a message from the *most high* to man, which every one should read and endeavor to understand. It is the duty, and the inalienable privilege of every man, not only to peruse his Bible, but also to receive religious instruction from those who seem best qualified to give it. We are not aware, that any state has a delegated authority from Heaven to interpret the Scriptures; or that any power on earth has a right to interfere between man and his Maker. The extent of the magistrate's authority is satisfactorily defined in the thirteenth chapter of the epistle to

* Some of the dissenting ministers in Edinburgh have actually had their furniture sold to pay the established clergy.