

taught in the Inspired writings ; these are the leading points in the religion of Scotland. Whatever opinion persons may form of the merits of these points, it cannot be denied that Scotland embraced them with the greatest zeal. This fact underlies the whole of her history since the Reformation. For this religion she fought with a fervor and enthusiasm of which it is scarcely possible for us to form any conception at the present day. For this she unfurled the banner of the Covenant, and gave some of her best sons to die in martyrdom ; of which we now and then meet with an affecting memorial still, in the gray cairn, in some upland moor. The firm hold which this religion took of the minds of our forefathers, and the dire struggle which they sustained in its defence, have contributed very powerfully to mould the national character, and determine the nature of our national Institutions. And it admits not of a question, that to that struggle we are indebted for much of the liberty, both civil and religious, that we enjoy at the present day.

We feel grateful to God that he brought our forefathers triumphantly through such an arduous struggle, and that our native land was the theatre on which the battle of religious liberty was so successfully fought. We ascribe their triumphs to his " arm and countenance ;" yet we can recognise, at the same time, some subordinate causes that contributed materially to the happy issue of the struggle, and to mature and consolidate its results. It may be doubted whether the cause of the Reformation would have been able to maintain its ground, if it had not been early taken under the protection of the civil power. For whatever opinion may be entertained, in the present condition of society, of the lawfulness or expediency of any connection between the Church and the State, yet in those times, when all questions were decided by an appeal to the sword, we cannot see how the ark of our liberties could have been preserved without it. We must ascribe, therefore, very great importance to the part which the Church of Scotland acted in those times

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