

suspected and watched over for evil. And whilst they strive to divest their Ministers of this scriptural power, they scruple not to let it be known that they design to retain and exercise it themselves, without conceding the least degree of it to the people whose cause they pretend to espouse. By denying the right of appeal from any of our local tribunals, they would invest themselves with the supreme power, and thus deprive the people of the protection of the pastoral office against any acts of injustice or oppression which their Lay-rulers might at any time commit.

The means which the Association have adopted to attain their unlawful ends will, by all impartial and well-disposed men, be deemed unchristian and iniquitous. They go to the withholding from the servant of Christ the "hire of his labour,"—depriving the heathen of the Gospel and its ordinances,—treacherously abandoning the Missionary to starvation and death in a foreign land,—inflicting cruel wrongs and oppressions upon the worn-out servants of the Churches, the widows and orphans of deceased Ministers,—and calumniating, in the grossest manner and to the widest extent, the characters of the general body of the Preachers, against whom the most unfounded and malignant libels have been circulated with the greatest industry and activity through the length and breadth of our great Connexion. And not only have our characters as public men been wickedly assailed, but all the sanctities of private friendship, as well as all that is sacred in the relations of the pastor and his people, have been violated; garbled and false statements of private interviews between some of our Ministers and members of our Society have been given to the public through the medium of the press, with an intention to rob us of all confidence with our own people, and to make us the objects of popular prejudice.

We hope we have been enabled, by the grace of God, to bear these unmerited and almost unparalleled injuries in a manner becoming our Christian profession and