

also to do homage to Him by countenancing and supporting the Institutions of His worship. Hence, among all nations, the recognition of religion and the maintenance of its sacred rites as essential to the existence and well-being of society, have formed a most important branch of their legislative enactments.

The light of nature and the moral law, make it imperative on all men to receive and profess whatever supernatural revelation God may be pleased to give, when it comes to them clearly and fully attested. Now we contend that Christianity is such a supernatural revelation so attested, and therefore the light of nature and moral law lay the strongest obligation upon all to whom it is addressed, to receive and profess it. Hence, Legislators and Rulers, both in their official and individual characters, are guilty before God when they treat His religion with neglect or withering neutrality. It is not enough that they abstain from persecuting the Church, they must cherish and support her.

God demands from them the fulfilment of his own promises to His Church, when He tells her that nations and kings shall serve her, that she shall suck the breast of kings, that kings shall be her nursing fathers and Queens her nursing mothers, and that the kings of the earth shall bring their glory and power unto her.

Religion, then, is, and ought to be, the concern of Legislators and civil Rulers, as well as others in their several stations, and is there nothing that the Legislature can do for the special support of that religion without which the State cannot happily exist ?

Surely a medium may be found between the Legislation dictating to the consciences of the community, and making no provision for the support of Divine institutions.

Can religious liberty be preserved in no other way than by putting all religions on a level, as equally entitled for support from public encouragement and protection ? Are the Koran, the Vedas, the book of the Mormons, and the Holy Bible, to be held equally sacred ? And are the public authorities, the organs by which the nation acts, to take any of these indifferently as the rule to direct them in their public proceedings ? And in a nation of Protestants, who have high and peculiar interests to preserve and transmit to posterity, are all places of power and trust, and even the Throne itself, to be open equally to the Atheist, the Infidel, the Pagan, the Mussulman, the Romanist, the Mormon and the Protestant ? Is the kingdom of Satan, in what-