

riage ceremony, even among their own flocks, only through the licence of the magistrate; and the very rites of sepulture have been denied us, unless at the purchase of submitting to the ceremonies of a form of worship at variance with our own. Meanwhile, the English styles herself the Established Church, is protected, and her Clergy paid by the British Government, is laying plans for her future aggrandisement and extension at our expense, and has taken possession of a seventh part of the country as her own.

Surprised at the unexpected aspect of affairs, we seek, but seek in vain, for any thing in the circumstances of our country or Church, that ought in reason or justice to have produced it. Were we in truth the natives, as we seem to be thought, of a conquered and degraded Kingdom, of some subject Province of England, though we might bear these things in sorrow, we should yet bear them in silence. But we have been accustomed to think with honest pride, on our past history, and present state, as evincing, that our country is entitled to all the privileges that belong to a free and independent nation. The pages of our earlier annals paint us contending for ages with a nation, warlike and far richer and more powerful than we, yet sinking not under the conflict; and England accustomed elsewhere to conquer, turning at length away with blunted sword and torn banner from our borders. Is there ought in our subsequent history, that has destroyed that equality which the swords of our ancestors were able to maintain in the field? Not, surely, that our rival consented to receive from us a king, or sought to be incorporated with us as a nation. Have we yielded in the contest, since English and Scottish has been lost in British feeling, and since the rivalry that led us to meet opposed in the hostile plain, has been converted into the more generous emulation of who shall best promote the prosperity and glory of the United Empire? Europe answers for us. When her people record those by whom they have been benefited or delighted, what names are more frequent in their mouths than those of Scotsmen? The whole world can witness in our favour. In what corner of it, have not Scottish enterprise, and Scottish valour, contributed to exalt the glory of the British name? Whose were the hardy limbs, whose the firm hearts, that planted the standard of the Empire on the summits of those very cliffs, that now afford shelter and protection to some, who would oppose the just privileges of their sons? The country speaks for itself, and proves, that its existence adds no mean strength to the British Empire, or lustre to the British character. Let the lover of the human kind search the whole globe—where will he find a spot on which his view can rest, with greater pleasure—where will he find, take them all in all, a more intelligent, a more industrious, a more moral, or happy people than in Scotland?

We seek, equally in vain, for any thing in the national worship itself which should cause it to be so depreciated. Were our attachment to it but lukewarm—had it, as unpropitious to the happiness of mankind,