

city; for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean." Isa. lii. 1.

There are other reasons why this bicentenary celebration should be solemnised. A fitting tribute is due to the noble-minded men whose non-compliance with the Act of Uniformity drew down upon them such terrific vengeance. Rather than submit to requirements which they felt to be inconsistent with the demands of truth they sacrificed their earthly prospects and exposed themselves to poverty, privation, and the penalties of vindictive law. They might have saved themselves by hushing conscience to sleep, or by mental reservation, as it is supposed many have done since their time—but their moral sensibility forbade it. They "feared their God, and knew no other fear." All honour to them! Infidels laughed them to scorn;—magistrates gladly signed warrants of commitment;—judges browbeat juries and terrified them into adverse verdicts;—the rabble hooted them in the streets;—the gentle and noble stood aloof from them or secretly encouraged their tormentors;—all ranks and orders combined for a time to trample them under foot, while they in patience possessed their souls and looked to God for support and vindication. He gave them both; the support of his grace under the endurance of their woes, and ample vindication by the judgment of posterity. Alleine, and Baxter, and Bunyan are reverently listened to by countless numbers all the world over, but Jeffries is remembered only to be execrated. "The memory of the just is blessed, but the name of the wicked shall rot." Pro. x. 7.

Let it be admitted that the heroes of the ejection were not so fully enlightened on some subjects as those who now occupy their places, and perpetuate the name and profession of the Nonconformist. Yet theirs was a noble protest against unchristian legislation. They maintained that the church has no authority, either with or without the aid of the magistrate,