

to which they are not entitled, as unjustly holding the reward of the discharge of duties, which others must be paid to perform. Hence dissention, discontent and commotion arise, evils overbalancing the advantage of the expense of the clerical establishment being in a great measure defrayed by the funds, which are most easily spared for the purpose. But it is only to the misapplication of the principle, that any objection can be made; the principle itself is sound; and hence the establishment, on funds arising from the revenue of land, of a body of men, who would truly perform the duties of Christian instructors, would be a real good. Some may doubt, whether the Church of England is a benefit to England, and others may regard her, as of the greatest evil to Ireland; but no one, well acquainted with Scotland, will deny that her Church has been productive of a great share of all that is good and lovely in the land.

2d. An established Church seeks to preserve its respectability, by admitting none to take upon them the Ministry, who have not made a decent progress in learning and science. Hence the general advancement of science and learning is promoted, and the interests of religion and morality do not suffer at the hands of unskilled and injudicious defenders.

3d. A body of men, from education and habit, friendly to the prevalence of peace and concord among mankind, and prompted by interest to avoid all causes of commotion and civil controversy, as endangering an order of things, which secures to them comfort and respectability, seems a useful alloy to the violent operation of those principles, which govern the motions of states, where the chief power is in the hands of the people; such a body, like oil thrown on the stormy waters, calms the turbulence, and diminishes the danger of popular commotion.

I do not think, that the United States can fairly be brought forward, in opposition, as an instance of good, arising from a system which throws the care of religion and its Ministers entirely on the people. Many circumstances, quite unconnected with this, have united their influence, to give to the inhabitants of that extensive country, an unequalled degree of prosperity and power. So far from the want of a religious establishment having proved beneficial, it is, I am persuaded, a defect in the constitution, and has checked the diffusion of concord and happiness. In this opinion I am joined by some of the most liberal and zealous defenders of the rights of mankind.*

The interests of religion and virtue must suffer, when the exertions of their defenders are cramped by the fear of approaching indigence and distress. The ministers of religion ought surely to be preserved from all harrowing anxieties, concerning temporal affairs, and, though removed from the vanities of the world, to be exempted as much as possible from its cares. In the States they are merely the hired ser-