

ent contiguous livings. The reformation I propose, is easy as well as useful, and is grounded

tinuance on the living, in lieu of the full tenth part of the produce to which his right extends. By a moderate sum, I mean a half, or a third part, of the real value of such tenth part of the produce. And therefore the cases in which the obligation of paying tithes would be an obstacle to the improvement of land are so few as not to be worth considering, or making any alteration in so important a matter as the established method of providing a maintenance for the national clergy on account of them.

Fourthly, in the few cases in which the obligation to pay tithes may be supposed to operate as an obstacle to the improvement of land, it might be prevented from having this bad effect, without altering the general, established, mode of providing for the clergy, by a regulation of the following kind: The rector, or vicar, of the parish in which the lands that were to be improved were situated, might have a power given him by Act of Parliament to make an agreement in writing with the owner of the land who was desirous of improving it, whereby he should bind himself and his successor to take only such a particular sum every year for the next following twenty-one years in lieu of the tithes of the land which was to be improved. Such annual sum should not be less than the sum he had received for the tithes of the same land for each of the last