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progress of things is so natural that nothing seems wanting in any country to render the thinking part of the people infidels. but a splendid Establishment, It will always ultimately debase the clerical character, and perpetuate both in discipline and doctrine every error and abuse.

“Turn a Christian society into an Established Church, it is no longer a voluntary assembly for the worship of God; it is a powerful corporation, full of such sentiments and passions as usually distinguish those bodies; a dread of innovation, an attachment to abuses, a propensity to tyranny and oppression. Hence the convulsions that accompany religious reform, where the truth of the opinions in question is little regarded amidst the desire that is felt for the splendour, opulence, and power which they are the means of supporting. To this alliance of Christianity with civil power, it is that Ecclesiastical history presents a chaos of crimes; and that the progress of religious opinions, which, left to itself, had been calm and silent, may be traced in blood.

“Among the evils attending the alliance between Church and State, it is not the least that it begets a notion of their interests having some kind of inseparable, though mysterious connexion; so that they who are dissatisfied with the one, must be enemies to the other. Our very language is tinged with this delusion, in which Church and King are blended together, with an arrogance that seems copied from Cardinal Wolsey’s “*Ego, et meus rex.*” “I and my king;” as if the Establishment were of more consequence than the sovereign who represents the collective majesty of the State. Let the interference of civil power be withdrawn, and the animosity of sects will subside for want of materials to inflame it, nor will

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