

clared to be such as this, and whose privileges we can only enjoy, by consenting to such terms as these?" Their situation became now most galling and oppressive. In the words of one of their number,* "An iron yoke has been wreathed around our necks, and iron fetters clasped firmly on our limbs. The State has declared itself our master, without a check or limit on the servitude, save its own good pleasure. Our spiritual jurisdiction has been denied and subverted, and our most solemn spiritual functions, exercised in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, declared to be merely Civil Statutory duties, which the Courts could compel us to discharge under the heaviest penalties of the law. Instead of being Christ's freemen we were declared to be man's bond-slaves, not at liberty to obey a single law of Christ without the permission of an earthly judge! Thus it is denied that the Church of Christ has any laws of its own, any government given by Christ. It is denied that either Ministers or people have any spiritual rights. Every act of a Church Court is declared to be a *civil*, not a spiritual act. Calling Ministers, settling, ordaining, deposing, are all discovered *civil* acts, regulated entirely by Civil Law, controlled by Civil Courts, and to be rigorously enforced by Civil penalties! So that a Church has no powers and no laws at all, except what are given by the legislature of the land! This is now the declared constitution of the Church of Scotland."

Surely no man can view this melancholy picture, can mark the condition to which the church was now brought—and brought be it ever remembered, by a confessedly new interpretation of the law, and the infatuated refusal of the Government even to listen to the petition of the

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