

my crime ; the more than common abilities of the Attorney General having converted a penal statute into a bill of rights. One would think the gentleman in possession of the philosopher's stone ; or that he was nearly related to those deep geniuses in Swift's flying island, whom Gulliver found beating marble blocks into downy pillows !

My office as pastor of a dissenting congregation, cannot, except to serve a particular purpose, be called an exclusive franchise ; it is an article of common liberty, and if an information quo warrantò lies against me, for exercising all or any of its duties, it would equally lie against a shopkeeper for serving behind his counter, without royal grant, legal warrant, &c.

But it may be said with propriety, " It is of great consequence to have authenticated registers of births, marriages, and deaths ;" and the truth of this is granted ; whilst with equal reason, we assert, that all denominations of religion ought to enjoy like privilege in this respect ; and that the registers of a Dissenting Minister, deposited in the court of archives, are equally accessible, good, and secure, with those of a Diocesan Bishop.

Before I proceed to speak on the informal, oppressive mode in which this process was conducted, I would give some general hints to dissenting ministers of the gospel in the Province, who are or may be persecuted under colour of the register act.

It is your duty, brethren, if you have a congregation ever so small, to prepare registers according to the above act, and to present them to a Judge of the Court of King's Bench for signature ; in which, by wholesome law, you are holden to enregister all baptisms, marriages, and burials by you performed. If the judges refuse to sign your registers, you have done your legal duty, while they break the law ; and you and your congregations remain on the same footing as before the passing of the act, your actions being neither more nor less valid or lawful. No fine can or will be levied on you for an unavoidable disobedience ; you need not therefore, as some of you do, cross the line separating the dominions of the King from the United States, to perform baptisms, &c.

The having signed registers being a desirable object for your congregations, you ought to prepare and present to the Supreme Court of Appeals, a petition for a mandamus to be issued against one of the judges, directing him to sign your registers. Much clamour being raised against the validity