
TO THE HONEST READER.

THAT the reader of the following Dissertations may not mistake my meaning, I shall define some of the expressions which I have to make use of in this treatise.

By the episcopacy, I mean, the government of the church by bishops, as established by the apostles.

By the word presbytery, I mean, a number of presbyters embodied under an apostle, or bishop, without whom they cannot act as a body.

By the word bishop, I mean, an officer in the church, superior to a presbyter, and that he is of the same office which the apostles sustained.

By the word presbyter, I mean, an officer of the second order of the clergy.

By the word deacon, I mean, an officer of the third order of the clergy.

By the word ordination, I mean, the solemn setting men apart for the service of God in his church; and giving them a commission for the office they bear, according to the laws of Christ.

The subjects will all be thrown into distinct sections, that the reader may form a judgment upon one point at a time; which is the best way to find out the truth.

AN INTRODUCTION.

Section I. *Giving the true sense of several places of scripture.*

Sect. II. *An inquiry what the commission was which Christ gave to the apostles.*

Sect. III. *An inquiry how the apostles exercised the commission given to them by Christ, in which, a direct proof of episcopacy will be exhibited from plain matters of fact, recorded in scripture.*