Declaration and Testimony

FOR

The Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government of the Church of Scotland;

Agreeable to

The Word of God, the Confession of Faith, the National Covenant of Scotland, and the Solemn League and Covenant of the Three Nations:

And against

Several Steps of Defection from the same, both in former and present Times.

By some Ministers associate together for the Exercise of Church Government and Discipline in a Presbyterial Capacity.

With an Introduction, containing the Grounds of their Associating into a Presbytery, and the Reasons of their emitting this Act and Testimony.

To which is also subjoined the Accession of the Reverend Mr. Ralph Erskine, and the Reverend Mr. Thomas Mair, to the said Presbytery and the present Testimony.

EDINBURGH,

Printed by T. Lumsden and Company for John Henderson, Merchant in Akintho and sold by James Young Bookbinder in Edinburgh at his House a little above the Exchequer Office. M DCCLI.
The Introduction.

The Commission of the General Assembly that met at Edinburgh November 1733, having, by their Act and Sentence declared Mr. Ebenezer Erskine Minister at Stirling, Mr. William Wilson Minister at Perth, Mr. Alexander Moncrieff Minister at Abernethy, and Mr. James Fisher Minister at Kinclaven, to be no longer Ministers of this Church, &c. Upon the Intimation of the above Sentence, the foresaid Ministers gave in a Protestation, bearing a Secession from the Judicatories of the Church, and that it should be lawful and warrantable for them to exercise the Keys of Doctrine, Discipline and Government, according to the Word of God, Confession of Faith, and the Principles and Constitutions of the Covenanted Church of Scotland.

As the Reasons of their Secession were published sometime thereafter, in a Paper intitled, A Testimony to the Doctrine, Worship, Government and Discipline of the Church of Scotland; so, in Consequence of the last Part of their above Protestation, after mature and serious Deliberation, they came to a Resolution to constitute themselves into a Presbyterial Meeting, for the Exercise of Church Government and Discipline, as the Lord should clear up their Way: And that for the following weighty Reasons.

1. The Keys of Government and Discipline are given to Ministers, and belong to the Pastoral Office, as well as the Key of Doctrine; with this Difference, That the Key of Doctrine may be exercised by every single Pastor alone; whereas the Key of Government and Discipline must be exercised by Pastors two or three in collegio. And when they considered that four Ministers
Ministers, being thrust out all at once from Ministerial Communion with the present Judicatories, were a competent Number for associating together for the Exercise of Government and Discipline, they judged it a special and very particular Call in Providence, to associate themselves Presbyterially, that they might be in a Condition and Capacity to exercise all the Parts of their Pastoral Office, according to the Power and Authority given them by the Lord Jesus, *Matt.* 16. 19. Chap. 18. 18. *John* 20. 23. and his express Command to feed the Church and *Flock of God,* *Acts* 20. 28. *1 Pet.* 5. 2. the original Word in both Places signifying the Exercise of Rule and Government, as well as that of Feeding by the Preaching of the Word.

2. As they judged themselves warranted to associate together for the exercise of Government and Discipline, from the Power and Authority given them from the Lord Jesus; so they were encouraged to this Step from the Promise of the Divine Presence, *Matt.* 18. 20. It being plain from the Context, that by gathering together in Christ's Name, is chiefly intended meeting together in a judicative Capacity, for the Exercise of the Keys of Government and Discipline; therefore they judged, that, when they were constituted in his Name, they had a more especial Claim to the above Promise.

3. When they were cast out from Communion with the Judicatories, they also judged it necessary for them to enter into a Presbyterial Association, not only for maintaining that Order among themselves, which is required by the Word of God, and by the approved Acts and Constitutions of this Church; but also to distinguish themselves from the Sectarian and Independent Way, who lodge the Keys of Government and Discipline in the whole Community of the Faithful, as they speak, and who refuse the due Subordination of Congregational Elderships to superior Judicatories.

4. It had considerable Weight with them, to determine them to this important Step, when they considered
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Considered the deplorable situation of many Congregations in Scotland, groaning under the weight of Violence and Oppression by the intrusion of Ministers upon them, and crying for Help and Relief from the Judicatories of the established Church, but finding none: Therefore, since by adorable Providence they were thrust out from the Judicatories, they judged, that, if they entered into a Presbyterian Association, they would be in a better capacity for affording Help and Relief to the oppressed heritage of God through the land, according to the word of God, and the Rules and Constitutions of the Church of Scotland.

5. They likewise thought it incumbent upon them, not only to testify doctrinally, but to endeavour to lift up a judicial testimony for Scotland’s Covenanted Reformation, and against the present declinings and backslidings from the same. And since the Judicatories were carrying on a course of backsliding, they thought it the more incumbent on them, tho’ their number was small, and their hands weak, to improve the opportunity Providence had given them, by using their endeavours in a judicial way, to bear witness for the truths of God, against a strong current of defection and backsliding from the same. For these and other weighty reasons, they did, by solemn prayer, constitute themselves into a Presbyterial Meeting, sometime after they were cast out from the Judicatories of the Church.

The associate Ministers agreed, that they would not be sudden in proceeding to any acts of jurisdiction, but resolved, before any such procedure, to wait if the Judicatories of the Church would return to the reformation-standards; and therefore they held their meetings mainly for asking counsel of the Lord, and for mutual advice in their present situation, and for strengthening of one another’s hands in the way and work of the Lord.

When the General Assembly met at Edinburgh May 1734, the majority of the Members appeared to be opposite to the measures taken by some former Assembly.
Assemblies and their Commissions. Among other Things enacted by that Assembly, they empowered the Synod of Perth and Stirling, under certain Limitations mentioned in their Act, to restore the four Ministers to their respective Ministerial Charges: They likewise past an Act concerning Ministerial Freedom. And when some Time afterwards the Synod of Perth and Stirling, clothed with this delegated Power from the said Assembly, had taken off the Sentences pronounced by the Commission of the General Assembly 1733 against the foresaid four Brethren, it was the Judgment of many, both Ministers and private Christians, that they should have instantly acceded unto the Judicatories of the Church.

The foresaid Ministers having frequently met to consider what was their Duty in the present Juncture, the Question before them was, If the Grounds of their Seccession were removed by what the Assembly 1734 had done? Or, if they were so far removed, that without counteracting the Testimony, which by a particular and special Providence was put into their Hands, they might return to the Judicatories of the Church? And having deliberately and seriously considered the foresaid Question, as the Weight and Importance of the Matter did require; and particularly having considered the Conduct of the Assembly 1734, with respect to the Act and Sentence of the preceeding Assembly past against themselves, whereby Ministerial Freedom, in testifying doctrinally against the Defections and Backslidings of this Church was condemned, and the Liberty of protesting for Exoneration against a sinful Sentence and Decision of a General Assembly, affecting the publick Cause and Interest of Christ, was wrested out of the Hands of the Ministers and Members of this Church; they found that the said Act of Assembly 1733 stands to this Day unrepealed; and that the Synod of Perth and Stirling were expressly bound up from judging in the Legality or Formality of the former Proceedings of the Church-judicatories in relation to this Affair, and from
from censuring any of their Proceedings against the four protestning Ministers, tho' in their Case Church-
power was screwed up to a most exorbitant Height.
Likewise they found, that the Act of the said As-
sembly 1734, concerning Ministerial Freedom, was so
far from asserting that Freedom and Liberty, which
belongs to the Ministers of the Gospel, and which in
the present Case was contended for, that their Testimo-
ny in this Point was by the said Act materially con-
demned, in so far as the Act declares, That due and
regular Ministerial Freedom was not impair'd nor re-
frained by the preceeding Assembly's Decision in the
Process against the forefaid Ministers: And therefore
the Act and Sentence of the Assembly 1734, alledged
to be paft in their Favours, together with the Act of
the said Assembly anent Ministerial Freedom, instead
of removing the Grounds upon which they found
themselves obliged to declare a Seceffion from the
Judicatories, did, upon the Matter, condemn the Testi-
mony which they judged their Duty to give against
the Proceedings of the Assembly 1732. All that was
done by the forefaid Assembly 1734, in the Case of
the protesting Ministers, was, That the Synod of
Perth and Stirling was impowered, upon some politi-
cal Considerations, to restore the said Ministers to
their respective Charges; when yet their alledged
Guilt and Crime, in protesting against the Decision of
the Assembly 1733, is still suppos'd, and they stand
condemned for the fame. Likewise they found, that
the Act concerning the Presbytery of Dunfermline,
whereby unwarrantable Terms of Ministerial and
Christian Communion are imposed upon the Ministers
and Members of this Church, stands still in force:
As also, that no judicial Testimony was lifted up against
the gros Errors overspreading the whole Land. There-
fore, for these and the like Reasons, which are laid
open more fully in a Print publifhed immediately
before the Meeting of the Assembly 1735, the affo-
ciate Ministers had not Freedom to re-enter into the
Judicatories of the Church, by the Door which was
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at that Time opened unto them. But, in regard the foresaid Assembly 1734 did put some Stop to the unwarrantable Proceedings of former Assemblies and their Commissions, they judged it their Duty to continue their Meetings at that Time as formerly, without proceeding to any Acts of Government and Discipline.

When the General Assembly met at Edinburgh 1735, that Edge and Concern, which appeared to be in the preceding Assembly, was somewhat cooled and blunted: For tho' it was press'd by Instructions from several Presbyteries that the Acceptance of Presentations might be duly testified against, yet this, and other Motions toward Reformation, were upon political Considerations laid aside; and tho' both this and the former Assembly appointed their respective Commissions to appoint a National Fast; yet, in these Acts for National Fasting, there was no particular Enumeration of the Evils and Defections of the Day and Time wherein we live: This, together with some other Steps taken by the foresaid Assembly, and which are more fully narrated in the following Acts and Testimony, were a lamentable Evidence, that a sincere and thorough Reformation was neither aimed nor intended.

When the General Assembly met Anno 1736, they went still further backward from any Thing like true Reformation-work. They appointed the Presbytery of Stirling to proceed to the Settlement of a Presentee to the Parish of Denny, tho' the Elders and far greater Part of the People of that Parish were dissenting and reclaiming: Likewise they appointed the Synod and Presbytery of Dumfries to inrol the Intruder into the Parish of Traquair, as a Member of these Judicatories. And further, instead of condemning the many gross and dangerous Errors, vented by Mr. Archibald Campbell Professor of Church-history at St. Andrews, which have a manifest Tendency to subvert all Religion Natural and Revealed, they dismissed him without any Censure whatsoever: And (as...
will appear in the following Act and Testimony, they have likewise adopted his pernicious Principle concerning Self-love; whereby, instead of removing the former, a new and strong Ground of Secession is added.

The Ministers associate in Presbytery, having thus waited for a considerable Time, to see if the Judicatories of the Church would lift up a particular Testimony against the Evils of the present, and the Sins of former Times; but beholding with Regret the Conduct of some former General Assemblies, that, instead of going forward in Reformation-work, they had gone visibly backward in many Instances: Therefore, after mature and serious Deliberation, they judged it their Duty, to emit a judicial Declaration or Testimony for the Doctrine, Worship, Government and Discipline of the Church of Scotland, and against former and present Defections from the same, and that for the following Reasons:

1. The Iniquities and Backslidings of former Times have never been particularly acknowledged, nor condemned by the Judicatories of this Church, since the Revolution; neither have the valuable Pieces of Reformation once attained unto by this Church and Land, nor the Contendings and Wrestlings of the former Suffering Period against Defections from the same, been judicially justified and approved: tho' the former are just Grounds of the Lord's Controversy against the Land, and the latter the Privilege and the Honour of this Church.

2. Tho' the Backslidings and Defections of this Church are many, and a Flood of Error and Profaneness at present overflows the Land; yet a Banner is not judicially displayed for Truth, and against the prevailing Evils of the present Time: And therefore,

3. A judicial Testimony appears to be necessary at this Time, for the Glory of God, for the Information and Conviction of the present Generation, for the Information of Posterity, and that Truth may be transmitted to them with a suitable Testimony.
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thereunto: For it must be own'd, that this is a Debt; which one Generation owes to another, to use their Endeavours, to transmit the Truths of God in their Purity unto them; and, when Truth is opposed and controverted, it ought to be delivered off our Hands to the following Generation, with a more solemn and peculiar Testimony unto it.

4. The Lord having, in his adorable Providence, permitted the Judicatures of the Church to cast out from Communion with them four Ministers, at a Time when the Current of Defection was strong; and they having at the same Time made a Secession from them, upon the Grounds contained in their Profession given in to the Commission November 1733, and more fully laid open in their Testimony afterwards published; and these Reasons and Grounds of their Secession not being to this Day removed; they judge, that now when they have entred into a Presbyterian Association, for the Reasons above condescended upon, that the same adorable Providence calls them to lift up the Standard of a judicial Testimony for the Truths of God, and against a Course of Backsliding from the same: And to this they find themselves more especially and more particularly called, when they consider that a Testimony of this Kind has been so long wanting, and so much desired by many that fear the Lord thro' the Land; and tho' it has been so necessary, as has been already observed; yet there is now no Hope of obtaining it from the present Judicatures of the Church.

5. They were the more excited to emit this Declaration and Testimony, that they might make an open Confession of their Principles, that the World might see what they own and acknowledge, and upon what Foundation they desire, thro' the Grace of the Lord Jesus, to stand.

6. They reckoned themselves still the more obliged unto this Duty, both from the special and particular Engagements they came under at their Ordination, to fulfill that Ministry which they received from
from the Lord, whereby they are bound to teach the observance of all things whatsoever the Lord Christ has commanded them, and that not only doctrinally, but judicially, as the Lord gives opportunity; and likewise from the obligation which they, as well as the whole land, are under by solemn oath to the most High God, “That we shall sincerely, really and constantly, thro’ the grace of God, endeavour, in our several places and callings, the preservation of the reformed religion in the Church of Scotland, in doctrine, worship, discipline and government; —— and, that we shall not give ourselves to a detestable indifference or neutrality in this cause; but shall all the days of our lives zealously and constantly continue therein.”

The foresaid ministers, being met in presbytery, appointed some of their number to prepare the draught of an act and testimony, asserting the doctrine, worship, government and discipline of the Church of Scotland; and condemning several steps of defection from the same, both in former and present times: And the said draught having been prepared and laid before the presbytery, it was, in several meetings, seriously and deliberately considered, reasoned upon and amended; and, as thus amended and corrected, it was, at a meeting of presbytery at Perth, December 3d 1736, unanimously approved, enacted, and, for the above and like weighty reasons, ordered to be published; the tenor whereof follows.

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ACT, Declaration and Testimony

FOR

The Doctrine, Worship, Government, and Discipline of the Church of Scotland, AGREEABLE to the Word of God, the Confession of Faith, the National Covenant of Scotland, and the Solemn League and Covenant of the Three Nations; and AGAINST several Steps of Defection from the same, both in former and present Times: By some Ministers associate together for the Exercise of Church Government and Discipline in a Presbyterial Capacity.

AT Perth, the third Day of December, One thousand seven hundred and thirty six Years. Which Day and Place the Presbytery being met, and taking into their serious Consideration the low State of Religion at this Day
Day, the manifold Defections and Backslidings of all Ranks, both in former and present Times, from the Truths of God, and the precious Ordinances and Institutions of Jesus Christ, delivered as a valuable Trust into his Church and People in this Nation; and to the Maintenance and Preservation of which, the whole Land stands indispensible bound and obliged, by the most solemn Covenant-engagements: And especially, considering the present Growth and spreading of dangerous and pernicious Errors, and the many Injuries that are done to the Government and Discipline of the House of God amongst us; together with the abounding Sin, Wickedness and Profaneness of the present Generation, and the deep Security and general Stupidity that prevails under our national Sins and spiritual Judgments; by all which God is highly dishonoured and provoked, his Sanctuary profaned, the Kingdom of his Son undermined, and the whole Land involved in the dreadful Guilt of Apostasy from the Lord: Wherefore this Presbytery find themselves bound in Duty, to cast in their Mite of a Testimony to the many great and wonderful Appearances of the Lord for this Church and Land, and to the Doctrine, Worship, Government and Discipline of the Lord's House therein, agreeable to the Holy Scriptures, our Confession of Faith and Catechisms, the National Covenant of Scotland, and the Solemn League and Covenant of the Three Nations; as also against the Injuries and insolent Indignities done unto, and the Encroachments, Violations and Breaches made upon the same.

To this they reckon they are warranted, from the Practice and Example of the Church and People of God, recorded in Scripture, who very often commemorate the remarkable Appearances made for them, the signal Deliverance they have met with, together with their own deep Ingratitude and hainous Provocations, both of an older and later Date; and also from the Practice and Example of this Church in for-
And likewise they judge a Testimony of this Kind necessary, for the Information of the present Generation, who have generally lost the Knowledge, both of what God hath done for Scotland, and of the Grounds and Causes of his righteous Quarrel and Controversy against us; necessary, for the Conviction and Humiliation of all Ranks of Persons; necessary, to preserve and maintain the Truths of God, and an useful Mean to transmit them to following Generations in their Purity: Therefore, for all the above, and many other weighty Reasons and Considerations, the Ministers associated, being met in Presbytery, did, and hereby do, in the first Place, with thankful Hearts, acknowledge, and bear Record unto, the wonderful Power, Grace and Goodness of God, in visiting this Land very early with the Light of the glorious Gospel, whereby from these uttermost Ends of the Earth were Songs heard, even Glory to Jesus Christ the Righteous; and thus the Promises and Prophecies given of old were remarkably accomplished, namely, That the Heathen should be given unto Christ for his Inheritance, and the uttermost Parts of the Earth for his Possession; That the Isles should wait for his Law; and that he should be the Confidence of the Ends of the Earth, and of them that are afar off upon the Sea. Yea, when this and other Nations were involved in Popish Darkness, God left not himself without a Witness in this Land; our ancient Records bear, that in the darkest Times of Popery, the Lord had some Witnesses for himself amongst us, against the Errors and Idolatry of Rome: And when the Lord, by a bright and clear Sun-shine of the Gospel in several Parts of Europe, discovered that Mystery of Iniquity, Babylon the great, the Mother of Harlots, and Abominations of the Earth; He was also graciously pleased, with an high Hand, and an outstretched Arm, to ransom this Land from the Bondage of Popish Tyranny, Idolatry and Superstition, and again to bless it with the Light and Liberty of the Gospel. So strong was the Hand of the
the Lord upon a few polished Shafts, chosen and fur-
nished by himself, that in a short Time, in the Midst
of the Flames of fiery Persecution, and against the
Rage and Fury of Devils and Men, this great Work
was so far advanced and effectuate, that, in the Year
1560, the Pope's Authority was abolished in Scotland,
and the first Confession of Faith (directed mainly ag-
ainst the Errors and Abominations of the Church
of Rome, the great Point upon which the Testi-
mony of the Lord's Witnesses was then stated) was
ratified and approved by the Parliament; and, in a
few Years thereafter, most Congregations were plan-
ted with the Ministrv of the Gospel, and did yield
Subjection unto the Ordinances of Christ: The Go-
vernment and Discipline of the Church was estab-
lished according to the Pattern shown in the Mount,
in a due Subordination of Congregational Elderhips,
Presbyteries and Synods, unto General Assemblies:
The first Book of Discipline, which contains many ex-
cellent Reformation-principles, written with a Sim-
plicity and Plainness peculiar to Reforming Times;
together with some other Things that were, in the
Judgment of the Compilers of that Book, adapted
to the then State and Circumstances of the Church,
was approved by the Privy Council of Scotland in the
forefaid Year 1560. The General Assembly, Anno
1562, refused to admit one Mr. Alexander Gordon to be
Superintendent of Galloway till he should subscribe
the same†. And the General Assembly Anno 1638,
in their Act condemning the five Articles of Perth,
refer several Times unto it; from whence it is plain,
that it was received and approved by this Church
at our Reformation: Afterwards the second Book of
Discipline, wherein the Form of Government and
Discipline in the House of God is more distinctly
laid down, was approved and registrate by the Ge-
eneral Assembly Anno 1581, and appointed to be sub-
scribed by all the Ministers of this Church Anno
1590; and all the Pieces of the Reformation then
attained

† Calderwood's Hist. p. 32.
attained unto, were ratified and approved by the Parliament Anno 1592. In grateful Acknowledgment of which rare and singular Mercies, and for their own mutual Strength and Support against the common Enemy, the National Covenant having been first subscribed by the King and his Household in the Year 1580, was subscribed by Persons of all Ranks Anno 1581, and again by all Ranks of Persons in the Year 1590. This Covenant, relating to the Reformed Religion then professed in Scotland, and more particularly expressed in the Large Confession of Faith, was sworn with much Cheerfulness and Gladness of Heart, the whole Land rejoiced at the Oath of God. And, by this solemn Oath and Covenant, this Kingdom made a National Surrender of themselves to the Lord, and bound and obliged both themselves and their Posterity to cleave to the Truths of God, and to the Observation of his Laws, Ordinances and Institutions.

But the above-mentioned Reformation, and the Glory of this Church, was much deface'd, when King James VI. desirous to gratify the Prelatical Party in England, did, contrary to his most solemn Professions, Declarations and Engagements, by the Advice and Assistance of some covetous Time-serving Churchmen, first introduce a lordly Prelacy into this Church, and afterwards corrupted the Worship, by imposing Popish Ceremonies of the Church of England, under the Authority of a pretended General Assembly that met at Perth Anno 1618; and his Son King Charles I. endeavoured to carry on the same Design, by imposing a Service-book, and a Book of Popish and Prelatick Canons: Which Course of Defection continued for many Years without interruption. Yet, during this Period of grievous Sinning and Backsliding, there were several eminent Men who witnessed against the same; also the Word of the Gospel was countenanced in several Corners of the Land with more than ordinary Power and Success, particularly in several Places of the West.
Scotland Anno 1625, and at the Kirk of Shotts in the Year 1630. And, after all, the Lord was graciously pleased to turn back the Captivity of this Church when it was least expected, even when Prelacy appeared to be fenced with all the Strength of Civil Authority, and a great Body of the Ministrv couching in Conformity under the Burden of it: Yet he did, in a most surprising and wonderful Manner, cut asunder the Cords of these Plowers who plowed upon the Back of this Church, and revived his own Work thro' the Land, by animating at first a few of his Servants and People, in the Year 1637, to testify more openly and boldly against the Current of the Defection and Apostasy of that Time; and he was pleased to give such remarkable Countenance to their Proceedings, that in the Month of February 1638, notwithstanding of many Threats and strong Opposition of Adversaries, they renewed the National Covenant; and the Power of God was present with them in such an eminent Manner, that, within a few Months thereafter, almost the whole Land did cheerfully and joyfully come under the Oath of God. Here there was no Force nor Compulsion from the Civil Powers, all this was done voluntarily and cheerfully in the Face of great Opposition from a threatening and enraged Court. Likewise, in the latter End of the forefaid Year, a free and lawful General Assembly met at Glasgow, who deposed all, and excommunicated some of the Prelates; recognized and approved the National Covenant; and Prelacy, with the five Articles of Perth, were found and declared to be abjured by it; and several other laudable Acts and Constitutions were made for purging the House of God, and the Advancement of Reformation, as the Acts of that Assembly more fully bear. And tho' the Determinations of this Assembly were much opposed by a Popish and Prelatick Party, yet, thro' the good Hand of the Lord upon his Servants and People, the Reformation, then begun and carried on, was ratified and confirmed by the second Parliament of King Charles.
Charles I. Anno 1640, the last Session of which Parliament was countenanced by the King's Presence Anno 1641, and from this Time till the Year 1650 the Building of the House of God went on prosperously and successfully. During which Period, the following Things deserve particularly to be remembered:

1. The Lord gave Testimony and Witness to his own Work, by a remarkable Down-pouring of his Spirit from on High on the Judicatories acd Assemblies of his People for Worship; the Word of the Gospel was powerful and successful, the Pleasure of the Lord did prosper thro' the Land, and a Seed was sown, which the Fury and Rage of Twenty eight Years hot Persecution afterwards could not extirpate.

2. The remarkable Countenance which the Lord gave to the Reforming and Covenanting Church of Scotland, did excite their Neighbours in England and Ireland to join with them in a Solemn Covenant, for maintaining, advancing and carrying on a Work of Reformation in the three Kingdoms. This Covenant, however reproached and reviled, was for the Matter of it just and warrantable, for the Ends necessary and commendable, and for the Time seasonable: The Season when this Covenant was entered into, was the dangerous State of the Church and Kingdom of Scotland, the distressed State of the Church and Kingdom of England, and the deplorable State of the Church and Kingdom of Ireland: The Matter of this Covenant was all the precious Things that are involved in pure Religion and true Liberty, namely, the Preservation of the Reformed Religion in Scotland, in Doctrine, Worship, Government and Discipline; and the Reformation of Religion according to the Word of God in England and Ireland. In this Covenant every one bound themselves to Personal Reformation, and, in their several Places, Stations and Callings, to endeavour National Reformation; Duties obligatory upon every one antecedently to
to this Oath and Covenant: The End of this Solemn Covenant was, that they and their Posterity after them might, as Brethren, live in Faith and Love, that the Lord might be one, and his Name one, thro' the Three Kingdoms. And, as an eminent Divine * expressed himself before the House of Commons in England, when they were about to swear the said Covenant, "This Oath (faith he) is such, in the Matter and Consequences of it, as I can truly say "it is worthy of us, yea, of all these Kingdoms, yea, "of all the Kingdoms in the World; for it is a "swearing Fealty and Allegiance unto Christ the "King of Kings, and a giving up of all these King-
doms, which are his Inheritance, to be subdued "more unto his Throne, and ruled more by his "Sceptre, upon whose Shoulders the Government is "laid." This Oath and Covenant was appointed to be sworn by Persons of all Ranks in England and Ireland, and was entred into by the whole Body of this Land: And, when it was approved by the General Assembly of this Church, Anno 1643: they express themselves in this Manner, "That they all "with one Voice approve of the same, with these "Feelings of Joy which they did find in so great "a Measure at the Renewing of the National Co-"venant of this Kirk and Kingdom."

3. In Prosecution of the above Covenanted Uniformity, a Confession of Faith was agreed upon by the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, with Commissioners from the Church of Scotland; likewise the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, the Propositions concerning Church-government, and the Ordination of Ministers, and the Directory for Worship, all agreed upon by the foresaid Assembly at Westminster, were received and approved by this Church, in the Manner expressed in the several Acts of Assembly relative unto them; to all which the General Assembly of this Church reckoned this Land bound and obliged by the

* Mr. Philip Nay.
the Solemn League and Covenant, as their said Acts more fully bear.

4. When the much desired and covenanted Uniformity had proceeded thus far, many in this Land involved themselves in the Breach of Covenant, by the War with England commonly called the Duke's Engagement, which was testified against, and condemned by the General Assemblies of this Church; and the Sinfulness thereof was afterwards acknowledged by all Ranks of Persons, when the Solemn League and Covenant was renewed in Scotland, Anno 1648, with a solemn Acknowledgment of Sins and Breaches thereof, and Engagement to the Duties therein-contained. In the said Engagement to the Duties of the Covenant, they bind and oblige themselves to preserve the Purity of Religion against all Error, Heresy and Schism, and to study and endeavour the carrying on the Work of Uniformity: Whereby the above-mentioned Uniformity in one Confession of Faith, one Form of Church-government and Directory for Worship, is solemnly approved and sworn unto. And, by the foresaid Renovation of the Solemn League and Covenant, this Land declared they look'd upon this Oath as Nationally binding upon them, whatever the Behaviour of their Neighbours in England or Ireland might be. And as the General Assembly, in their Brotherly Exhortation to their Brethren in England, August 6th 1649, express themselves, "Altho' (say they) there were none in the one Kingdom who did adhere to the Covenant, yet thereby were not the other Kingdoms nor any Person in either of them, absolved from the Bond thereof; since in it we have not only sworn by the Lord, but also covenanted with him. It is not the Failing of one or more that can absolve others from their Duty or Tie to him: Besides, the Duties therein-contained being in themselves lawful, and the Grounds of our Duty, yet doth not their Defection free us from that
that Obligation which lies upon us by the Covenant in our Places and Stations. And the Covenant being intended and entered into by these Kingdoms, as one of the best Means of Stedfastness for guarding against declining Times, it were strange to say that the Backsliding of any should absolve others from the Tie thereof; especially seeing our Engagement therein, is not only National, but Personal; every one with uplifted Hands swearing for himself, as is evident by the Tenor of the Covenant.

5. During this Period, the Estates of the Nation also gave their Helping-hand to the Work of Reformation, not only by the legal Establishment given unto it in the foresaid Year 1640, but also by approving the Solemn League and Covenant Anno 1644, and by many laudable Acts of Parliament passed Anno 1649; particularly by the Act abolishing Patronages, a Grievance and Yoke under which this Church had groaned ever since the Reformation from Popery; and by their Act for keeping the Judicatories and Places of Trust free of Corruption; and by the Act of Clauses for purging the Army of Persons disaffected to the Cause and Work of Reformation. Also, by another Act passed in the foresaid Year 1649, they ordained and declared, "That before the King's Majesty who now is, or any of his Successors, shall be admitted to the Exercise of his Royal Power, he shall assure and declare, by his solemn Oath under his Hand and Seal, his Allowance of the National Covenant, and of the Solemn League and Covenant, and his Obligation to prosecute the Ends thereof, in his Station and Calling; and that he shall, for himself and his Successors, consent and agree to the Acts of Parliament enjoining the Solemn League and Covenant, and fully establishing Presbyterian Government, the Directory of Worship, Confession of Faith and Catechisms, as they are approved by the General Assembly of this Kirk, and Parliament of this Kingdom, in all
his Majesty's Dominions; and that he shall observe thefe in his Practice and Family; and that he shall never make Opposition to any of thefe, or endeavour your any Change thereof." In Pursuance of this Act of Parliament, King Charles II. having, by his solemn Oath, declared his Approbation of the National Covenant, and of the Solemn League and Covenant, and obliged himself to prosecute the Ends thereof, was crowned with great Solemnity at Scone upon the 1st January 1650.

The above Particulars are some Instances of the Power and Goodness of the moft High God, manifested in the Beginning and Progress of the Work of Reformation in this Land, which this Presbytery judge it their Duty to record and bear Witness unto: For, as the Arm of the Lord was gloriously revealed in recovering this Church and Nation from Antichristian Darknes, and bringing all Ranks of Persons within the Bond of a National Oath and Covenant to be the Lord's; So, when, by a surprising and wonderful Appearance of Divine Providence, this Church was delivered from the Brink of Ruin in the Year 1638, the Judicatories of the Church pulled down and carried off the Rubbish of Defection; they began where former Reformation had stopped, and went forward in building and beautifying the House of God.

But, since the Church, while militant, is in an imperfect State, it is not hereby intended to affirm, That, under the above-mentioned Period, there was nothing defective or wanting as to the Beauty and Order of the House of God, or that there was nothing culpable in the Administration; All that is designed by the above particular Deduction is, to declare, that this Church endeavoured, and mercifully attained, a considerable Pitch of Reformation, during the foresaid Period: Towards this their several Contendings and Wrestlings, their solemn Vows and Engagements, their Declarations and Testimonies, all pointed. It would have been the Happiness and Glory of this Church, if she had held fast
faft what by the good Hand of God upon her, and by a Series and Train of remarkable Providences both of Mercy and Judgment, she had attained unto; But how soon did her Gold become dim; How quickly was her most fine Gold changed? Ah! how was her Glory eclipsed, and her Beauty suddenly departed from her? A glorious Building was pull’d down; a Reformation, ratified, confirmed and established in the strongest Terms by Law, and fenced by the most solemn Oaths and Covenants, sworn with uplifted Hands by our King, by our Noblemen, Barons, Ministers, Burgesses and Commons of all Sorts, was, not only fullied, but overturned, and that by these very Hands that had been lifted up to Heaven for the Preservation and Maintenance of the same. Hath a Nation changed their gods, which yet are no gods? but Scotland hath changed her Glory for that which doth not profit! May it not be said, Be astonished, O ye Heavens, at this, be horribly afraid; for my People have committed two Evils, they have forsaken me the Fountain of living Waters, and have heven out to themselves Cisterns, broken Cisterns that can hold no Water? Can there be a Parallel given in any Church or Land, of that Scene that opened of Backsliding and Defection; of Perjury and Apostasy, or of that Oppression and Cruelty, afterwards exercised upon such as adhered unto the Cause and Covenant of their God, after so many and so great Appearances of the Lord in a Way of Mercy amongst us, and after such solemn Professions of Subjection and Obedience unto him.

The Presbytery pretended not to reckon up the innumerable Abominations of the Land; but they judged it their Duty to give some particular Instances of the Beginning, Progress and Height of the Apostasy and Defection from the above-mentioned Steps of Reformation, in which all Ranks of Persons have sinfully and shamefully involved themselves.

1. When
I. When the Judicatories of the Church were carrying on the Work of Reformation with a beautiful and pleasant Harmony, a Snare was laid for breaking and dividing them; when, in the Month of December 1650, and in the Beginning of 1651, two several Questions were put unto the Commission of the General Assembly by the King and Parliament, concerning the Admission into Places of publick Trust, both Civil and Military, of such as were debarred from the same by the above-mentioned Acts of Parliament Anno 1649. The Resolutions of the Commission upon the said Question were such, as the King and Parliament took Occasion from them to repeal the forefaid laudable Acts; and all Places of publick Trust, Civil and Military, were immediately fill'd with such, whose Disaffection to the Work of Reformation, carried on from the Year 1638, was abundantly notour; Malignants in Principle, and such as were immoral in Practice, were promoted; a Sham Profession of Repentance was required at first from such as had been active against the Work of Reformation, but even this was soon laid aside; and when the Resolutions of the Commission were remonstrate against by some Presbyterian and several Ministers, the Commission discharged all Ministers or Probationers to speak or write against them: And what was done by the Commission, was approven by some ensuing Assemblies, who also excluded all, both Ministers and Elders, who remonstrated against the publick Resolutions, from sitting in General Assemblies; and appointed Presbyteries to oblige both Intrants into the Ministry before they were admitted to Trials for Ordination, and Elders before they were allowed to sit in Presbytery, to give it under their Hand, that they pass'd from any Protestation or Declinature against the said Assemblies; and likewise some eminent Ministers were suspends and deposed, for testifying against the forefaid Resolutions. But the Constitution and Actings of these Assemblies having been pro-
protested against by a considerable Body of Ministers and Elders, who were grieved at the forefaid Resolutions of the Commission, all such were designed Protectors, as these on the other Side were called Publick Resolutions. By the above Proceedings, the Nation (with the Consent of the Church) delivered up, not only the Maintenance and Preservation of their valuable Civil Liberties; but also of all the Civil Securities and Ratifications given unto the Work of Reformation from the Year 1638, into the Hands of such who had appeared for the Support and Maintenance of arbitrary Power and Authority in the State, and who were notour Enemies of a Covenantanted Reformation. As the forefaid Resolutions, both of Church and State, were contrary to, and condemned by the Word of God, Exod. 18. 21. 2 Chron. 19. 3. Psal. 106. 35. Psal. 139. 21. Hos. 5. 13. so their Sin and Guilt in this Matter was the more hainous, and the more highly aggravated, in regard it was what had been so lately acknowledged, and so solemnly engaged against, in the solemn Acknowledgement of Sins, and Engagement to Duties. The Sinfulness of these Proceedings was witnessed against by a considerable Number of eminent Ministers and godly Elders thro' the Land, who laid open the dangerous Tendency of them: And what they had too just Gound to fear, came in a short Time to pass; These Men, who were now admitted into Places of publick Trust, had an active Hand in overthrowing the beautiful Constitution of this Church, and in bringing the Nation under the Yoke of arbitrary Government. And it cannot well escape to be taken notice of, that the most Part of those who were for the publick Resolutions, made Defection into Prelacy; whereas all the Protectors, except a few, stood firm against it; when, in the Year 1662, this cursed Jericho was rebuilt, and some of the former who were honest in the Main, but carried in to the Measures of the Court, came with Regret to see their Error and Mistake, and to acknowledge,
ledge, † That their Brethren the PROTESTERS had their Eyes opened, when they were blind.

When this Church and Land was thus miserably rent and broken (as a just Punishment of this Step of Declining and Treachery in the Cause and Covenant of the Lord) the Nation was brought under the Yoke of Oliver Cromwell the Usurper, under which it groan'd for the Space of ten Years. During this Period, a most sinful Toleration of Sectarian Errors and Delusions was granted by Cromwell and his Pri-vy-council in Scotland: This was the first of this Kind known among us since the Reformation; and thereby such Laxness in Principle and Practice was introduced, as pav'd a Way for the more general Apostasy and Defection, which followed very soon thereafter. The aforesaid Toleration was faithfully witneffed against by some Ministers in the Provinces of Perth and Fife (in their Testimony published Anno 1659) as contrary to the Word of God, our Confession of Faith and Larger Catechism, and as contrary to, and inconsistent with, the Solemn Oath and Covenant of God sworn by the Nation; and likewise, as producing many dismal and sinful Effects, such as the Increase and Growth of Errors and Blasphemy, with Laxness and Profaneness in Practice; and also as a Temptation to Men to break the Lord's Bonds asunder, and to cast his Cords from off them.

II. After the Death of Oliver Cromwell the Usurper, and when the Power of the Sectarian Party, who had ruled the Three Kingdoms for several Years, began to decline, the Parliament of England restored King Charles II. to the Government, without any Conditions or Limitations; whereby all the Testi-monies and Declarations they had given for a Covenant'd Reformation and Uniformity, were at once given up: And immediately, abjured Prelacy, with the Service-book and all the Ceremonies, were re-imposed in England; a dismal Presage of what was to follow.

† Woodrow's Hist, Vol. I. p. 112.
now coming on Scotland, where, until a Meeting of Parliament, the Government was lodged in the Hands of a Committee of Estates named by the last Parliament Anno 1651. This Committee, consisting of such as were disaffected to the Work of Reformation, caused seize and imprison a few eminent Ministers, who met about an Address to the King upon his Return, and with the Faithfulness that became their Office, putting him in Mind of his own, and the Nations Solemn Covenant-Engagements to the Lord. Upon which Occasion a Proclamation was immediately emitted, discharging all Meetings without the King's Authority, and all the above and like Petitions and Remonstrances whatsoever, under a Pretext of their being seditious: This was a Prelude unto the dismal Scene that was now opening.

III. When the Parliament met in Scotland Anno 1661, they immediately remove all the legal Securities given to our Church-Constitution, and the whole Work of Reformation, by rescinding all Acts of Parliament from the Year 1640 to 1651 inclusive, and declaring all the said Parliaments null and void; They assert the King's Supremacy in all Causes, and declare all Meetings, Assemblies, Leagues and Covenants, without the King's Countenance and Authority, unlawful and unwarrantable; They discharge the renewing of the League and Covenant, or any other publick Oath and Covenant concerning the Government of the Church, without the King's Warrant: And, having thus removed all the legal Fences from our Church-Constitution, they give up the Government of the Church to be settled by the King, in the Way He judges most agreeable to the Word of God and Monarchical Government.

IV. At the second Session of this Parliament, Anno 1662, it is declared, That the Ordering and Disposal of the external Government and Policy of the Church doth properly belong to the King, as an inherent Right of the Crown, by virtue of his Royal
Royal Prerogative and Supremacy in Causes Ecclesiastic: All Acts of Parliament or Council, which might be interpreted to give any Church-power, Jurisdiction or Government to the Office-bearers of the Church and their Meetings, than that which acknowledged a Dependence upon, and Subordination to the sovereign Power of the King as Supreme, are rescinded, castigated and annulled; Diocesan Bishops are restored to their Dignities, Privileges and Jurisdictions; all Meetings of Presbyteries and Sessions, not authorised by the Bishop, are discharged. In their second Act, all that was done in Prosecution of a Covenanted Reformation, from 1638 to 1650, is declared rebellious and treasonable; the National Covenant as sworn in the Year 1638, and the Solemn League and Covenant, are declared to be unlawful Oaths, and imposed contrary to the Fundamental Laws of the Kingdom: And likewise, in the said Act, a dispensing Power is assumed, declaring the Consciences of all those who had taken the foresaid Oaths free from the Obligation of them. It is also declared rebellious and treasonable in Subjects, upon Pretence of Reformation, or any other Pretence whatever, to enter into Leagues and Covenants, or to take up Arms against the King; whereby the sinful and absurd Doctrines of Passive Obedience and Non-resistance, condemned by the memorable Revolution Anno 1688, were screwed up to the highest: As likewise, they annul all Ecclesiastical Acts and Constitutions approving the National Covenant, or the Solemn League and Covenant; and particularly they declared, That the Assembly that met at Glasgow Anno 1638; was in itself an unlawful and seditious Meeting; and that their Acts, Deeds and Sentences were in all Time coming to be reputed unlawful, void and null. Afterwards, by an Act of Council at Glasgow, about three hundred Ministers are, without any legal Procedure, thrust from their Charges, merely for Non-conformity, and refusing Subscription to the Prelates; and, in the Year 1663, the Parliament ordain and en-
That all Non-conforming Ministers, that shall presume to exercise their Ministry, shall be punished as seditious Persons: And also, in Acknowledgment of, and hearty Compliance with his Majesty's Government Ecclesiastick and Civil, all the Subjects are required to give their Concurrence and Countenance to those who are by publick Authority admitted to their several Parishes (namely, Prelatrick Incumbents) and to attend their Meetings for Worship under the Penalties mentioned in the Act of Parliament; and also, for putting all these tyrannical Laws and others that were enacted in this Period in Execution, an High Commission Court was erected, most irregular and arbitrary, both for its Constitution and Manner of Procedure. During this Period of Apostasy, viz. from the Year 1660 to 1688, there is a continued Series and Train of Acts of Parliament, supporting the Prelates and maintaining Prelacy, and obliging the whole Land to Conformity, and to homologate the King's Supremacy. Thus abjured Prelacy is restored; and not only is the Royal Prerogative screwed up to a most exorbitant Height in Matters merely Civil, but an Authority is put into the Hands of the King, like to that which is usurped by the Roman Antichrift. The Lord Jesus, on whose Shoulders the Government of his own House is laid, and who alone is able and worthy to bear this Weight and Burden (Psalm 2. throughout. Isa. 9. 6, 7. Eph. 1. 22, 23.) is, as far as human Laws could do it, divested of his Prerogative Royal, namely his incommunicable Headship, Sovereignty and Authority over the Church, his Spiritual Kingdom; and all this done by the Representatives of the Nation, in Opposition and Contradiction to the most solemn Professions of Allegiance unto the King of Zion, and the most solemn Oaths and Covenants that a People could come under to the most high God. Yea, to such an Height of Heaven-daring Impiety and Wickedness did they arrive, that, in the Year 1663, the National Covenant as it was sworn in the Year 1638, and the Solemn
the Solemn League and Covenant, together with that remarkable Paper, intituled, The Causes of the Lord's Wrath, were most ignominiously burnt at the Cross of Linlithgow by the Authority of the Magistrates there. And afterwards (January 14 1682) the Solemn League and Covenant is condemned by the Duke of York then Commissioner, and the Privy-council, to be most contemptuously burnt at the Cross of Edinburgh by the Hands of the common Hangman; which was accordingly done, to the publick affronting and dishonouring of the great God to whom these solemn Vows were made. It was also declared by Act of Parliament (May 6th 1685) That the giving or taking of the National Covenant as explained in the Year 1638, or of the League and Covenant, or writing in Defence thereof, or owning them as lawful or obligatory upon themselves or others, shall infer the Crime and Pains of Treason. Can a Parallel be given to such Perfidy and Treachery, to such Apostasy and Defection? What Nation once like Scotland for a zealous Profession of Obedience and Submission to the Prince of the Kings of the Earth! but now scarce to be equalled for Treachery and Apostasy, attended at the same Time with a Flood of Profaneness and Immorality overflowing the whole Land.

V. In this Hour and Power of Darkness, an universal silent Submission is given at first to the above wicked tyrannical Acts and Constitutions; no open, judicial or joint Testimony was lifted up against them. When the Storm was ready to break, Ten Ministers and two Elders met together (a small Number in Comparison of what might have been expected in such a Day of Perplexity and Distress) in order to present a Supplication to the King, for his employing his Royal Power and Authority in the Preservation and Maintenance of the true Protestant Reformed Religion in the Three Kingdoms, according to the National Covenant, and the Solemn League and Covenant, both which he had solemnly sworn at his Coronation in Scotland: But they were, without all Law
Law and Justice, immediately apprehended and incarcerate, for no other Reason, but because they were framing such a Supplication; and (as has been already observed) all such Meetings, Petitions and Remonstrances of publick Grievances, were discharged as seditious. This struck such a Terror on the most Part, that no joint Remonstrance or Testimony was offered; and when some Provincial Synods in the Year 1661, when the Parliament had begun to raze the Work of Reformation, were considering what was proper for them to do in this Juncture, they were dissolved, in the King's Name, by such Noblemen or Gentlemen as the Commissioner to the Parliament had appointed to observe their Proceedings. All of them immediately obeyed; some of them dismissed even without Prayer. The Synod of Galloway protested against their Dissolution, but yet they rose immediately. The Synod of Glasgow, at their ordinary Meeting in April, adjourned themselves till May, then to consider of a Supplication to the Parliament for the Security of Religion; but, when they were about to convene, they were discharged in a Proclamation from the Cross by Order from the King's Commissioner, to which they gave Obedience? And likewise, when, in the Beginning of the Year 1662, all Synodical and Presbyterial Meetings, until authorised by the Bishops, were discharged; Presbyteries, as well as Synods, were immediately deserted. Such Fainting in the Cause of God, in this Day of Apostasy and Backsliding, was a Sign and Evidence of the Lord's Indignation and Wrath, and was far from that Courage and Resolution that sometimes appeared among the Ministers of this Church, who witnessed against the like Incroachments upon the Liberties and Privileges of the House of God, in Face of the greatest Opposition. In like manner, in Obedience to the Act of Council at Glasgow, the most Part of these that conformed not to Prelacy left their Flocks, whereby they became a Prey to the grievous Wolves that were afterward thrust in upon them; yea, the greatest...
greatest Part by far thro' the whole Land gave Obe-
dience to the above-mentioned Act of Parliament,
requiring them to attend upon Worship performed
by the Bishops Underlings, or such as conformed to
Prelacy, in Testimony of their Acknowledgment of,
and hearty Compliance with, his Majesty's Govern-
ment Ecclesiastick and Civil; by which Means all
Ranks of Persons, from the highest to the lowest,
were involved in the Apostasy and Defection, and
guilty of the grossest Treachery in the Cause and
Covenant of the Lord; And, for all the above-men-
tioned and the like Sins, awful Judgements are threat-
11. 9, 10. Hos. 8. 1. Rev. 2. 5.

VI. When the Ministers, who by the Proceedings
of the Parliament and Council Anno 1662 were cast
out of their Churches, had recovered from the Con-
sternation and Damp which such a sudden Convul-
sion in Church and State had brought upon them,
they began to be persuaded, that it was their Duty,
notwithstanding of their tyrannical Ejection, to preach
the Gospel of Christ: And the People being more
and more alienated from the Bishops Creatures, or
Curates, as they were called, many of them being
not only ignorant and profane, but all of them being
guilty of Perjury and Defection, in receiving a Com-
mission immediately from, and acting in Subordina-
tion unto, and by a Power derived from the abjured
Prelates, contrary to the Word of God and our
Reformation-principles, confirmed by solemn Oaths
and Covenants; and being also sensible of the Oblig-
gation still lying upon them to own their ejected Mi-
nisters as faithful Servants of Christ, and of their
Duty to receive the Ordinances of Christ as dispen-
sed by them; Therefore not a few of the said Mini-
nisters, considering the present urgent Necessity of the
People, and their cheerful Readiness and Willingness
to hear the Word of God, saw themselves called of
the Lord to preach the Gospel, wherever Providence
ordered
ordered their Abode; they began at first to preach in private Houses: This enraged the Prelates, who ceased not to stir up the Rulers to all Extravagancies of Cruelty, for suppressing these peaceable and harmless Assemblies for the Worship of God: Hence the Parliament declared all such Meetings, or Conversicles, as they were called, to be seditious and criminal, and discharged them under the severest Penalties. After this, Houses were forced when People were assembled for hearing the Word of God; many were haled to Prison, and the Laws execute with Rigour against them. These Severities constrained them at last to keep their Meetings in the Fields; whereupon the Rage and Fury of the Rulers, instigate by the apostate Prelates, did break forth into a more extensive and boundless Flame; several Acts of Parliament and Council were emitted, and all Ways of Cruelty imaginable taken, to suppress Meetings in Houses and in the Fields, Field-meetings being discharged under Pain of Death to the Minister, and grievous Penalties upon such as did attend them: Hence ensued a Train of the greatest Barbarities, wherewith these two persecuting Reigns were indelibly stained, as the Effect of tyrannical Acts, and the more tyrannical Execution of them. But, notwithstanding of these Severities, the more the Lord's People were afflicted, the more they grew; when the Gospel was dispensed at the Peril of their Lives from the Sword in the Wilderness, the Lord gave remarkable Countenance to his own Ordinance, which were blessed to the Conversion and Confirmation of many.

VII. When the Rulers at this Time saw that they could not by all the above Acts of Cruelty extirpate the Assemblies of the Lord's People for Worship, according to his own Institution, and which were the only Monuments of his Covenanted Interest in the Land; but the more they laboured to suppress them, the more frequent they grew: Then the cunning and crafty Device of an Indulgence to some of the ouden Ministers
Ministers is fallen upon, whereby many, otherwise eminent Lights, were ensnared and taken. This indulgence was first granted by the King, in his Letter to the Privy Council, dated June 7th 1660, whereby he authorizeth them to appoint so many of the outed Ministers, who had lived peaceably and orderly, to return to preach and exercise the Functions of the Ministry in the Parish-Churches where they formerly served, providing they be vacant; and that Patrons should present to other Churches such others of them as the Council shall approve. The Ministers allowed by this Letter to exercise their Ministry, were appointed to keep Presbyteries and Synods, namely, such as depended upon, and were authorized by the Bishops; and, in case they did not, they were to be confined within the Bounds of the Parishes where they were allowed to preach. Also the Letter requires, That they be strictly enjoined not to admit any from neighbouring Parishes to the Communion, nor to baptize their Children, nor to marry any of them, without the Allowance of the Curate of the Parish; and that they should not give Countenance to any who deserted their own Parish-Churches, and resorted to their Preachings; and that no seditious Discourse or Expression be uttered in the Pulpit, or elsewhere, by any of these Ministers.

In Pursuance of the above Letter, the Privy Council, at different Times, appoint several Ministers to preach and exercise the other Functions of the Ministry, some at the Churches out of which they had been ejected, others (their own Churches being planted with Intruders) were appointed, with Consent of the Patron, to Churches that were vacant: And every one of these Ministers were by the Council's Act (July 27th 1669) strictly enjoined to give due Obedience to all the Restrictions contained in the King's Letter aforesaid. After the granting of this indulgence, the King's Supremacy, which was indeed the Spring thereof, and had been amply asserted by former Acts of Parliament, is now further explained...
and extended by the Parliament that met October 19th that same Year; for, by the first Act of that Session of Parliament, It is enacted, asserted and declared, "That the King and his Successors have the supreme Authority and Supremacy over all Persons, and in all Causes Ecclesiastick within this Kingdom; and that, by virtue thereof, the ordering and disposing of the external Government and Policy of the Church, doth properly belong to them as an inherent Right to the Crown; and that they may settle, enact and emit such Constitutions, Acts and Orders concerning the Administration of the external Government of the Church, and the Persons employed in the same, and concerning all Ecclesiastical Meetings and Matters to be proposed and determined therein, as they in their Royal Wisdom shall think fit." After this, several Restrictions were laid upon the indulged by the Privy Council; particularly by their Act, January 13th 1670, they discharge them to lecture upon any Part of Scripture before Sermon; with Certification, that, if they continue to do so, they shall be discharged to exercise their Ministry within the Kingdom. Afterwards a second Indulgence is granted by the Privy Council, September 3d 1671; and three several Acts were fram'd about it that same Day: By the first, a great many of the ousted Ministers, not formerly indulged, are class'd and confined by two's and three's in different Parishes, and discharged to pass without the Bounds of the same; and a Committee of Council is impowered to remove any of the Ministers named, from one of the said Parishes to which they are confined, to another, as they shall see Cause, within six Months after the above Date, of this Act. By a second Act of the same Date, there are several other Limitations laid upon them as to the Exercise of their Ministry, besides these mentioned in the King's Letter; such as, "That the indulged, in one and the same Diocese, celebrate the Communion in one and the same Day; That they should not preach
in Church-yards, or any other Place, but in Kirks;
under the Pain of being punished as Keepers of
Conventicles; and that they depart not forth from
the Parish, without Licence from the Bishop of
the Diocese only; and that, in the Exercise of Dis-
cipline, all Causes, formerly referable to Presby-
teries, should still in the same Manner be referred
unto them, altho' they were now nothing else but
Bishops Courts." And, by a third Act of the a-ove Date, they discharge all other Presbyterian
Ministers, except these who are indulged, to exercise
any Part of their Ministerial Work, unless they are
invited by the Ministers of the Parishes where they
live; and appoint them under severe Penalties to at-
tend Ordinances in the said Parishes. Thus the In-
dulgence stood Anno 1672, and some Years after-
wards, when by a publick Proclamation (March 17th
1676) the above Orders and Instructions were again
strictly enjoined; they are in the said Proclamation
expressly called, the Terms upon which the indulged
Ministers were permitted to preach, and exercise the
other Functions of the Ministry. And, by an Act
of Council of the same Date with the said Procla-
mation, "The indulged Ministers are discharged to
admit any of the Ministers not indulged to their
Communions or Pulpits, under Pain of being de-
posed by the Bishop of the Diocese."

From all which it is evident, that the Indulgences
above-mentioned had their Rise, Conveyance and
Subsistence from the blasphemous Supremacy usurped
over the House of God; and the several Acts above-
mentioned were the actual Exercise of the same: As
will plainly appear, if it is considered, that the Mi-
ninger Power and Authority for the Government
of the Church, which the Lord Jesus Christ, the
alone Head and Lawgiver thereof, has conveyed to
Church-officers as the proper Subject and Receptacle
thereof (Mat. 16. 19. Chap. 18. 18, 20. 2 Cor. 10.
8, 11.) is, by the Act of Supremacy, most impiouly
and sacrilegiously transferred upon the King and his
Successors,
Successors, as an inherent Right to the Crown; with Power to him either to exercise the same in his own Person, or by others whom he shall nominate and appoint to execute his Orders. Accordingly, in Obedience to the Commands, and by virtue of an Authority derived from the King (whom the Parliament had constitute supreme over all Persons, and in all Causes Ecclesiastic) the Privy Council assume the actual Exercise of Church-power, in judging of the Gifts and Qualifications of Ministers for labouring in such and such Parishes, and planting and transplanting them at their Pleasure, and in framing and prescribing Ecclesiastical Canons and Instructions for regulating the Exercise of the Ministerial Office; all which are Acts competent only to Church-officers by virtue of Christ's Institution, and quite beyond the Sphere of the Civil Magistrate. And, as a further Evidence that the Indulgence flowed from the Supremacy as the Spring thereof, the Ministers, who had the Benefit of it, were appointed to such and such Parishes (with Consent of the Patron) in virtue of the King's supreme Authority exercised by the Council, without any Call from the People, or the Interpositure of any Ecclesiastic Authority whatsoever: And these who were restored to their own Churches, were not admitted to them by virtue of any former standing Relation, but merely by Appointment of the Council, in Pursuance of his Majesty's Commands signified to them; as is evident from the Tenor of the several Acts relative to this Affair. And, tho' all the Ministers of Christ have their Instructions from Him alone, and are expressly enjoined to teach the Observance of all Things whatsoever he has commanded them, Mat. 28, 18, 19, 20, every one of the indulged Ministers were restricted in the Exercise of their Ministry by the above-mentioned Limitations; and, as they were strictly discharged to utter any seditious Expressions in the Pulpit, or elsewhere, so it is plain, from the Acts of Parliament and Council at this Time, that faithful Ministerial Freedom against the Perfidy and Treachery
Treachery of all Ranks of Persons, in the present horrid Violation of the Oath and Covenant of God, and in rearing up, or submitting unto the abjured Hierarchy and wicked Supremacy, was what was then reckoned \textit{edacious}. And, tho' it may be alleged that the Ministry of some of the Indulged was attended with Success, and that the Instructions given them were not punctually observed by them all; yet the \textit{Acceptance} of the \textit{Indulgence} in the above complex Circumstances, and \textit{omitting} to give a plain and distinct \textit{Testimony}, in that Case of Confession, against that wicked \textit{Supremacy} usurped over the House of God, was a \textit{Departing} from a very material Part of the Cause and \textit{Testimony} of the Church of Scotland. And it was no small \textit{Aggravation} of the Sinfulness of this Step, that some Ministers, who were in the Council's Nomination, \textit{never accepted} of it, but continued with others of their Brethren who were not included in it (notwithstanding of cruel Edicts against them) to \textit{jeopard} their Lives in the \textit{high Places} of the Field, testifying and witnessing against the present Apostasy and Defection from Scotland's \textit{Convenanted} Reformation.

VIII. The whole Land was yet further involved in dreadful and hainous Guilt, by the many sinfull \textit{Oaths}, \textit{Declarations} and \textit{Bonds} that were imposed during this Period of Apostasy and Defection, between the Year 1660 and 1688; particularly, by the 11th Act of the 1st Session of Parliament \textit{Anno} 1661, all Persons in publick Trust were obliged to swear the Oath of \textit{Allegiance}, or rather \textit{Supremacy}; whereby they were required to declare, \textit{That the King is the only supreme Governor over all Persons and in all Causes}, and that they should promote and support his foresaid \textit{Jurisdiction} against all deadly. Together with this Oath an \textit{Instrument assertory} of the Royal Prerogative is appointed to be signed, whereby the Subscribers confessed to the King's \textit{absolute Power}, and owned the Unlawfulness of \textit{resisting} him upon any Pretext whatsoever; and so not only gave up
up their Civil Liberties, but materially renounced the whole Work of Reformation, as it was begun at our Seccession from Popery, and as it was carried on in the Year 1638, tho' all was approven by King and Parliament, and, which is more, was signally own'd of God. The Privy Council, or any having Authority from them, were impowered to impose the said Oath and asfertory Act upon any whom they pleas'd; hence, in a short Time, these Oaths reached the moft Part of the Subjects, and became trying Badges of Loyalty. If a Person was sifted before the Council or other Courts, if he swore the Allegiance and sign'd the asfertory Act, he was dismis'd; but, if he refused, there was no Mercy for him. Again, by the 5th Act of the 2d Session of that fame Parliament (Anno 1662) in order to put the Grave-stone upon the Covenanted Reformation, a Declaration is appointed to be signed by all Persons in publick Trust, wherein they were required to affirm and declare, "That it is unlawful, upon any Pretext whatsoever, to enter into Leagues and Covenants, or to take up Arms against the King, or those commissioned by him; That all the Convo-
cations, Petitions and Protestations, that were used in the Beginning, and for carrying on the "late Troubles" (i. e. all that was done for carry-
ing on the Work of Reformation from the Year 1638) " were unlawful and seditious; and that the "National Covenant, as explained in the Year 1638, " and the Solemn League and Covenant, were in "themselves unlawful Oaths; and that there lieth "no Obligation upon any of the Subjects, from the "said Oaths, to endeavour any Change or Altera-
tion in the Government, either in Church or State, "from the present Establishment by the Laws of "the Kingdom." This Declaration became one of the great Sins and Snares of this Time; Perjury is now made a chief Qualification, and necessary Con-
dition of all that were to be admitted to Places and Offices in Church and State. Likewise, by an Act of
of Parliament Anno 1670, against People's separating from the publick Worship in their own Parishes, i.e. from the perjur'd Conformists to Prelacy; Heritors and Liferenters, if they obstinately withdraw from their Parish-Churches for a certain Space of Time, must be sifted before the Council, and required to sign a Bond, obliging themselves, That they shall not, upon any Pretext whatsoever, rise in Arms against the King, or any commissioned by him; and that they shall not assist or countenance any who shall rise in Arms; and the Refusers of this Bond are appointed to be secured or banished, and their single or Liferent Escheat to belong to the King: This was a Snare unto many, and a Ground of Suffering unto others. Besides these Oaths imposed by Authority of Parliament, many other enharing Oaths and Bonds were also enforced by the Privy Council, such as the Bond of Peace, appointed to be subscribed Anno 1667; and the Bond for Regularity, as it was called, appointed by Act of Council, August 2d 1677, to be subscribed by all the Heritors, &c. whereby they bind and oblige themselves, and all under their Authority, That they shall not withdraw from the publick Divine Worship in their respective Parish Churches; that they shall not have their Children baptized, nor be married, but by such Ministers as are lawfully authorized; and that they shall not be present at Conventicles, either in Houses or in the Fields; and all this under heavy and severe Penalties. But that Oath, called the Test, deserves particular Consideration: It was a self-contradictory Oath, and had not a Parallel among all the Oaths ever imposed in any Protestant Country; It was framed by the Parliament August 31st 1681; at first only Persons in publick Trust were obliged to take it, but afterwards it became a general Test of Loyalty, and was imposed upon all Ranks of Persons, and made a Handle even of persecuting unto Death great Numbers, some of whom were of a very considerable Rank and Quality; and Multitudes
Multitudes, who could not comply with it, were grievously oppressed. In the first Part of this Oath, the Protestant Religion contained in the first Confession of Faith is professed, and all Principles and Doctrines contrary to, and inconsistent with, the same are renounced; and yet, in direct Contradiction thereto, the King's Supremacy in the utmost Extent is again and again asserted, together with the Unlawfulness of Subjects their resisting the Sovereign upon any Pretext whatsoever; the Obligation of the Covenants, National and Solemn League, is disowned, and the Government of the Church then established by Law is approven. Thus the Representatives of the Nation, and together with them many of all Ranks of Persons thro' the Land, make themselves more and more vile by the blackest Perjury, the grossest Apostasy and Defection from the Lord, that a People or a Nation could be guilty of.

IX. The Wickedness of this Period did rise higher, even to the greatest Tyranny and Cruelty exercised upon all such as endeavoured to keep their Garments clean in this sinning and defiling Day. The above-mentioned Acts of Parliament, with the Oaths and Bonds imposed by the Parliament and Privy Council, laid a Foundation for near Twenty eight Years grievous Persecution: A simple Non-compliance with the Prelatick Government then established; declining to attend Ordinances dispensed by the Bishop's Underlings; being present at Conventicles in Houses or Fields; refusing the Oath of Supremacy, or the other Oaths and Bonds that were imposed, owning the Obligation of our solemn Covenants, and the Lawfulness of defensive Arms, or of resisting a tyrannical Sovereign; were reckoned Crimes of the highest Nature, and subjected Multitudes of all Ranks unto unparallel'd Severity.

During this Period, the Witnesses for Scotland's Covenanted Reformation endured cruel Mockings and Scourgings; they wandered about in Deserts and in Mountains, in Caves and Dens of the Earth, afflicted,
Multitudes were banished their native Country, others suffered long Imprisonment, spoiling of Goods, and grievous Tortures, that had not a Parallel in any Protestant Country; many resisted even unto Blood, striving against Sin; the most publick Cities of the Nation were defiled with innocent Blood, such as Edinburgh, Glasgow, and other Cities yea, to such an Height did Cruelty and Tyranny arrive; that many were killed in the open Fields without any legal Process; the merciless Soldiers were both their Judges and Executioners. This Torrent of Blood was opened in the Martyrdom of the noble Marquis of Argyle, May 27th, and of the worthy Mr. James Guthry five Days thereafter in the Year 1661, when the Parliament was razing Scotland’s Covenanted Reformation, and planting the Tree of Prelacy and arbitrary Power. This cursed Tree behoved to be soak’d with the noble Blood of an excellent Patriot, a staunch Presbyterian, a vigorous Asserter of Scotland’s Liberties, and with the Blood of an eminent and faithful Minister of Jesus Christ; and much bitter and bloody Fruit did this Tree of Prelacy bear, in the Sufferings unto Death of many excellent Persons of all Ranks, till the Beginning of the memorable Year 1688, when the Torrent stopt in the Death of Mr. James Renwick. The principal Articles of his Indictment, and for which he suffered, were his affirming, That the Duke of York, then King James VII. was not rightful nor lawful King of these Realms, and that because he was a Papist, had never sworn the Coronation-Oath, and was overthrowing the fundamental Laws of the Kingdom; also his affirming and defending the Lawfulness of defensive Arms, both for our Civil and Religious Liberties: These Principles were espoused by this Church ever since our Reformation from Popery, and were justified by all the three Nations at the Revolution. Thus, in our Skirts is found the Blood of the Saints who suffered during this dismal Period; and, if the ordinary Course of Divine Procedure is observed, all Ranks in Scotland have
have Reason to fear, that a Land, defiled with Perjury and Blood, must be punished by Blood; especially when these heinous Abominations have never been duly nor seriously considered nor mourned over, Lev. 26. 25. 2 Kings 24. 3, 4.

X. When Apostasy and Defection had come to such a prodigious Height, as is already mentioned, the whole Protestant Interest in the three Nations was brought into the greatest Danger, by the Accession of the Duke of York unto the Throne, after the Death of his Brother Charles II. Anno 1685. He openly profess'd and declared himself a Papist, and the Representatives of the Nation, without requiring the Coronation-oath, being met in Parliament, make a Declaration and Offer of Duty unto this Papish Prince, wherein they own his absolute Power and Authority, and promise him Obedience without Reserve. In Consequence whereof, tho' the Parliament, that met the following Year, refused to rescind the penal Statutes against Papists, yet this Papish Prince did most tyrannically abrogate and pull down these Hedges of the Reformation, by virtue of his usurped Supremacy and absolute Power; first in his Letter to the Privy Council, dated August 21st 1686, wherein, by his Power paramount to the Law, he declares his Resolution to protect his Catholic Subjects, and allows them the free Exercise of their Religion in their Houses, and appoints the Royal Chapel at Holy-rood-house to be fitted up for Papish Worship; whereupon the Land was immediately filled with Swarms of Papish Priests, and a Papish School is erected at Holy-rood-house for corrupting the Youth: And then, by his Proclamation, February 12th 1687, he does, by his Prerogative-royal, sovereign Authority and absolute Power, suspend all penal Laws against Papists; where- in also there is a Liberty granted to these whom he calls moderate Presbyterians, but it is under such severe Restrictions, and so manifestly in Connection with the Toleration of Popery (for which indeed it was chiefly designed) that none of the Presbyterians took the
the Benefit of it. When several began to be alarmed at such an open and violent Attack upon the Reformation, wherein such large Favours were granted to the Papists, not only as to the Exercise of their Religion, but also capacitating them to enjoy Places of Power and Trust, that this Toleration was too bare-fac’d for Presbyterians to fall in with; therefore, that the main Design of introducing Popery might be the better coloured, and the Reformation more effectually (tho’ less sensibly) unhinged, there comes down a second Form of a Toleration, in a Proclamation dated June 28th that same Year, conceived indeed in more general Terms, but of the same Nature and Import with the former: Therein it is declared, That the Archbishops and Bishops, and all Subjects of the Protestant Religion, are to be defended in the free Exercise of their Protestant Religion, as by Law established; and likewise, by virtue of the Prorogative and absolute Power, all penal and sanguinary Laws, made against any for Non-conformity to the Religion established by Law, or the Exercise of their respective Religions, Rites and Ceremonies, are stopt, suspended and disabled; and a Liberty is granted to all the Subjects to meet and serve God in their own Way and Manner, in private Houses, Chapels, or Places hired or built for the Purpose; providing nothing be preached or taught that may any ways tend to alienate the Hearts of the People from the Government; and Field-meetings are still discharged under the severest Penalties. It is evident from the abrogating of the penal Statutes in this, as well as in the former Proclamation, that this boundless Toleration was calculated chiefly in favour of the Papists, as well as the former, altho’ they be not expressely named in it; and yet all the Presbyterian Ministers in the Kingdom (excepting a very few) not only accepted the Benefit of it, but also a considerable Body of them, met at Edinburgh, did send an Address of Thanks for the said Toleration, dated July 21st 1687, and subscribed in their own Name, and
in the Name of the rest of the Brethren of their Perswa&ion, wherein they offer their humble and hearty Thanks to that Popish Prince, and blees the great God, who put it in his Heart to grant them the said Liberty, which they call a gracious and surprizing Favour; withal promising (in Obedience to the above Proclamation) an entire Loyalty in their Doctrine and Practice consonant to their known Principles contained in the Confession of Faith) and also beseeching, that these who promote any disloyal Principles or Practices (as they disown them) may be looks upon as none of theirs, whatever Name they may assume to themselves.

The above boundless and illimited Toleration was, no doubt, contrary to the Principles of the Church of Scotland, contained in her Confession of Faith and Larger Catechism. The Design of the Granter, and the Tendency of the Liberty granted, was the Introduction of Popery and Slavery; its Conveyance was from the King's absolute Power, which all were required to obey without Reserve, suspending and disabling all the penal Statutes against Papists, whereby all the legal Bulwarks of the Protestant Religion against Popery were undermined and overthrown: Likewise the particular Provifo above mentioned, "That nothing should be preach'd or taught, which 'might any way tend to alienate the Hearts of the "People from him, or his Government;" i.e. in plain Terms, That no doctrinal Testimony should be emitted against a Popish Prince, and his arbitrary Government, overturning the very Foundations of our Civil as well as Religious Liberties; was a most sinful and unwarrantable, and, in the present Juncture, a most dangerous Restriction and Limitation upon Ministers in the Exercise of their Ministry. From all which it is plain, that the Acceptance of this Toleration, conveyed after the above Manner, with such an Address of Thanks for it, and without any publick joint Testimony against the Evils contain'd in it (except that which was offered by Mr. Renwick, and the few that adhered to him) was not only flum-
bling to many, but became one of our publick national Sins.

The above-mentioned particulars are some instances of the Beginning, Progress and Height of the Backsliding and Defection of all Ranks of Persons, between the Years 1650 and 1688, from a glorious Reformation formerly attained unto; whereby a reformed Land, a Land of Light, and under the most solemn Engagements to the Lord, became a Land of Perjury and Blood, and was filled with Sin against the Holy One of Israel. Wherefore,

The Ministers associate together, being met in Presbytery, judge it their Duty to testify and bear Witness against all these hainous Sins and Abominations; and They did, and hereby do, condemn all these several Sins, Backslidings and Steps of Defection from our Covenanted Reformation above-mentioned, for the particular Reasons and Grounds above condescended upon; and all other Acts and Deeds, in so far as connected with, and supporting, the above Steps of Defection, as contrary to the Word of God, and inconsistent with the Covenanted Principles of this Church founded thereon. And they hereby declare, That they were and are just Causes of the Lord's righteous Quarrel and Controversy with our Princes, our Nobles, Barons, Burgessefs, Ministers and Commons of all Sorts in the Land; and that, for the above hainous Sins and Provocations, all Ranks of Persons have Reason to mourn before the Lord, left by their continued and growing Impenitency and Obdurance, a righteous and holy God be provoked to come out of his holy Habitation, and visit the Iniquities of our Fathers upon us in this Generation, who are many Ways serving ourselves Heirs unto their Sins and Backslidings; as will appear from the Instances afterwards to be given.

This Church and Land having grown'd under the Yoke of arbitrary Government, and a hot Persecution for the Space of about 28 Years; the Lord was graciously pleased to break the Yoke from off our Necks, by a glorious and surprising Appearance for
us at the Revolution, in the latter End of the Year 1688, whereof the Prince of Orange was the happy Instrument, who was afterwards proclaimed King, to the Joy and Satisfaction of all such as had a just Sense of the Worth and Value of their Liberties, Religious and Civil: Wherefore this Presbytery judge it their Duty, to commemorate with Thankfulness the Divine Power and Goodness manifested in this wonderful Work, whereby all the Three Nations were rescued from Popery and Slavery. This Deliverance was seasonable as to the Juncture, and surprising as to the Manner in which it was given: It was brought about at a Time, when the Designs were open and declared for bringing this Land under Antichristian Idolatry and Darkness, when Papists were advanced to the most considerable Posts, when the penal Statutes against them were abrogated by a absolute dispensing Power, assum'd and usurp'd by a Popish Tyrant, supported by a numerous Army, and at a Time when the whole Land was couching under these grievous Burdens: Neither was it our own Sword or our own Bow, but the Right-hand of the Lord and his holy Arm, that wrought Salvation for us. It might have been justly expected, upon the Back of such a remarkable and great Appearance of God, that former Iniquities and Backslidings should have been particularly acknowledged, and the House of God purged, and that Reformation-work should have been advanced and carried on, after the Example and Practice of former reforming Periods: But, instead of this, our Transgressions are multiplied, new Sins and Backslidings are added to our former Trespasses and Defections; Forty Years and upwards have we in this Generation grieved the Lord in the Wilderness; we have sinned with our Fathers, and have not understood his Wonders, nor remembred the Multitude of his Mercies, tho' he saved us for his Name's Sake, that he might make his mighty Power to be known; we have forgot his Works, and have not waited for his Counsel; and, in following Counsels of Flesh and Blood, we have
have declined gradually from him, until our Apo-

thesis and Defection in the present Age is come to an

Height, in some particular Instances that were not

known in former Times.

I. When the Parliament of Scotland met immedi-

ately after the Revolution, in the first Session they abo-

lished Prelacy, as a great and insupportable Grievance

to this Nation, and contrary to the Inclination of the Ge-

nerality of the People ever since the Reformation, they

having reformed from Popery by Presbyteries: And in

the second Session of the same Parliament, Anno 1690,

Presbyterian Church Government and Discipline is esta-

blished and ratified, according to the Civil Rati-

fication and Establishment given unto the Government of

this Church Anno 1592. Thus a retrograde Motion is

made near an hundred Years backward; and all the le-

gal Securities given to this Church, in that Coven-

ancing Period from 1638 to 1650, are overlook'd and

pas'd by. Likewise all the Acts of the first Session

of the first Parliament of King Charles II. toge-

ther with the infamous Act Rescissory (Anno 1661)

whereby a Covenanted Reformation was razed, and

the Acts and Deeds of that Covenancing Period were

declared seditious and treasonable, are left untouched

in this above-mentioned Settlement. Prelacy is never

considered as contrary to the Word of God, and abjured

by our Covenants: nor our Presbyterian Church Go-

vernment and Discipline, as what the Land is bound

and obliged to maintain by the most solemn Oaths

and Covenants: The Indignities done to the National

and Solemn League and Covenant, and consequently

to the most high God, the great Party in them, are

never regarded; but these Solemn Oaths and Coven-

ants are left buried under an Act Rescissory, and o-

ther Acts and Deeds subversive of them. If this

Nation, when an Opportunity and Season was given

them, and when the Lord gave such a remarkable

and wonderful Deliverance unto them, did not resist

the Indignities and Injuries done in the former Per-

iod to the great God, whose awful and holy Name

was
was interposed in these solemn Oaths and Covenants; it is a righteous, just and holy Dispensation of Providence, that we should be no more a Nation; and that our Noblemen, Barons and Burgesses, who had such a Golden Season and Opportunity put into their Hands for honouring God, and doing Justice to that great Name which was abused and profaned in such a dreadful and unparallelled Manner, should for ever be deprived of the Opportunity of acting by themselves in a Parliamentary Capacity. Likewise, by the same Parliament, the Oath of Allegiance to the Sovereign is appointed to be sworn, "In Place of any other " Oaths imposed by Laws and Acts of preceding " Parliaments." Tho' it may be said, that this has a Respect to the Oaths imposed during the persecuting Period, yet the Terms in which the Act is conceived appear plainly to exclude the Oath of the Covenant, which contained a very solemn Test of Allegiance to the Sovereign; especially when it is considered, that the above-mentioned Act Revisory was not repealed, and also that the Draught of an Act for excluding such as had a Share in the Oppressions of the former Period, from Places of publack Trust, was laid aside, after it was twice read in Parliament: Hence such were admitted into Places of publack Trust and Power, as were both in Principle and Practice opposite to a Covenanted Reformation. Thus after our great Deliverance, we mingled ourselves again with these, and learn'd of them their Ways.

II. The first General Assembly of this Church after the Revolution did sit down Anno 1690, under the Shadow of the above Civil Establishment, and never reclaimed against what was defective in the same, but kept Measures with the State in their several Acts and Deeds at that Juncture. It is not here intended to detract from that Respect that is due to the Memory of these worthy Ministers, and others, who came out of the Furnace of a hot Persecution, and did bear a Part in our first General Assemblies after
after the Revolution; yet it is necessary, both for the Sake of the present as well as succeeding Generations, to mention some considerable Omissions, of which Ministers and many others have complained, and which cannot be otherwise look'd upon, than as standing Grounds and Causes of the Lord's Displeasure and Controversy with us, and as one of the Springs of the many Evils which have since that Time betaken this Church and Land. It was the laudable Practice in Reforming Times to condemn all Steps of Defection, and duly to cenfure such as were guilty of publick Backsliding: Accordingly, by the Assembly that met Anno 1638, all the Prelates, being Ring-leaders in the Apostasy, were deposed, and some of them excommunicate; also, in the said Reforming Period, they returned to the Lord, by a particular Acknowledgment and Confession of the Sins of the Ministry, and of the whole Land, and by renewing their solemn Covenant-engagements. But the General Assembly that met in the Year 1690 made no particular Acknowledgment of the many hainous Backslidings of the former Period; but on the contrary, when many lamentable Steps of Defection and Apostasy were complained of in a large Paper offered to the foresaid Assembly 1690, by Mr. Alexander Shields and other two Ministers, the said Assembly was so far from attempting the Redres of these Grievances, that they approve the Report of their Committee of Overtures, calling them "Unseasonable and impracticable Proposals, uncharitable and injurious Reflections, tending rather to kindle Contentions than to compose Divisions." And tho' many iniquous and blasphemous Statutes were made in the two persecuting Reigns for dethroning the glorious Redeemer, and pulling the Crown which he should alone wear from his Royal Head; yet the Assembly 1690 did not assert the Divine Right of Presbytery, and the intrin fick Power of the Church, which are two special Branches of his glorious Headship in and over:  

1 1690.
the fame: And that Power and Authority given by
the Lord Jesus to the Office-bearers of his House, to
hold their Meetings in his Name, was not steadfastly
adhered unto, in regard, that tho' the King's Com-
missoner dissolved the Assembly 1692, and tho' their
Meetings were adjourned from Time to Time by the
King's Proclamation till the Year 1694; yet there
is not any standing Testimony against such sinful In-
croachments upon the Rights and Liberties of Christ's
Spiritual Kingdom. And neither the foresaid Assem-
bley 1690, nor any of the Assemblies of the Church
since that Time, did by any one formal Act or Sta-
tute explicitly and judicially condemn the sacrile-
gious Usurpation of his Royal Dignity, by that bla-
sphemous Supremacy arrogated during that bloody
Period; nor asserted him to be, what he really is,
*The alone supreme Head and King over his Church, as
his free and independent Kingdom.* It is true indeed,
that the Assembly 1690, in their Act appointing a
National Fast, own, "That the Supremacy was ad-
anced (viz. in the preceding Reigns) in such a
Way, and to such a Height, as never any Christian
Church acknowledged." Yet they do not abso-
lutely condemn that usurped Supremacy, nor ex-
presly assert the Headship and Sovereignty of Christ,
in Opposition to the bold and daring Invasion made u-
on it in the late Times of lamentable Defection and
grievous Persecution. Further, they did not ex-
presly approve the Covenanted Reformation of this
Church attained unto from the Year 1638 to 1650; Nor did they justify the Wrestlings, Testimonies and
Sufferings of the Lord's Remnant in the late persecu-
ting Times, for the fame; Nor has the Obligation of
our Covenants, National and Solemn League, and their
binding Force upon Posterity, ever been expressly af-
ferted by any particular Act of Assembly since the
Revolution; Nor has the Solemn League and Cove-
nant been expressly named in any of the Grounds of
National Fastings since that Time; Tho' both these
might have been expected, considering how these
Covenants
Covenants were so openly violate, and ignominiously burnt, in the former Period. Also the above-mentioned sinful and Conscience-hardning Oaths, Bonds and Declarations, whereby Christ was sacrilegiously robb'd of his Royal Crown and Dignity, his Servants oppressed, by some of which the Nation gave up with their valuable Civil Liberties as well as their Religious Privileges, and by every one of which the Land was involved in the dreadful Sin and Guilt of Perjury; yet these Bonds and Oaths were never expressly and particularly condemned and mourned over: Neither has the Subversion of our Covenanted Reformation, by these Parliamentary Deeds, which laid a Foundation for the Tyranny and Bloodshed which followed thereupon, been particularly acknowledged in any of our Acts appointing National Fasts since the Revolution: Neither have such as made Defection been duly censured; but, on the contrary, the Index of the unprinted Acts of Assembly 1690 bears a publick Declaration by the Moderator. "That the Assembly would depose no Incumbents "simply for their Judgment anent the Government "of the Church;" That is, they declare, That the perfidious Prelates and their Underlings were not to be deposed for their treacherous Defection from the Covenanted Principles of this Church: And, in a Consistency with this Declaration, the Assembly 1694 * enjoin their Commission (as several Assemblies afterwards did) "To receive into Minis-
ters, as, having qualified themselves according to "Law, shall subscribe the Formula," which was then framed for them; whereby they were not bound to acknowledge that Presbyterian Government is founded on the Word of God, but only, "That the "Church-government, as now settled by Law, is "the only Government of this Church." Nor are Elders required to sign any other Formula to this Day. Upon the Signing of the above Formula, a great

* Act II. § 6.
great many Prelatical Ministers and Elders were admitted into the Bosphor of the Church, and had Access to fit in Judicatories, without requiring any Evidence of their Repentance, or Sorrow for their Hainous and Scandalous Defection; As will be evident from the Commission’s Address to Queen Anne, recorded Act 10th, Assembly 1711, wherein they have these Words; “We cannot but lay before your Majesty this pregnant Instance of our Moderation, That since our late happy Establishment there have been taken in, and continued, Hundreds of dissenting (i.e. Episcopal) Ministers upon the eafteft Terms.” When these Things are duly considered, and former Reformation Periods and this compared, what a vast Difference is there between the House of God in Scotland in its formcr Lufre and Glory, and the Fabric and Building as it was now reared up by Church and State at the Revolution! The above Practice, both of Church and State, is contrary to Scripture Pattern and Example, and the Practice of Reforming Times recorded there, 2 Chron. 34. 29. to the Close, Ezra 9 and 10 Chap. Neh. 9 and 10 Chap. Psal 178 and Psal 106. throughout.

III. Tho’ the above Omissions were frequently regretted by Ministers and others; yet it was still alleged, that the Land was no way ripe to return by solemn National Covenating to the Lord, and that it was not a proper Time and Season to be too particular in mentioning publick National Sins, and in condemning the gross Defeotions and hainous Backslidings of the former Period. Thus, when the present Season and Opportunity of necessary Duty was neglected, it came to be altogether lost; particularly when, by the Treaty of Union, we were brought under the more immediate Influence of our Neighbours in England, whose Principles as to Church Government and Discipline, and in several Points that concern the Worship of God, differ widely from ours. Our Covenant-Union with England, Anno 1643, was reckoned
reckoned the Honour and Glory of the Three Lands at that Time; it was an Union for carrying on and advancing a Work of Reformation in England and Ireland, according to the Word of God, and the Example of the best Reformed Churches: But, by the foresaid Treaty of Union, we were incorporate with them upon Terms sop posite unto, and inconsistent with our Covenant-Union; in regard the Maintenance and Preservation of the Doctrine, Worship, Government and Discipline of the Church of England is made a fundamental and essential Part of the Union of the Two Kingdoms. The Commission of the General Assembly that were met at that Time, being informed, That, in the Act of Ratification of the Articles of the Treaty of Union, which the Parliament of Scotland were about to pass, it was declared, That the Parliament of England might provide for the Security of the Church of England, as they should think expedient, to take Place within the Bounds of the Kingdom of England; Therefore the said Commission, in their Representation and Petition of the 16th of January 1707, given in to the Parliament, remonstrate against the foresaid Clause in the Act of Ratification, not only as putting a Blank in the Hands of the Parliament of England, to enact what they should think fit for securing the Hierarchy and Ceremonies of their Church; but also as a Consent on the Part of Scotland, that it be an Article and Fundamental of the Union, and as it is contained in the Ratification, implying a manifest Homologation of the said Hierarchy and Ceremonies: Therefore they crave, "That there may be no such Stipulation or Consent for the Establishment of the Hierarchy and Ceremonies, as they would not involve themselves and the Nation in Guilt, and as they would consult the Peace and Quiet of this Nation both in Church and State." But as the ensuing General Assembly only approved of the Proceedings of this Commission in common Form, without an express Approbation of their Conduct in this Parti-
Particular, tho' Matters of less Moment have sometimes been particularly noticed; so the Parliament of Scotland nowise regarded the foresaid Representation and Petition, having in their Act of Ratification given their Consent, That the Maintenance of the Hierarchy and Ceremonies in England should be a fundamental and essential Article of the Union. And tho' it was then alleged, That the said Union was the best Mean to secure our Religion and Liberties against the Attempts of a Popish Pretender and his Adherents; yet, as it was upon Terms contrary to our Covenant-Union, so we hereby declared our Confidence in an Arm of Flesh, and not in the living God, who had so often and so wonderfully saved us from our Enemies. And, upon all these Grounds and Reasons, the foresaid Union may be justly look'd upon as contrary to, and condemned by the Word of God, Jer. 2. 16, 17, 18, 36, 37. Ezek. 17. 15. Isa. 30. 1, 2, 3. Chap. 31. 1, 2, 3. Whereupon the said Union is become one of our publick National Sins; and from this Time, instead of making Progress in Reformation-Work, we have been declining and backsliding every Day, and have fallen under the Weight of such Grievances as shake the Foundation of our Presbyterian Church Government and Discipline. For,

IV. Among the more immediate bitter and sinful Fruits of the foresaid incorporating Union, the whole Nation was made to groan under the Weight of unnecessary, superfluous and sinful Oaths; and indeed, because of Swearing, to this very Day, the Land mourneth. How oft are the same Oaths repeated, even upon one and the same Day, to qualify Men to act in different Capacities? How often are Dealers in Candles and Leather obliged to swear? How do many of the trading Part of the Nation involve themselves in Perjury, by the ordinary Custom-house Oaths at the Entry of Ships? And how much Guilt do they bring upon themselves, and the whole Land, by running of Goods, and such like fraudulent Practices, which
are frequently attended with a very gross Profanation of the Lord's Day? How is the Name of God profaned, and the just Sense and Impression of the Importance, Weight and Solemnity of an Oath, and also the dreadful Guilt and Danger there is of rash and false Swearing, worn off the Spirits of many, by a frequent and unnecessary repetition of Oaths? Likewise a superstitious Form of Swearing was soon introduced among us from England, by laying the Hand upon, and kissing the Gospels; a very corrupt Innovation in that solemn Piece of Divine Worship, and contrary to Scripture Pattern, which alone should regulate us, as in every other Part, so in this solemn Act of Worship. Also the Sacramental Test, and Conformity to the Liturgy and Ceremonies of the Church of England, is required of the Members of this Church, while serving the Sovereign in England and Ireland. The Commission of the General Assembly, in their Petition to the Parliament of Scotland, November 8th 1706, represented, That this might prove of most dangerous Consequences to the Church; yet, in the Treaty of Union, there was no particular Provision made against it. The fatal and dangerous Consequences of the same are every Day more and more seen; Persons of all Ranks resorting to England, and conforming occasionally to the Liturgy and Ceremonies there; That Zeal and Concern manifested by this Church in former Times, for the Purity of Divine Institutions, is gradually decaying, it is daily languishing; and a nauseous Lukewarmness and detestable Indifference doth prevail among us, about the Worship, Government and Discipline of the Lord's House. Also, immediately after the Union, the Oath of Abjuration was imposed upon all Persons in publick Trust, both Civil and Military: This Oath was fram'd at first by the Parliament of England, and calculated for the Maintenance of their Constitution both in Church and State; and as the Commission, in their last-mentioned Address, observe, "It bears a Reference to some Acts of the English Parliament, wherein are
some Qualifications required in the Successor to
the Crown, (viz. That he should be of the
Communion of the Church of England, and shall
maintain the Church of England, as by Law esta-
blished) "which are not suitable to our Principles."
In all the above particular Instances, the whole
Land is more and more involved in Sin, Amos 8. 14.
Jer. 4. 2. Chap. 23. 10.

V. In the Year 1712, an almost boundless Toleration
is granted, by which the Government and Disci-
pline of this Church were exceedingly weakened, and
a wide Door was opened for Laxness in Principle,
which never fails to bring along with it Loofness in
Practice. This Toleration, as the then Commission of
the General Assembly observed in their Address to
Queen Anne, "Is such as gives a large Licence al-
most to all Error and Blasphemy, throws up all good
"Scandal and Ruin of the Christian Religion."
Tolerations of this Kind are contrary to the Word
Chap. 17. 12, 16, 17. and to the Principles of this
Church contain'd in Confession, Chap. 20. § 4. Chap.
23. § 3. and the Answer to the Question in the
Larger Catechism, What are the Sins forbidden in the
second Commandment? And the present was mainly
intended and designed for strengthening and sup-
porting a malignant and disaffected Party in
Scotland, who, ever since the Revolution, have
openly espoused the Cause and Interest of a Popish
Pretender, and whose Meetings to this Day are not
only Nurseries of Superstition, but Seminaries of Dis-
affection to our Sovereign King George, and the Prote-
fant Succession in his illustrious Family. As this
boundless Toleration is a Stroke and Judgment upon
this Church and Land, so the Growth of Error and
Superstition, the genuine Fruits and Effects of the
same, may be justly reckoned among the Causes of
the Lord's Wrath against sinful and backsliding
Scot-
Scotland. It deserves also to be noticed, that the English Liturgy and Ceremonies were never received, even by these of the Episcopal Denomination in Scotland, till after the late incorporating Union, when a Manner of Worship, never practised in Scotland, was set up in all the Corners of the Land.

Together with the said Act of Toleration, the above-mentioned Oath of Abjuration, which was at first required to be sworn (as is already observed) by all Persons in Civil and Military Trust, was now imposed upon the Ministers of this Church, which, beside the dismal Effects it produced in renting and breaking the Ministry among themselves, may be justly reckoned one of our publick National Sins; in so far as the united Constitution, directly opposite to our Covenant-union, is thereby homologate and sworn unto; and in regard the said Oath, together with the Allegiance, is substitute in the Room of our Solemn National Covenants, which contain the strictest Engagements of Duty to the Sovereign, a most solemn Renunciation of Popery, and consequently of all Popish Pretenders whatsoever.

VI. In the foreshaid Year 1712, the Right of Presentation to vacant Congregations claimed by Patrons was again restored unto them: Against this the Church of Scotland has always testified, as subversive of the Right of Election belonging to Christian Congregations by the Word of God, as in the Second Book of Discipline, Chap. 12. "The Liberty of the Election of Persons called to the Ecclesiastical Functions, and observed without Interruption so long as the Kirk was not corrupted by Antichrist, we desire to be restored and retained within this Realm; so that none be intruded upon any Congregation, either by the Prince or any inferior Person, without lawful Election, and the Assent of the People over whom the Person is placed; as the Practice of the Apostolical and Primitive Kirk and good Order crave." As the Act of Parliament restoring the Right of Presentation.
tion to Patrons, was a heavy Stroke upon this Church; for the Countenance that has been given unto this Antichristian Ufsurpation by the present Judicatories of the Church, in the Settlement of Ministers upon Presentations from Patrons, over reclaiming and dissenting Congregations, is one of the Sins and Corruptions of the present Time, whereby the Lord Jesus, the only Lord and Lawgiver to his Church, is dishonoured, and his Heritage wounded, scattered and broken, as may be afterwards more particularly considered.

VII. Besides the Toleration and Patronage Acts, Countenance is given by Authority of Parliament to the Observation of Holy-days in Scotland, by the Vacation of our most considerable Courts of Justice in the latter End of December. This superflitious Practice was condemned by the Acts and Constitutions of this Church, and declared by the General Assembly that met at Glasgow Anno 1638, to be abjured by the National Covenant.

These are some Instances of the gradual Declinings of this Church and Land from Reformation-purity, that did take Place between that remarkable and wonderful Appearance of Divine Providence in the Year 1688, and the Accession of our late Sovereign King George to the Throne. Therefore this Presbytery judge it their Duty to condemn, like as they hereby do condemn, all the foresaid Steps of Defection, for the several Grounds and Reasons above condemned upon, as contrary to the Word of God and our solemn Covenant-engagements: And they hereby declare, that they are National Sins, and every one of them may be justly reckoned among the Grounds and Causes of the Lord's Indignation and Controversy with us, for which all Ranks of Persons have Reason to be deeply humbled before the Lord.

Tho', instead of making Progress in Reformation-work, many valuable Pieces of Reformation, once attained unto by this Church and Land, were not only neglected, but upon the Matter given up at
the Revolution; and tho', instead of holding fast what was then attained unto, the Church of Scotland did lose Ground, and was involv'd in new Steps of Declining and Backsliding; and at the same Time, tho' a malignant and disaffected Party were unweary'd in their Plots and Projects to destroy any good Work the Lord had wrought for us by the Revolution: Yet the Lord, whose Name is Gracious, and Merciful, Long-suffering, and Slow to Anger, dealt not with us according to the Desert of our Sins, but, under many frowning and wrath-like Dispositions of Providence, remembred Mercy, and saved us from our Enemies, and put them to Shame that hated us. Therefore, among the many remarkable Appearances of God for his Church and People in this Land, this Presbytery judge it their Duty to commemorate and record with Thankfulness, the Deliverance from threatened Ruin that was brought about by the Right-hand of the Lord in the Years 1714 and 1715; when in the latter End of Queen Anne's Reign, thick and dark Clouds covered us, and when it was evident that Designs were not only formed, but very far advanced, for placing a Popish Pretender upon the Throne of these Realms; which, if they had taken Place, would have brought the Three Nations back into the same miserable Circumstances in which they were immediately before the Revolution: But the Lord was graciously pleased to scatter the Clouds, and to disappoint those Projects, by the Seasonable Accession of our late Sovereign King George to the Throne. This was like another Revolution, brought about by his immediate Hand, who cuts off the Spirit of Princes, and appears terrible to the Kings of the Earth. No sooner was this Deliverance given us, than an unnatural Rebellion broke forth in our Bowels; the Interests of a Popish Pretender were openly espoused, and a Banner was displayed against the Revolution-interest, our Sovereign King George, and the Protestant Succession in his Royal Family, and that by a Set of Men in this Land for whose Sake the Toleration above-mentioned
tioned was granted, and who were always declared Enemies to Scotland's Covenanted Reformation; But the Lord was graciously pleased to break their Measures, to pour Shame and Contempt upon our Enemies, and to turn War into Peace in all our Borders.

When the Hand of the Lord was so remarkably seen in working manifold Deliverances for us, it might have been expected that something should have been done for carrying on Reformation-work: What could have been done more for his Vineyard in Scotland, than what he has done? and yet, when he looked that we should have brought forth Grapes, we have brought forth wild Grapes. Since this last Deliverance, we have not only fallen asleep, as if we had no Enemy to fear, but as if we had been delivered to add Iniquity to our former Trespasses; Corruption in Principle and Practice is come to a greater Height in several Instances in this present Age, than in any Period since our Reformation from Popery; damnable and pernicious Principles are propagate, which have a Tendency to raze the Grounds and Foundations of our Christian Faith: Arian Blasphemies and Arminian Errors have been vented in one of our most considerable Seminaries of Learning, where the Youth are trained up for the Holy Ministry; serious Godliness, and the supernatural Work of the Spirit of God upon the Souls of Men in their Effectual Calling, have been treated, even from the Presfs, and otherwise, in a very ludicrous Manner; and yet the Standard of a faithful Testimony, against the prevailing Errors of the Time, has not been lifted up by the Judicatories of the Church. A Form of Godliness, a Shadow of Religion, takes Place of the Power and Life thereof thro' the Land; The Keys of Government and Discipline committed to the Office-bearers of the Church by her glorious Head, for the Edification of his Body, and preserving his Institutions in their Purity, for purging the House of God of unsound Ministers and Members, for removing of the Offences whereby the Flock of Christ may
may be hurt or stumbled, and for the Maintenance of the Liberties wherewith Christ hath made his People free, have been perverted to quite opposite Ends; the Power of Religion is daily decaying among us, and the very Form of it is despised by many, and by others it is rested upon. But as it is necessary to give some particular Instances of the Progress and Height of the present Defection and Backsliding, so this Presbytery judge it their Duty to condescend upon the following:

I. A Scheme of pernicious and dangerous Principles has been vented by Mr. John Simson Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow; as is evident from the several Processses that have been carried on against him.

[1.] When he was proceeded before the Judicatures of this Church, in the Years 1714, 1715 and 1616, the following dangerous Errors are owned and defended by him, in his Answers to the Libel given in to the Presbytery of Glasgow against him, by the Reverend Mr. James Webster late Minister of the Gospel at Edinburgh. (1.) That by the Light of Nature, and the Works of Creation and Providence, including Tradition, God has given an obscure objective Revelation to all Men, of his being reconcilable to Sinners; and that the Heathen may know that there is a Remedy for Sin provided, which may be called an implicit and obscure Revelation of the Gospel; and that it is probable none are excluded from the Benefit of the Remedy for Sin provided by God, and published twice to the whole World, except those who, by their actual Sin exclude themselves, and slight and reject the clearer Light of the Gospel revealed to the Church, or that obscure Discovery, and Offer of Grace made to all without the Church (a): And that, if the Heathen would in Sincerity and Truth, and in the diligent Use of Means that Providence lays to their Hand, seek from God the Knowledge of the Way of Reconciliation, necessary for their

(a) Answers to Mr. Webster's Libel, p. 77, 78, 79, 115.
their acceptable serving of him, and being saved by him) he would discover it to them, (b). Likewise he affirms, That there are Means appointed of God for obtaining saving Grace, which Means, when diligently used with Serioufulness, Sincerity and Faith of being heard, God has promised to bless with Success; and the going about these Means in the foresaid Manner, is not above the Reach of our natural Ability and Power (c). All these Propositions are directly contrary to the Doctrine held forth from the Word of God in our Confession of Faith; particularly Chap. 1. § 1. where, according to the Scriptures cited, we are taught that, “Altho’ the Light of Nature, and the Works of Creation and Providence, do so far manifest the Goodness, Wisdom and Power of God, as to leave Men inexcusable; yet they are not sufficient to give that Knowledge of God, and of his Will, which is necessary unto Salvation.” Whereas, by the above Propositions, Mr. Simson affirms, That the End and Design of Natural Religion is, not only to leave Men inexcusable, but that thereby an obscure Offer of Grace is given them, and an implicite Revelation of the Gospel made unto them; and that the Benefit of the Remedy provided for Sin extends to all without the Church, who do not flight and reject this obscure Discovery and Offer of Grace: And therefore this obscure Revelation and Offer of Grace is such as lays a Foundation for the Heathen, in the diligent Use of the Means which Providence lays to their Hands, their seeking in Sincerity and Truth the Knowledge of the Way of Reconciliation; whereby some kind of Sufficiency is given to Natural Religion, yea, such a Sufficiency, as lays a Foundation and Ground for Hope and Confidence towards God, for obtaining some way or other Reconciliation to him, and consequently eternal Salvation; contrary to Eph. 2. 12. where the whole Heathen World are declared to be without God and without Hope. And, whatever Advantages the Heathen may be sup-

(b): p. 85.  (c) Ibid. p. 216,
posed to have by Tradition, yet the Apostle testifies:
That the World by Wisdom knew not God; and they
were so far from seeking after the Knowledge of the
Way of Reconciliation, that when it was published
unto them by the Gospel, they rejected the same as
Foolishness, and not agreeable to their carnal Rea-
sonings, 1 Cor. 1. 21, 25. Isa. 65. 1. with Rom. 10.
20. Besides, by the above Propositions, Mens na-
tural Powers and Abilities, whether they be within
or without the Church, are exalted to the Dishonour
of God, to the Disparagement of his sovereign and
efficacious Grace, and in direct Contrariety to that
miserable State and Condition into which all Mankind
are brought by their Apostasy from God in the first
Adam, being dead in Trespasses and Sins, under the
Power of spiritual Darkness, and not only Enemies to
God, but by Nature Enmity against him; as is held
forth from the Scriptures in our Confession of Faith,
Chap. 9. § 3. "Man, by his Fall into a State of Sin,
"hath wholly lost all Ability of Will to any spiritual
"Good accompanying Salvation; so as a natural
"Man, being altogether averse from that Good, and
"dead in Sin, is not able by his own Strength to
"convert himself, or to prepare himself thereto."
The above Propositions, concerning Man's Powers
and Abilities in a natural State, are more dangerous,
when it is considered, that Mr. Simson rejects the or-
dinary Answer given by our orthodox Divines to a
Pelagian Objection, viz. That it is unjust in God to
command what we have no Power to perform. All Re-
formed Divines make Answer, that we had sufficient
Power and Ability in Adam, but have lost it by our
Fall; and tho' we have lost Power to obey, yet God
has a just Right to command. This Answer Mr. Sim-
son rejects as no way sufficient, and substitutes what
is contained in the above Propositions in the Room
of it, Answers, p. 210, &c. whereby, instead of re-
moving the Objection, he gives up the Cause of
Truth to the Pelagians and Arminians, to the Dishon-
nour of God, and hardning of these gross Perver-
tes
ters of the Truth, and to the subverting and pois-
ning of those with whom he was intrusted to train
up for the holy Ministry. (2.) The said Mr. Sim-
fon maintains and defends, That there was no proper
Covenant made with Adam for himself, and his Po-
sterity (d): That Adam was not a federal Head to his
Posterity (e); and that if Adam was made a federal
Head, it must be by Divine Command, which is not
found in the Bible (f). The above Propositions are
contrary to the Doctrine held forth from the Word
of God, in our Confession, Chap. 6. § 3. Chap. 7.
§ 2. and the Answer to the Question in the Larger
and Shorter Catechisms; Did all Mankind fall in
Adam's first Transgression? The above gross and er-
roneous Propositions are the Foundation and Ground
of a Chain of Principles connected with them, where-
by the Reformed Doctrine contained in our Confession
of Faith is undermined and overturned; for, by the
Denial of the federal Representation, the proper Im-
putation of Adam's first Sin falls to the Ground: And
tho' the Professor pretends to maintain the Imputa-
tion of Adam's first Sin, from the Sanction of the
Law, yet his Reasoning amounts to no more than
that his Posterity are punished for the same. When
Adam's federal Representation of his Posterity is dis-
owned, his first Sin can no more be called theirs, than
the Sins of their immediate Parents. That this pro-
per Imputation of Adam's first Sin is denied by him,
will further appear from the following gross and dan-
gerous Propositions which he maintains and defends.
For, (3.) He affirms, That it is inconsistent with the
Justice and Goodness of God to create a Soul without
Original Righteousness, or any Disposition to Good (g);
and that the Souls of Infants since the Fall, as they
come from the Hands of their Creator, are as pure and
holy, as the Souls of Infants would have been created,
supposing Man had not fallen; and that they are created
as pure and holy as Adam's was, except as to these

(d) Answers, p. 166. (e) p. 174. (f) p. 176. (g) p. 225.
Qualifications and Habits which he received, as being created in an adult State (h). These Propositions are directly contrary to the Doctrine held forth from the Word of God in our Confession, Chap. 6. § 2, 3, 4. And the Answer to the Question in the Larger and Shorter Catechisms; Wherein consists the Sinfulness of that Estate whereinto Man fell? And the Answer to the Question in the Larger Catechism; How is Original Sin conveyed from our first Parents to their Posterity? (4) Mr. Simson also affirms and defends, That 'tis probable, that, of the whole Race of Mankind, more are elected and saved, than reprobated and damned (i). He owns, that of the adult, or these come to Years, it is plain from Scripture, that the most Part are neither elected nor saved: But, that he may account for the Number of the Elect and Saved, he afferts, That it is more than probable that baptised Infants, dying in Infancy, are all saved (k); and that it is manifest, if God should deny his saving Grace to all, or any of the Children of Infidels, he would deal more severally with them than he did with the fallen Angels (l). By the above Propositions, Mr. Simson judges it probable, that all Infants dying in Infancy are included in the Decree of Election; which is very agreeable to the Arminian Scheme, which teacheth, That the Decree of Election is influenced from foreseen Conditions and Qualifications in the Creature; but contrary to the Doctrine held forth from the Word of God in our Confession, Chap. 3. § 5.

"Those of Mankind that are predestinated unto Life, God, before the Foundation of the World was laid, according to his eternal and immutable Purpose, and the secret Counsel and good Pleasure of his Will, hath chosen in Christ unto everlasting Glory, out of his mere Grace and Love, without any Foresight of Faith or good Works, or Perseverance in either of them, or any other Thing in the Creature, as Conditions or Causes I 2."

moving him thereto, and all to the Praise of his
glorious Grace;" and consequently without any
Regard unto their Infant or adult State. It is plain
from the Scriptures, that God hath chosen some of
Mankind to eternal Life, out of his mere good Plea-
sure allenarly, Rom. 9. 11. For the Children being not
yet born, neither having done Good or Evil, that the Pur-
pose of God according to Election might stand, not of
Works, but of him that calleth. V. 13. As it is writ-
ten, Jacob have I loved, and Esau have I hated. Be-
sides, by the above Propositions, he maintains the Cer-
tainty of the Salvation of all Infants, when he challen-
geth his Maker with exercising greater Severity towards
them, in case he should deny his saving Grace to any of
them, than is exercised towards the fallen Angels;
especially when this is compared with his other Pro-
position, noticed above, That none are excluded from
the Benefit of the Remedy for Sin provided, but these who
by their actual Sins exclude themselves. All these Pro-
positions have an evident Tendency to lead Men to
low Thoughts of the Evil and Desert of Original Sin
imputed and inherent, if it is true that there is no
Ground to fear the Damnation of any upon the Ac-
count of this Sin, tho' it is the bitter Fountain and
Spring of all our actual Transgressions, and makes us
Children of Wrath by Nature: According to the Doc-
trine held forth from the Word of God in our Con-
fession, Chap. 6. § 6. "Every Sin, both Original
and Actual, being a Transgression of the righte-
ous Law of God, and contrary thereto, doth in
its own Nature bring Guilt upon the Sinner; where-
by he is bound over to the Wrath of God, and
Curse of the Law, and so made subject to Death,
with all Miseries Spiritual, Temporal and Eternal."
Mr. Simson likewise impugns the immediate pre-
vious Divine Concours with all the Actions of the
reasonable Creature, and in Place thereof affirms,
That God may determine infallibly all the Actions of
reasonable Creatures, that are not above their natural
Powers, and are not contrary to their natural Inclina-
tions and Dispositions, by placing them in such Circum-
sstances
stances, by which they have a certain Series and Train of Motives laid before them, by which they may infal-
libly, yet freely, produce such a Series of Actions, as
he has decreed: And this (says he) may be sufficient
for ascertaining all the Events of sinful Actions, and of
the ordinary natural and civil Actions of Men (m). It
is true, the Providence of God is a great Depth, his
Ways are unsearchable, and his Judgments past finding
out: The Terms that have been used by Reformed Di-
vines, in explaining the Doctrine of Providence, some
of them are not in our Confeffion, being nowife adapt-
ed to vulgar Capacities; yet the immediate Divine Con-
course with all the Actions of the reasonable Cre-
ture, has been affirmed and maintained by Reformed
Divines in Opposition to Jesuites and Arminians,
and is necessary for maintaining and ascertaining the
absolute Dominion of God over the free Actions
of reasonable Creatures, and their immediate Depen-
dence upon him in Motion and Action, as well as
in their Being, and Preservation in the same; where-
as the Way whereby Mr. Simfon explains the Di-
vine Providence about all the Actions of reasonable
Creatures, leaves the Creature independent in Motion
and Action upon the adorable Creator. Tho' some
of the ordinary Terms, that are used by Divines upon
this Subject, are not in our Confeffion of Faith; yet
the Doctrine of the immediate previous Divine Con-
course with all the Actions of the reasonable Cre-
ture, as it is explained by our Reformed Divines, is
plainly held forth therein from the Word of God,
Chap. 5. § 4. "The almighty Power, unsearchable
Wisdom, and infinite Goodness of God, so far ma-
nifest themselves in his Providence, that it exten-
deth itself even to the first Fall, and all other Sins
of Angels and Men; and that not by a bare Per-
mission, but such as hath joined with it a moft
wise and powerful bounding, and otherwise ordering
and governing of them in a manifold Dispensation
to his own holy Ends; yet so as the Sinfulnes
proceedeth only from the Creature, and not from
God, who, being most holy and righteous, neither
is, nor can be the Author or Approver of Sin.
And the Answer to the Question in the Larger and
Shorter Catechism, What are God's Works of Pro-
vidence? (6) Mr. Simson likewise affirms and main-
tains, That a Regard to our own Happiness, and the
Prospect of our eternal Felicity and Blessedness in the En-
joyment of God in Heaven, ought to be our chief Motive
in serving the Lord upon Earth (n). He also affirms, in
Answer to the first Question of the Catechism, That
our glorifying God, being the Means, is subordinate to
our Enjoyment of him for ever, which is our ultimate
End (o). And, That, were it not for the Prospect of
Happiness, we could not, and therefore would not serve
God (p). As Mr. Simson prevents the Doctrine held
forth from the Scriptures cited upon the Answer to the
first Question of our Larger and Shorter Cate-
chism, so as the Committee of the General Assembly
1727 very justly observe (State of the Process, p.
277.) "What is set forth in the above Article is con-
trary to the Instinct of that new Nature the Lord
endueth all his People with in Regeneration, which
makes them, by the further Influence of Grace,
desire to serve God for himself and his superemi-
nent Excellencies, and not merely or chiefly for
the Prospect of their own Happiness; whence it
is their greatest Burden that they cannot more
serve him for himself. And considering how much
all Men are bound to make the Glory of God
their chief End, tho' yet they are called herewith
to pursue Happiness; and likewise, that it is thro'
a prevailing Respect to God's Honour and Glory,
and not a mere or chief Respect to our own Happ-
iness, that the Difference between Nature and
Grace is to be cleared to the doubtful Christian;
Therefore,——— it is no small Dishonour to God,
to teach what is set down in the above Articles,

(n) Answers, p. 139,—155. (o) Ibid. p 149, (p) Ibid. p. 149.
and that the contrary was necessary to be taught."

(7.) Mr. Simpson also maintains and defends it as his Opinion, That there will be no Sinning in Hell after the last Judgment (q). This absurd Opinion is contrary to the Doctrine held forth in our Confession and Catechisms where, according to the Scriptures, we are taught," That Sin is any Want of Conformity " unto, or Transgression of, the Law of God." And since it is certain, that the Natures of the Damn'd in Hell were never renewed, they can have no Manner of Conformity to the Law of God; and from their corrupt and unrenewed Natures must necessarily flow the highest Enmity and Rage against the Justice and Holiness of God in punishing of them, which is expressed in Scripture by Gnashin of the Teeth, Mat. 8. 12.

[2.] By another Process against the said Mr. Simpson, begun before the Presbytery of Glasgow Anno 1726, and carried on before the Judicatories till the Assembly 1729 when it was concluded, the said Mr. Simpson was found guilty of many other gross and dangerous Errors, in regard it was found clearly proven, That, in teaching his Students, he had denied the Necessary Existence of our Lord Jesus Christ; and that he had affirmed, That his necessary Existence is a Thing we knew not; and that the Term Necessary Existence was impertinent, and not to be used when talking of the Trinity; and that the Three Persons of the Adorable Trinity are not to be said to be numerically One in Substance or Essence; and that the Terms, Necessary Existence, Supreme Deity, and the Title of the only true God, may be taken, and are by some Authors taken in a Sense that includes the personal Property of the Father, and so not belonging to the Son. By all which Propositions, the Supreme Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ the second Person of the Adorable Trinity, as also the Supreme Deity of the Holy Ghost our Comforter and Sanctifier, is blasphemously impugned and denied by the said Mr. Simpson, in direct Opposition to the

(q) Ibid. p. 233.
Scriptures of Truth, and the Doctrine held forth from them in our Confession of Faith, Chap. 2. § 1, 3. Chap. 8. § 2. Answer to the Question in the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, How many Persons are there in the Godhead? And Larger Catechism, Question 11. It deserves also to be observed, That some Hypotheses adopted by Mr. Simson, and which tend to attribute too much to natural Reason, are the very Spring of the above dangerous Errors vented and taught by him. In his second Letter to Mr. Rowan, he adopts the following Socinian Propositions, That Reason, as it is taken for evident Propositions naturally revealed, is the Principle or Foundation of Theology; and that nothing is to be admitted in Religion, but what is agreeable to Reason, and determined by Reason to be so. Altho' Mr. Simson pretends to disown these Propositions as they are maintain'd and explained by the Socinians, yet it is obvious from the plain Meaning of the Words, that the above Propositions, adopted by him, exalt Reason above Divine Revelation; contrary to the Doctrine held forth in our Confession of Faith, Chap. 1. § 10. "The Supreme Judge, by which all Controversies of Religion are to be determined, and all Decrees of Councils, Opinions of ancient Writers, Doctrines of Men and private Spirits are to be examined, and in whose Sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture." And contrary to the Answer to the second Question in the Larger and Shorter Catechism. Mr. Simson having once set Reason in the Chair, and exalted it to be Judge in Principles of Faith, it is no wonder that he rejects the Testimony of God in his own Word concerning the Covenant-headship and Representation of the first Adam, and the many sacred Truths that are connected with that important Article, and that he has maintained the other Errors charged against him in the first Process. From the same Source and Spring also, he was at length led to impugn and deny the Supreme Deity and Necessary Existence of him whose Name is, Won-

This Presbytery considering, That the Purity of Doctrine, maintained in this Church, is very much endangered by the above gross and pernicious Errors, and that many may be in Hazard of being taint with them in a Day wherein Atheism and Infidelity do so much abound: Therefore they did, and hereby do, upon the weighty Grounds and Reasons above-narrated, CONDEMN, as contrary to the Word of God, our Confession of Faith and Catechisms, the several Propositions above-mentioned, maintained and defended by Mr. Simfon, viz. Ratio, ut surnitur pro propositionibus naturaliter revelatis, est Principium seu fundamentum Theologia; and that nothing is to be admitted in Religion, but what is agreeable to Reason, and determined by Reason to be so; That by the Light of Nature, and Works of Creation and Providence, including Tradition, God hath given an obscure objective Revelation to all Men, of his being reconcilable to Sinners; and that the Heathen may know there is a Remedy for Sin provided, which may be called an implicit or obscure Revelation of the Gospel: That it is probable none are excluded from the Benefit of the Remedy for Sin provided by God, and published twice to the World, except those who by their actual Sins exclude themselves, and slight or reject either the clear Light of the Gospel revealed to the Church, or that obscure Discovery and Offer of Grace made to all without the Church: That if the Heathen, in the Use of the Means they have, would seek the Knowledge of the Way of Reconciliation, God would discover it to them: That there are Means appointed of God for obtaining saving Grace; which Means, when diligently used with Seriousness, Sincerity and Faith of being heard, God hath promised to bless with Success; and the going about these Means in the foresaid Manner, is not above the Reach of our natural Ability and Power: That there was not a proper Covenant made with Adam for himself and his Posterity: That Adam was not a federal Head to his Posterity; and that, if
Adam was made a federal Head, it must be by a Divine Command, which is not found in the Bible: That it is inconsistent with the Justice and Goodness of God, to create a Soul without Original Righteousness or Dispositions to Good: That the Souls of Infants since the Fall, as they came from the Hands of their Creator, are as pure and holy, as the Souls of Infants would have been created supposing Man had not fallen; and that they are created as pure and holy as Adam's was created, except as to those Qualifications and Habits, which he received, as being created in an adult State: That it is more than probable that all baptizd Infants, dying in Infancy, are saved; and that it is manifest, if God should deny his Grace to all, or any of the Children of Infidels, he would deal more severely with them than he did with the fallen Angels: That there is no immediate previous Divine Concourse with all the Actions of the reasonable Creature; and, That a Regard to our own Happiness, and the Prospect of our eternal Felicity and Blessedness in the Enjoyment of God in Heaven, ought to be our chief Motive in serving the Lord upon Earth; and, That our glorifying God, being the Means, is subordinate to our Enjoyment of him for ever, which is our ultimate End; and, That, were it not for the Prospect of Happiness, we could not, and therefore would not, serve God: That there will be no Sinning in Hell after the last Judgment. And the Presbytery hereby declare all these Propositions, vented and taught by the said Mr. Simfon, to be dangerous and pernicious Errors, dishonouring to a God of Truth, and having an evident Tendency to subvert the Souls of Men. As also, this Presbytery did, and hereby do, CONDEMN the several Propositions found clearly proven against the foresaid Mr. Simfon, by the several General Assemblies of this Church, Annis 1727, 1728 and 1729; such as, That our Lord Jesus Christ is not necessarily existent; That the Necessary Existence of our Lord Jesus Christ, is a Thing we know not; That the Term Necessary Existence is impertinent, and not to be used in talking of the Trinity; that the Three Persons of the Trinity are not to be said to
to be NUMERICALLY One in Substance or Essence; That the Terms Necessary Existence, Supreme Deity, and the Title of the Only True God, may be taken in a Sense that includes the personal Property of the Father, and so not belonging to the Son. All which Propositions they did, and hereby do, declare to be damnable Heresies, denying the Lord that bought us, subverting and overthrowing one of the principal Foundations of our Christian Faith; and to be blasphemous Indignities done to the Person of the Eternal Son of God our Redeemer, as also unto the Person of the Holy Ghost our Sanctifier and Comforter, whereby these adorable Persons are robb’d of their True and Supreme Deity, and reduced unto the Class and Rank of dependent and inferior Beings. As also, they did, and hereby do, declare, That the said Mr. Simson, in regard of the atrocious and hainous Nature of the forefaid Errors, deserved not only Suspension from Teaching and Preaching, but to have been deposed from the Office of the holy Ministry, and excommunicated from all Society, Communion and Fellowship with the Church and People of God, until he give satisfying Evidences of his Repentance and Sorrow for teaching and spreading the forefaid dangerous Errors and Blasphemies.

II. A Scheme of most pernicious and dangerous Principles has been vented by Mr. Archibald Campbell Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of St. Andrews, as is evident from the Books he has published, and from his Explications and Defences in the Process that has been laid against him; In which the following gros Errors are defended by him.

1st, "That the sole and universal Motive to virtuous Actions is Self-love, Interest or Pleasure (a)."

2nd, "That Self-love is the great Cause or the first Spring of all our several Motions and Actions, which Way soever they may happen to be directed (b)."

(a) Enquiry into the Original of Moral Virtue, p. 463; (b) Enquiry, p. 4.
"That Self-love is universally the first Spring in every rational Mind, that awakens her Powers, begins her Motions, and carries her on to Action (c). That Men may refuse to worship God, unless he presents himself favourably inclined to their Interest, and studious of their Happiness (d). That we are to settle it as our main Purpose, to recommend ourselves to the Love, Esteem, and Commendation of God, and of all Mankind, by our Moral Virtue (e). That Self-love, as it exerts itself in the Desire of universal unlimited Esteem, is the great commanding Motive that determines us to the Pursuit of Virtue (f). And that, seeing God acts for his Self-interest, we cannot act from any higher Principle than our Self-interest (g)."

All the above Propositions are directly contrary to the Word of God, in which it is expressly asserted, That all our religious Actions must proceed from a new Nature, and from Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and from a holy Regard and Love to God, and not from Self-love or Self-interest as their first Spring and Principle, Ezek. 36. 26. 27. Acts 26. 18. John 15. 4, 5. Mat. 22. 37, 39. And that our main Purpose or ultimate End ought not to be the Advancement of our own Self-interest, but the Glorifying of God, that is, the Advancement of his declarative Glory, 2 Cor. 5. 15. Rom. 14. 7. Rom. 15. 1, 2, 3. John 5. 30. John 7. 18. 2 Tim. 3. 2 to 5. In which Places of Scripture it is declared, That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, whose Example we are to imitate, pleased not himself, and sought not his own Will nor his own Glory, but the Will and Glory of his Father that sent him; and that to be Lovers of our own selves that is, to love ourselves inordinately, is one of the blackest of Crimes. And it must needs be an inordinate Self-love, when, according to Mr. Campbell, our Self-interest or Happiness is made the chief and leading Motive of our Love to God; since, according

(c) Enquiry, p. 101. (d) Eng. p. 460. (e) P. 273. (f) P. 257, 258. (g) P. 432.
 ding to this selfish Scheme, we love not God for himself, or for his own Sake, but for ourselves; whereby we prefer ourselves to our Maker, and love ourselves more than the adorable Creator, which may be justly reckoned the greatest Impiety. It must also be observed, that as the declarative Glory of God, or the Manifestation of his Being, and the glorious Excellencies and Perfections of his Nature, is the chief End of God in all his Works, for the Lord hath made all Things for himself, Prov. 16. 4. so it is very gross and absurd in Mr. C——— l to affirm, that our Self-Interest must be the great Cause and first Spring of all our several Actions; and that our Self-love is the great commanding Motive, that determines us to the Pursuit of Virtue; and that because (as he thinks fit to express himself) "The Deity is studious of the Good of his Creatures from Self-interest (b)." Thus he wickedly argues, That we, in acting from our own Self-interest, imitate God, and cannot act from a higher and more perfect Principle: What is this else, but to usurp the Throne of God, and to exalt ourselves, if not above him, at least unto an Equality with him? It is an ambitious aspiring to that very Thing, which, thro' the Subtlety of Satan, was the Inlet at the Beginning to our sinful and shameful Apostasy from our Maker, Gen. 3. 5. And ye shall be as Gods. But the whole Scope and Design of Divine Revelation is, to recover us from these selfish Principles into which all Mankind are plunged by the Fall, and to bring us back to our primitive Love, Obedience and Subjection to Jehovah; and the whole Word of God proclaims unto us, That as the Lord hath done all Things for himself, that is, for the Manifestation of his own infinite and glorious Excellencies; so the most noble Imitation of God is, to love him chiefly for himself; and to yield Subjection and Homage unto him, because he is God, and that he may be glorified in our Bodies and Spirits which are his: This is the great End

(b) Enquiry, p. 432.
End and Design of the whole Economy of Grace; and of the Dispensation of the Divine Spirit to Sinners in effectual Calling and Regeneration, that they may be animate and moved from this higher and more excellent Spring and Principle in all the Duties of their Obedience to God, and in every relative Duty towards Men with whom they are associate; as is evident not only from the above, but also from the following Scriptures, 1 Cor. 10. 31. and 6. 20. Mat. 5. 16. Rom. 11. 36. Psal. 115. 1. Rev. 4. 8; 11. Rev. 5. 13. It is also evident from the Word, that God's infinite Perfection, and his glorious Excellencies, are the main Ground and Reason of our loving, obeying and worshipping him; and not chiefly his Benefits to us, and his promoting our Happineses: Therefore it is Blasphemy to say, That we might refuse to worship God, if it were not for the Prospect of promoting our own Happiness; for tho' God allows us to pursue Happineses, and tho' the Prospect of it may be a secondary Motive to our Obedience, yet the Scriptures declare, That what God is in himself, or his own infinite Perfection, is the primary Ground and formal Reason of the whole of our Obedience and Worship, Exod. 20. 2. Lev. 19. 12. Psal. 96. 4, 7, 8, 9, 10. Psal. 99. 3, 5. Psal. 104. 1, 2. Psal. 148. throughout. Rom. 11. 21. Rev. 4. 8, 11. Rev. 7. 10, 11. Jer. 10. 6, 7, 10. It must likewise be observed, that, in our best and most virtuous Actions, we can never recommend ourselves to the Love, Favour and Esteem of God, as Mr. C—— l affirms; in regard his Love and Favour to any of his Creatures, and much more to sinful Men, is absolutely free: As they cannot merit his Favour, so there is no Motive without himself, to move him to love them, Hos 14. 4. I will love them freely. Deut. 7. 7, 8. He hath loved you, because he loved you. Rom. 9. 13. Jacob have I loved, but Elau have I hated. Compared with Verse 11th. The Children not being yet born, neither having done any Good or Evil, that the Purpose of God according to the Election might stand, not
not of Works, but of him that calleth: And whatever we do, we must still reckon ourselves unprofitable servants.

The above Propositions are likewise contrary to our Confession of Faith and Catechisms, Con. Chap. 6th, Par. 7. wherein it is asserted from the Word of God, "That Works done by unregenerate Men, "altho' for the Matter of them, they may be "Things which God commands, and of good Use "both to themselves and others; yet, because they "proceed not from an Heart purified by Faith, nor "are done to a right End, the Glory of God, they "are therefore sinful, and cannot please God, or "make a Man meet to receive Grace from God."

And to Larg. Cat. Quest. 190, 196. and Leff. Cat. Quest. 101, 107. and Larg. and Leff. Cat. Quest. 1st, wherein it is said, "That Man's chief and highest "End is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him for ever; "And to Leff. Cat. Quest. 47. where, "The "not worshipping and glorifying the True God, as "God," is the great Sin forbidden in the first Commandment; and to Larg. Cat. Quest. 105. where "Self-love, Self-seeking, and all other inordinate "and immoderate setting of our Mind, Will or "Affections upon other Things, and taking them "off from God in whole or in Part," are affirmed, from the Scriptures there cited, to be among the Sins forbidden in the first Commandment.

Mr. C also affirms, "That Self-Interest or Pleasure is the only Standard by which we can "judge of the Virtue, i.e. the Value or Goodness, "of any Action whatsoever (i). That Virtue and "Utility are two Words signifying the same "Thing (k). That the intrinseick Goodness or Re-"

All of this text is a quotation from a religious text, discussing the nature of works and their relation to faith and moral virtue. The text argues against the idea that works alone can please God or make a man meet to receive grace from God, and emphasizes the importance of a heart purified by faith and a right end in all actions.

References:
- Con. Chap. 6th, Par. 7.
- Larg. Cat. Quest. 190, 196.
- Larg. and Leff. Cat. Quest. 1st.
- Leff. Cat. Quest. 47.
- Larg. Cat. Quest. 105.
- Mr. C also affirms.
- "That Self-Interest or Pleasure is the only Standard by which we can judge of the Virtue, i.e. the Value or Goodness, of any Action whatsoever (i). That Virtue and Utility are two Words signifying the same Thing (k). That the intrinsick Goodness or Real-"
Pleasure (m). And that we like and approve all
the Moral Qualities that are called virtuous, for
no other Reason but for their being good to us,
i. e. for the Pleasure they give us, or for their
gratifying our Self-love (n). And that the Good-
ness of any Action, from which it is denominate
Moral Virtue, immediately lies in the Conformi-
ty it has to our Self-love, while it concurs and
cooparates with this Principle in approving our
being happy, and to secure and promote our
Well-being, (o).

These Propositions do directly contradict the ho-
ly Scriptures, in which it is expressly declared, That
the Law of God is the adequate and only Standard by
which the Goodness of Actions is to be tried, and not our
15, 21. John 15. 14. 1 John 3. 4. And, in re-
gard the Holiness of God is manifested in his Law,
and his sovereign Authority is interposed therein, the
Goodness of our Actions doth immediately ly in their
Conformity to the holy Law of God, and in their
being done by Faith in Christ, and from a Respect
to the Authority of God the Law-giver. And there
is nothing more contradictory to the whole Word of
God, than to assert, That the Goodness of our Love
to God and his Son Jesus Christ, or of any Act of
Obedience and Devotion, lies directly in its Fitnes to
promote our personal Intereft, Psal. 47. 8. Heb.
6. Gal. 2. 20. John 15. 4, 5. And the above Pro-
positions do likewise Contradict our Confession of
16. Par. 1, 2. Larg. Cat. Quest. 3. Leff. Cat. Quest. 2.
where it is asserted, That " the Scriptures are given
" by

(m) Enquiry, P. 354, 355. (n) P. 357, 358. (o) P. 319, 320.
by the Inspiration of God to be the Rule of Faith
and Life; and that they are the only Rule of Faith
and Obedience.

Mr. C also afferts, "That Virtue depends
not on the arbitrary Will of any Being, but flows
from the essential Properties and Nature of Things
(a);" and that "God's Interests are not in all Re-
spects independent on us: That our Happiness is
advantageous to God's Nature; and that Self-love
determines God to be studious of our Good; and
that God cannot but reward the Virtuous from
Self-love (b)."

These Propositions are contrary to the holy Scrip-
tures, in which it is asserted, That God himself, in the
wise Purpose and Counsel of his own Will, laid
down the whole Plan of the Nature and Relation of
Things, which he freely brings forth in his Works
of Creation, Providence and Redemption: And
tho' the Precepts of the Moral Law are eternal and
immutable, in regard the Holiness and Perfection of
God's Nature is such, that it cannot be his Will that
his Creatures should do otherwise; yet the Scriptures
also assert, That God is our Lawgiver, and affirm his
absolute Sovereignty and Authority over us, and con-
sequently, that nothing can be a Law to us but by
his Enacting; and that what he enacts must be a
Law to us, whether it be a moral Precept, or a
Thing in its own Nature indifferent: As is evident
from the Positive Precept given to Adam at his Cre-
ation, and from other positive Commands, both under
the Old and New Testaments; which, altho' they
were all wise and good, yet who can say that God was
necessarily obliged, by his own Nature, to enact them,
and that he could not possibly have done otherwise?
It is therefore grossly erroneous to set up the Nature
and Relation of Things as a Law above God himself,
and to maintain that moral Good and Evil flows from
the essential Properties and Nature of Things, and
not from the Holiness of God's Nature altogether; toge-
er

(a) Enquiry, p. 137. (b) p. 429, 430, 431.
ther with his sovereign Authority and Will manifested in his Law; as is evident from the following Scriptures, Eph. 1. 5, 11. Rom. 9. 15, to 24. Rev. 4. 11. The above Propositions are also contrary to the Doctrine held forth from the Word of God, Confess. Chap. 8. Par. 1. Chap. 19. Par. 5. Larg. Cat. Quest. 12.

From the Word of God and our Confession of Faith we are also taught, that Creatures can merit no Good from God; and that he is not obliged to reward their Services; and that all the Rewards he has promised to any of them are free and unmerited; and that they can have no Fruition of God as their Blessedness and Reward, but by some voluntary Condescension on his Part, which he has been pleased to express by way of Covenant: As also, that he, whose Name is JEHOVAH, hath all Life, Glory, Blessedness and Goodness in and of himself, and stands not in need of any of his Creatures, nor derives any Glory from them. Therefore it is grossly erroneous in Mr. C—— l to affirm as above, "That God can not but reward the Virtuous from Self-love." Yea it is Blasphemy to him to affirm, "That our Happiness is advantageous to God's Nature; and that God's Interests are not altogether independent on "us." Luke 17. 10. and 12. 32. Eph. 2. 5, 8. Rom. 6. 23. Job 22. 2, 3. and 35. 7, 8. Acts 17. 24, 25. Confess. Chap. 2. Par. 1, 2. Chap. 7. Par. 1. Larg. Cat. Quest. 7. 30, and from Quest. 67. to 75. inclusive.

The General Assembly 1736 having had Mr. C—— l's Writings under their Consideration, in which he has vented the above Propositions, it is to be observed with Regret, That "they find, with "respect to the third Article concerning Self-love, "he had declared he meant no more, but that our "Delight in the Glory and Honour of God is the "chief Motive of all virtuous and religious Actions; "and are of Opinion, that the examining and sta- "ting of the Matter, as has been done by the Com-"mittee
mittee for Purity of Doctrine, is sufficient for cautioning against the Errors that some at first supposed Mr. C——l was guilty of; and do appoint that the Matter rest here." From all which, compared with the Report of the Committee, taken into the Preamble of the Act, it is very manifest, that the Assembly have adopted this Proposition of Mr. C——l's, as in their Opinion sound and orthodox, viz. That our Delight in the Glory and Honour of God is the chief Motive of all virtuous and religious Actions. And that they have taken it up in the same Sense and Meaning of the Terms in which Mr. C——l, who delivered it, appears to have understood it, from his Explications then under Consideration, is as certain, as it is plain from the Act itself, that the Design of the Assembly and Committee, in hearing and considering this Declaration of Mr. C——l's, and the other Explications he offered, was, To do something that was sufficient for cautioning against the Errors that some at first supposed he was guilty of.

But the above Proposition, considered in a Relation to his Scheme of Principles, and his Explications then under Consideration, is manifestly gross and erroneous, and is very agreeable to the Scheme of selfish Love he has laid down in his Enquiry; as appears from his Further Explications and his Remarks on the Report of the Committee, which, together with this short Declaration of his Sentiments, were laid before the Assembly, as his Defences in the Charge laid against him. He concludes his Defences upon this Head in his Further Explications † as follows; "I hope the Reverend Committee will judge, that my Opinion about the Supreme Motive is in no Degree an Exclusion of the Glory of God from being our chief End; and that true Philosophy justifies my professing as I have done in my (first) Explications, That the Glory of God, or God in his glorious Perfections and Excellencies, is our chief and our ultimate End; and our prevailing Desire

† Further Expl. 78, 79.
"after Happiness in this Glory of God, or in God
an infinite Good, the great Fountain of all Life
and of all Perfection, is the supreme Motive that
excites us, and that animates our vigorous Endeav-
vors, to attain to Him." And in his Remarks on
the Committee's Report, Page 47. he asserts, "That
the Agent's Self-love, or a Man's own Happiness,
is the Motive whereby he is excited to the Pursuit
of such sort of (good or virtuous) Actions."
The Matter stands briefly thus: The Assembly
have assailed Mr. C—l from the Charge of Er-
or that some at first supposed he was guilty of, in re-
spect that, as to the 3d Article concerning Self-love,
he had declared he meant no more but that our De-
light in the Glory and Honour of God was the chief Mo-
tive of all virtuous and religious Actions. But, if the
Terms of this Proposition are considered, and com-
pared with his Defences as above, it will be manifest,
that, by the Honour and Glory of God, Mr. C—l
does not understand the Declarative Glory of God,
but God in his glorious Excellencies and Perfections, or
God an infinite Good; and, by our Delight in the Glo-
ry and Honour of God, he understands our prevailing
Desire after Happiness in this Glory of God, or in
God an infinite Good: And, when he affirms that
our Delight in the Honour and Glory of God is the
chief Motive to all virtuous Actions, he understands,
that the Agent's Self-love, or a Man's own Happiness
in this Glory of God, or in God an infinite Good, is
the chief Motive whereby he is excited to the Pursuit
of religious and virtuous Actions; which is the same
Thing with the Error that some at first supposed he was
guilty of, viz. That Self-love is the chief Motive to all
such Actions.
This might be further illustrate from what he says,
Page 70. and 78. of his Further Explications, and p.
46. and 48. of his Remarks. But the Case is so plain
of itself, and from what has been observed, that no-
thing is necessary to be added, except to lament that
God has left this Church so far as to adopt this Error;
and that he so far deserted some worthy Men, as not to notice it and testify against it, when it was done in a Way of Protestation for the Honour of Truth. It shall only be further observed on this Head, that no other Meaning can be imposed on the Proposition contained in Mr. C——'-s Declaration than what is above-represented; because, as he has not as yet renounced one Proposition in all his Writings, but defends every one of them, so it is manifest that he pleads, That, in eyeing God as our last End, we must consider him merely as our chief Good, or the Being who can fully satisfy our Self-love, and gratify all our Desires and Appetites. And he makes God's Benefits to us, or his promoting our Happiness, the only Ground and Reason of our loving and worshiping him. And he plainly afferts, That, "seeing God acts for his Self-interest, we cannot act from "a higher Principle than our Self-interest." Yea, he confidently affirms, "That his Expressions on this "Subject do not go higher than his Sentiments; and "that his Sentiments do not go beyond the Nature "of Things †."

A like Injury has been done to Truth by the Committee's judging, "That the Expressions objected a- "gainst, are only too high on the Side of Self-love; "particularly his assenting Self-love to be the sole "Principle, Standard and Motive of all religious Acts- "ions:" And the Assembly's being of the Opinion, "That the Committee's thus stating the Matter is a "sufficient Caution against Error," has thereby re-duced his Sentiments concerning Self-love's being the sole Principle, Standard and Motive of all virtuous and religious Actions, to nothing else but to too high Expressions on the Side of Self-love; and Error being, in the Nature of the Thing, a false Proposition or Expression; and an high Expression, in common Lan- guage, being nothing else but a Truth set in a strong Light, hereby the important Truths of God, that re-

p. 58.
late to the Principle, Standard and Motive of our Actions, are left wounded and bleeding in our Streets.

2dly, Mr. C—— l, in his Discourse proving that the Apostles were no Enthusiasts, has done manifest Indignity to the Work of the Holy Spirit upon the Souls of Men in their Regeneration and Conversion, in regard he affirms, "That many in the World look upon these Manifestations which they think they have of the Nature and Excellencies of God, as supernaturally communicated to their Minds; and take these inward Ravishments they feel upon such pretended Revelations, to be all Divine Joys poured in upon them by the immediate Hand of God himself; and that it is evident beyond all reasonable Dispute, that all such Events may possibly have come about in a natural Course and "Series of Things" (he makes no Exception of any, but such as are of the miraculous and extraordinary Kind) "without any more immediate Interposing of the Divinity, than there is when a Man opens his Eyes and beholds the Sun in its Glory at Noon-day (a)." He affirms, "That an extravagant Conceit of being peculiarly blest with such supernatural Communications from Heaven, makes up the very Life and Soul of Enthusiasm (b)."

He describes the Enthusiast to be one, "who, in the Course of his Devotion, keeps not within the Compas of Reason (c)." Whereby he makes Human Reason, in its present Situation, our only Guide in our Devotion. He also represents the Enthusiast to be one, "who, in the Course of his Devotion, without attending to the Dictates of Reason, imagines himself to be under the immediate Influences of Heaven; and therefore concludes, that these Things which run strongly in his Mind, are immediately impressed upon him by the Divine Spirit (d)."

And, in a ludicrous Manner, represents it as a Part of the Character of the Enthusiasts, "That they

(a) Disc. p. 2. (b) Disc. p. 4. (c) Ibid. (d) P. 26.
"consult the Throne of Grace, lay their Matters before the Lord, and implore his Light and Direction." These and the like (lais he) are Terms of Art much used by them (e).

But the holy Scriptures expressly assert the absolute necessity of a supernatural Work of the Holy Spirit, for the Renovation of our Natures, and for manifesting unto us in a saving Manner the glorious Excellencies of God in the Person of Jesus Christ. This Work of the Spirit is common to all that are effectually called, and they are every one peculiarly blessed with it: 2 Cor. 4. 6. and 5. 17. Ephes. 1. 17, 18, 19. Psal. 119. 18. 2 Cor. 3. 5: 1 Cor. 2. 14. Ezek. 36. 26. Rom. 8. 7. Acts 26. 18. Ephes. 4. 18. Luke 6. 43. Also the Will of God revealed in his Word, and not our own depraved Reason, is that Rule, within the Compass of which we are to keep in our Devotion: Heb. 11. 1, 6... Isa. 8. 20. 2 Pet. 1. 19. 1 Sam. 15. 21, 22, 23. Rom. 12. 2. Likewise the Scriptures affirm, That an actual Influence of the Holy Spirit is necessary to enable us to walk with God in all the Duties of holy Obedience, and to impress the Truths of God upon our Minds: Rom. 8. 9, 14, 26, 27. Philip. 2. 13. 2 Cor. 3. 5. John 16. 7, 8, 9, 14. John 15. 5. And that it is our Duty, Not to lean to our own Understanding, or Reason, but to consult the Throne of Grace, and to lay all our Matters before the Lord, and implore his Light and Direction: Prov. 3. 5, 6. James 1. 5. Psal. 37. 23. Heb. 4. 14, 15, 16. And in every Thing by Prayer and Supplication we ought to make our Requests known unto God, Philip. 4. 6. It is also the received Doctrine laid down in our Confession of Faith and Catechisms, That a Supernatural Work of the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for enlightening our Minds Spiritually and savingly to understand the Things of God, Confess. Chap. 10. Par. 1. Larg. Cat. Q. 67. "And thou' nothing is at any Time to be added to the Scriptures, whether by ' new Revelations of the Spirit, or Traditions of Men

(e) Difs. p. 19; 11.
"Men; yet the inward Illumination of the Spirit of God is necessary for the saving Understanding of such Things as are revealed in the Word," Confess. Chap. 1. Par. 6. Also, it is the Doctrine of our Confession, agreeable to the Word of God, "That the Light of Nature is not sufficient to give that Knowledge of God and of his Will which is necessary unto Salvation; which maketh the Word of God most necessary, being given by Inspiration of God, to be the only Rule of Faith and Life." And therefore our corrupt and depraved Reason is not the Rule and Standard of our Devotion, Confess. Chap. 1. Par. 1, 2. Chap. 16. Par. 1. Larg. Cat. Q. 3. Leff. Cat. Q. 2. And that good Works only are such as God hath commanded in his holy Word, and which proceed from a Heart purified by Faith, and are done in a right Manner according to the Word, and to a right End the Glory of God; and that our Works (or Duties of Obedience) as they are good, proceed from the Holy Spirit. That our Ability to do them is not at all of ourselves, but wholly from the Spirit of Christ; and that we may be enabled thereunto, besides the Graces that we have already received, there is required an actual Influence of the same Holy Spirit, to work in us to will and to do of his good Pleasure; and yet we are not hereupon to grow negligent, but to be diligent in stirring up the Grace of God that is in us, Confess. Chap. 16. Par. 3, 5, 7. Chap. 19. Par. 7. Chap. 21. Par. 3, 4.

The General Assembly having had Mr. Campbell's Writings under their Consideration, it is to be lamented that they have entirely overlooked the above, and such other gross Propositions in his Book concerning Enthusiasm, whereby the supernatural Work of the Spirit of God upon the Souls of Men is reproached, and the serious Exercise of Godliness is ridiculed. 3dly, Mr. C —— l in his Writings has likewise asserted, That Men, without Revelation, cannot by their Natu-
Natural Powers find out that there is a God (b). Which Proposition directly contradicts the holy Scriptures, in which we are taught, That the invisible Things of God, even his Eternal Power and Godhead, are understood and clearly seen from the Things that God hath made; and that these who are without Law, i.e. Revelation, have the Work of the Law written in their Hearts, and do by Nature the Things contained in the Law, their Consciences bearing Witness, and their Thoughts accusing or excusing one another. Which could not be, without some Knowledge and Persuasion of the Being of a God, of which they had natural Convictions and Impressions, as is plain from the Words of the Apostle just now mentioned. It is likewise evident from the Scriptures, that God by his Works had so clearly manifested his Being and Existence, his Wisdom, Power and Goodness, that the Idolatry of the Heathen was thereby rendered a Sin against the Light of Nature; and they were without Excuse, because they did not so improve that Light, which they had a natural Power and Ability to do, as to obtain more Knowledge and Veneration of their Creator, and the Author of their Being, according to the following Scriptures, Rom. i. 19, 20. Rom. i. 32. with 2. 1, 14, 15. Psal. 19. 1, 2, 3. Acts 17. 24, to 27. The above Propositions likewise overthrows the Doctrine laid down in our Confession of Faith and Catechisms, which is as follows; "The very Light of Nature in Man, and the Works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; but his Word and Spirit only do sufficiently and effectually reveal him unto Men for the Salvation; That the Light of Nature sheweth that there is a God, who hath Lordship and Sovereignty over all, is Good, and doth Good unto all; and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served with all the Heart, and with all the Soul, and with all the Might; and, That the M Light"

(b) Oratio, p. 26; 27; 31; 32; 33; 34. Enquiry, Pref. p. 28; 29.
"Light of Nature, the Works of Creation and
Providence, do so far manifest the Goodness,
Wisdom and Power of God, as to leave Man in-
Chap. 1. Par. 1. Larg. Cat. 2. 2.

And seeing the Committee for Purity of Doctrine
were of Opinion, and that upon good Ground,
" That this Proposition is justly exceptionable, as
"tending to darken and render doubtful the Truth
"of Natural Religion, and as appearing not to
"agree with the Doctrine of the Apostle Paul, nor
"with the Doctrine of our Confession of Faith;"
There appears no Manner of Reason for the Assembly's dismissing it, as it were only a doubtful Expression or Proposition, which may be construed in an erroneous Sense, however sound it may be in itself, or however well intended. By which Conduct of the Assembly, the Cause of Truth hath suffered exceedingly, in regard that, by the above Proposition, the first Principles of Natural Religion are attacked and subverted.

4thly, Further, Mr. C ——— l in his Writings has asserted, "That the Laws of Nature in themselves are a certain and sufficient Rule to direct rational Minds to Happiness; and that our observing of these Laws is the great Mean and Instrument of our real and lasting Felicity (k)." Which Propositions do evidently contradict the holy Scriptures, in which we are taught, That the Word of God is the only Rule of Faith and Obedience; and that Men cannot be accepted in God's Sight, nor be entitled to future and lasting Felicity, by framing their Lives according to the Law of Nature. And tho' Holiness be absolutely necessary to make us meet for Communion with God, both in Grace here, and in Glory hereafter; yet the Righteousness of Christ, or his Obedience and Satisfaction, imputed to us, and received and rested upon by Faith of the Operation of God, is the great Mean of our Blessedness and Happiness, begun in
Time, and consummate in Heaven, Gal. 3. 21, 22; and 6. 16. Rom. 8. 3. and 3. 20, 21. Isa. 42. 6. Rom. 10. 6, 9. Gal. 3. 11. Acts 4. 12. John 14. 6. Eph. 2. 12. John 17. 3. John 4. 22. 1 Cor. 16. 22. Gal. 1. 6, 7, 8. John 3. 36. Acts 10. 43. and 16. 31. Rom. 3. 22, 23, to 28. and 5. 6, 7, 8. 2 Cor. 5. 19, 21. Eph. 1. 7. Philip. 3. 7, 8, 9. And the above Propositions manifestly subvert the Doctrine laid down in our Confession of Faith and Catechisms, viz. "That Man, by his Fall, having made himself incapable of Life by the Covenant of Works, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the Covenant of Grace: That Men not professing the Christian Religion, cannot be saved in any other Way whatsoever, be they never so diligent to frame their Lives according to the Light of Nature: And that those whom God effectually calleth, he freely justifieth, not for any Thing wrought in them, or done by them, but by imputing the Obedience and Satisfaction of Christ unto them, they receiving and retting on him and his Righteousness by Faith, which Faith they have not of themselves, it is the Gift of God, Con. Chap. 7th, Par. 3. Chap. 10th, Par. 4. Chap. 11th, Par. 1. Larg. Cat. Queft. 60, 73."

A very considerable Injury has been done to the Truths of God, by the Committee's making the above Propositions no other but unguarded Expressions; and by the Assembly's giving it as their Opinion, "That the Committee had so stated the Matter, as is sufficient for Cautioning against the Errors that some at first supposed Mr. C——— l was guilty of;" And their dismissing the said Propositions which were under their Consideration, as is done in the Close of their Act, as if they were only doubtful Expressions or Propositions, which may be construed in an erroneous Sense, however found they may be in themselves, or however well intended; And this, notwithstanding it is most manifest from the Expressions themselves, and Connection of Purposes in the
Preface to his Discourse, in which he delivers these Propositions, and from the Relation they stand in to the Principles of the Deists, which he there proposes to refute, that he must be understood to speak of Mankind in their present Situation; and that he there, and in the very next Page to that, in which he lays down the above-mentioned Propositions, expressly pleads for the Necessity or Fitness of Revelation, only to give a sufficient Information of the Laws of Nature in their full Compass and Latitude, and of all Things necessary to work upon the Passions of Men, to engage them to pursue and observe them; And that in his Enquiry, Page 221, he afferts, that "The Sentiments of all fair and honest Enquirers do certainly agree in all important Points of Religion that are of common Concern, to which the common Parent of Mankind has proportioned the common Understanding of human Nature:" And that he has not yet confessed one Blunder or Impertinence, in the Way he has taken of managing the Arguments against the Deists, or the Concessions he has made them; or retracted any one of his Propositions or Expressions, but defends them all most keenly: And that any Declarations he has made, from which the Assembly and Committee would infer, that it is not his Meaning that a supernatural Revelation of a Saviour, and Faith in him, are superfluous, and not necessary to the Happinefs of fallen Man (as to which Hereticks have been abundantly liberal, and with the greatest Cunning and Artifice, on Occasion of warping in their own Errors, or screening themselves from Danger) must necessarily be understood in an Agreeableness to, and Consistency with, all these other unfound Propositions, to which he tenaciously adheres. From all which it is very manifest, that these Propositions, as they are laid in his Writings, and were under the Assembly's Consideration, are most dangerous, unfound and erroneous; and that the Assembly, by their Conduct in this Matter, have given a deep Wound to the Cause of Truth, which
which cannot enough be regretted and lamented.

Further, Mr. Campbell in his Writings has asserted, "That the Apostles do not seem to have had any Notion of our Saviour's Divinity, at the Time of his Crucifixion; and that they did not apprehend him under that Character, in which he is represented to us by the Apostle John in the first Chapter of his Gospel, and by Paul in his Epistles," before they began their publick Ministry, (a). That the Apostles, being "violently possessed in favour of a worldly Kingdom," look'd upon the carrying it on as the only End of the Messiah's Coming to the World; and "expected this and this only from him (b)" And that the Apostles, in the Interval betwixt Christ's Death and Resurrection," were greatly offended at him in their Hearts, as being, in their Opinion, a down-right Cheat and Deceiver, who had once flattered them with mighty Hopes, but now had left them under all the Agonies of Shame and Disappointment; and, That they all looked upon him as an Impostor (c).

All the above Propositions do directly contradict the holy Scriptures, in which it is expressly affirmed, That the Disciples and Followers of Christ beheld him in the Glory of his Divine Person; they beheld his Glory, the Glory as of the only Begotten of the Father full of Grace and Truth; and that even while he dwelt among them, in the Days of his Humiliation, that they looked upon him to be the Messiah, the Son of the living God; a Discovery which Flesh and Blood (that is human Reason) had not made to them, but the Father: That they expected Heaven and eternal Life from him: That Religious Worship was claimed by him, and paid to him, while he tabernacled among them: That all the Disciples declared their Faith of his Omnicience; And that one of them, in Presence of all the rest, before they entred on their publick Mini-

(a) Disc. p. 31, 53. (b) Disc. p. 33, 53. and Preface, p. 22. (c) Preface to Disc. p. 21, 23.
Ministry, professed his Faith in him as his Lord and his God: And therefore it is most false and grofily erroneous to say, That the Apostles had no Notion of our Lord's Divinity, before they began their publick Ministry; and that they expected nothing from him but a temporal Deliverance, John 1. 14. Mat. 16. 16, 17. John 6. 68, 69. and 14. 1. Mat. 2. 2, 11. John 9. 35, to 38. John 16. 30. and 21. 17. and 20, 28. And the Scriptures likewise affert, That our Lord Jesus Christ had manifested his Father's Name to his Disciples, that is, all the Purposes of his Grace, as centring in himself the Mediator: That they had received his Words, and knew thereby that he came out from the Father, and believed that the Father had sent him, John 17. and that they considered their Lord as the Messiah of whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets, did write, John 1. 41, 45. and that they looked upon him in the very Interval betwixt his Death and Resurrection, to be a Prophet mighty in Deed and Word before God and all the People, Luke 24. 19. and also, that the Faith of none of them, no not of Peter, did fail, Luke 22. 32. And therefore it is most false and grofily erroneous to say, that the Apostles, in the Interval betwixt Christ's Death and Resurrection, looked upon their Lord and Master as a downright Cheat and Imposter.

The above Propositions are likewise contrary to the Doctrine laid down in our Confession of Faith and Catechisms, viz. "That the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, are the One only, Living, True and Eternal God, the same in Substance, equal in Power and Glory, Con. Chap 2. Par. 1, 3, Larg. Cat. Queft. 9. That Christ the Mediator is very God, and very Man, of one Substance and equal with the Father; and that the Benefits of his Redemption were communicated unto the Elect, in all Ages from the Beginning of the World, in and by these Promises, Types and Sacrifices wherein he was revealed, Con. Chap. 8. Par. 2. and Par. 6. That these whom God hath effectually called, can never
never totally fell away from the State of Grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the End, "Con. Chap. 17. Par. 1. And that, tho' the Catholick Church hath been sometimes more, sometimes less visible, yet there shall be always a Church on Earth to worship God according to his Will, "Con. Chap. 24. § 4, 5.

The Cause of Truth hath suffered exceedingly, and received a deep Wound from the Assembly's giving it as their Opinion, That the above Sentiments ventured by Mr. C——l "contain only his conjectural Opinion concerning the inward Sentiments of other Men; and that our Confession and Catechisms teach nothing concerning these Matters." As also, that his Design was, "to give the greater Strength to his Argument for vindicating the Apostles from Enthusiasm." And their dismissing these gross and erroneous Propositions as doubtful Expressions only, which may be construed in an erroneous Sense, however found they may be in themselves, and however well intended.

This their Conduct cannot be enough lamented, if it is considered, that the above Propositions are hereby purged of all Manner of Falsehood or Unsoundness in themselves, seeing what is false in itself can give no Strength to an Argument; nor can it be the least Excuse for a Man's venting unsound Propositions, that he designed by them to give Strength to his Argument. That these Propositions contradict the holy Scriptures, has been shown in the above Passages that have been cited; and this is enough to determine them to be unsound and erroneous: But, if the Strain and general Design of the Scriptures is considered, they may be said to contradict the whole Word of God, as well as every Chapter of our Confession of Faith; for it is a Thing most certain, that if the Apostles of Christ, who constantly attended his Ministry, of whom the greatest Things are said of all others, as to their Proficiency by their Instruction, John 17.6, 7, 8. and to whom he expounded all Things
privately, that he spoke openly in Parables; If these however had no Notion of his Divinity, and expected nothing but a temporal Deliverance from him, and, in the Interval betwixt his Death and Resurrection, look'd upon him as a Cheat and Impostor; no better Opinion can be justly maintained of any then living. And it may be given up to Mr. C ——— 1, That one may be a true Believer (for such were all his Disciples except Judas) who doth not yet believe the Divinity of the Son of God; and consequently, that the Church may be constitute of a Company of Infidels under a Christian Name; which is very agreeable to the Socinian and Deistical Schemes. It may be likewise given up to him, That one may have a true and saving Faith, as the Disciples certainly had, and yet fall totally away from the same into the grossest Infidelity; for grosser cannot be imagined, than that all the Disciples should look upon their Lord as a downright Cheat and Impostor: Both which are contrary to the above Passages of the Confession, and the Scriptures these Articles are founded upon. And from Mr. C ——— l's above Principles it follows, that John 1. 14. and all the other Declarations and Confessions, that the Apostles in the Days of his Humiliation made, concerning their Faith of his True, Proper and supreme Deity, are nothing to the Purpose; and that no Argument can be drawn for the same, from any such Declarations and Confessions that are recorded in the four Gospels.

All the above-mentioned are some of the many dangerous Expressions and Propositions that lie scattered through Mr. C ——— l's Writings. And this Presbytery taking into their serious Consideration the Dishonour that is done to God, the Injury that is done to his Truths by all the foresaid Propositions; and also considering, that many may be in Danger of being tainted with the same in this Day of general Apostasy and Defection from the Truths of God: Therefore, and for all the several Grounds and Reasons above condescended upon, They did and hereby do, CONDEMN all and every one of the foresaid Propo-
positions maintained and defended by the said Mr. C—i, as contrary to the Word of God, our Confession of Faith and Catechisms; particularly his affirming, That the sole and universal Motive to virtuous Actions is Self-love, Interest or Pleasure: That Self-love is the great Cause, or the first Spring of all our several Actions and Motions, which Way soever they may be directed; and that it is universally the first Spring in every rational Mind, that awakens her Powers, begins her Motions, and carries her on to Action; whereby the Vitals of practical Religion are attacked and undermined. Also; his affirming, That Self-love is the only Standard, Measure and Rule of all Virtue and Religion, and of all our several Actions and Motions; which Way soever they may happen to be directed; and, That Self-Interest or Pleasure is the only Standard by which we can judge of the Virtue, i.e. the Value and Goodness, of any Action whatsoever: That Moral Virtue flows from the essential Properties and Nature of Things: That God's Interests are not in all Respects independent on us; That our Happiness is advantageous to God's Nature; and, That Self-love determines God to be studious of our Good; and, That he cannot but reward the Virtuous, from Self-love. By all which; the Authority of God the Great Lawgiver is disparaged; His Self-sufficiency is blasphemously impugned, and he is made a Debitor to his Creatures, being necessarily obliged to reward their Service and Obedience. Likewise his representing as Enthusiasts, all who pretend to have obtained supernatural Manifestations of the Nature and Excellencies of God; that are not of the extraordinary and miraculous Kind, and who imagine themselves in the Course of their Devotion to be under the Influences of Heaven; and that consulting the Throne of Grace, laying all our Matters before the Lord, and imploiring his Light and Direction, are Terms of Art much used by Enthusiasts: By all which the Work of the holy Spirit on the Souls of Men in Actual Calling, and the Spiritual Exercise of all such are exercised in Godliness, are reviled, traduced, and
and reproached. Also his affirming, That Men cannot by their natural Powers, without the Aid of Revelation, find out that there is a God: Whereby the first Principles of Natural Religion are wickedly attacked. Likewise his affirming, That our observing of the Laws of Nature is the great Mean or Instrument of our real and lasting Felicity; and that the Laws of Nature in themselves are a certain and sufficient Rule to direct rational Minds to Happiness, however Revelation be, fit or necessary to give sufficient Information of the Laws of Nature in their full Compass and Latitude, and of all Things necessary to work upon the Passions of Men to engage them to pursue and observe them: Whereby the peculiar Truths of the Gospel, concerning the Person and Mediation of Christ, and the whole Work of the Spirit, are wickedly subverted; and such a Sufficiency is ascribed to Natural Religion, as gives up the Cause of Truth to Deists and Socinians. And likewise his affirming, That the Apostles of our Lord, before his Resurrection, knew not his Divinity; and that they expected nothing from the Messiah but a worldly Kingdom or a temporal Deliverance; and that, in the Interval betwixt his Death and Resurrection, they look'd upon him as a Cheat and Imposter: Whereby the Doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints is subtly undermined, and the Arguments drawn for the Deity of the Son of God, from the Declarations and Confessions made by his Disciples in the Days of his Humiliation, are wholly enervate. And the PRESBYTERY did, and hereby do, declare, That all the above Propositions, Tenets and Principles, maintained and defended by Mr. C—— l, are contrary, as said is, to the Word of God, and our Confession of Faith and Catechisms; and that they are gross, dangerous and pernicious Errors. And, in regard that the late General Assembly have neither censured the Broach-er and Venter of the above dangerous Errors, nor condemned any one of them, but have dismissed the Procefs against him, by declaring, "That the examining and stating of the Matter, as was done by..."
the Committee for Purity of Doctrine, is sufficient
for cautioning against the Errors that some at first
supposed Mr. C—— l was guilty of;" without
giving any formal Judgment or Sentence upon the said
Committee's Report: And, in regard the Committee
in their said Report, and the Assembly in their Act and
Sentence, declare that they are satisfied, Mr. C—— l has a sound Meaning in the several Propositions they
had under their Consideration; and particularly,
that they are satisfied with the Explication he gave of
the Article concerning Self-love, namely, That he
meant'd no more but that our Delight in the Glory and
 Honour of God was the chief Motive of all virtuous and
religious Actions. And this Proposition, now adopted by
the Assembly, being the very same with Mr. C—— l's
above condemned Principle, that Self-love is the greatest
Cause or the first Spring of all our several Motions and
Actions, which Way forever they are directed; Therefore
this Presbytery did, and hereby do, declare, for the
Grounds and Reasons above condescended upon,
That the foresaid Propositions, adopted by the Assembly,
is a gross and dangerous Error. And this Presbytery
likewise considering, That it is the Duty of the Ju-
dicatories of the Church to proceed in a regular
Course of Process, and in the due Exercise of Dis-
cipline, against erroneous and heretical Seducers, ac-
cording to the Rule and Direction given by the A-
pistle, An Heretick after the first and second Admoni-
tion reject; And, in regard the Assemblies of this
Church have never put a Libel into the said Mr.
C—— l's Hands in order to reclaim him from the
gross and dangerous Errors he has fallen into, or for
rejecting and casting him out, if found obstinately ad-
ering to his dangerous Principles and Tenets; There-
fore they did and hereby do declare, That the whole Con-
duct of the last Assembly, in dismissing this Affair
in the Manner above-narrated, is a deep Wound given
to Truth, and a lamentable Step of Defection, and
may be justly reckoned amongst the Signs, Grounds

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and
Causes of the Lord's Indignation against this whole Church and Land.

III. The Scripture Doctrine of this, and all the Reformed Churches, is subtilly undermin'd, and wickedly subverted, in a Print lately published, under the Title of The Assembly's Shorter Catechism revised, and rendered fitter for general Use: In regard the Revifer, by the several Omissions, Alterations and Additions he has thought fit to make in the Assembly's Catechism, not only shakes the Pillars of our Reformation from Popery, with respect to the Scriptures as the only Rule of Faith and Practice, and the Doctrines concerning Justification, the Sacrament of our Lord's Supper, and the just Desert of every Sin; but also boldly strikes at the whole Scheme of Divine Revelation contained in the said Catechism, by calling the same into such a Shape and Mould as is very agreeable to the Deistical, Arian, Socinian and Arminian Schemes. Hence the Doctrines taught in the Assembly's Catechism, concerning the holy Scriptures being the only Rule of Faith and Practice; concerning the Holy Trinity, and the Decrees of God; concerning the Covenants of Works and Grace, together with Original Sin and its Effects upon Mankind, and the Evil Nature and Desert of all Sin, as contrary to the Authority and Holiness of God: Also the Doctrines concerning the Person of Christ, his two distinct Natures and their personal Union; concerning the Nature, End and Design of his Sufferings as a real and proper Satisfaction to the Justice of God; concerning Special Grace, and the peculiar and supernatural Energy of the Holy Spirit in the Application of the purchased Redemption in our Conversion and effectual Calling: Likewife the Doctrines concerning the Perseverance of the Saints, and the perpetual Obligation of the whole Moral Law; especially when the Obligation to Obedience is not derived by the Revifer from the Authority of God, as He is JEHOVAH, whose Perfections are infinite, and whose Dominion is over all, but only from the Special...
and peculiar Benefits received from him; together with the Doctrine contain'd in the *Catechism* concerning the Regard that Christians should pay to the first Day of the Week as our Christian *Sabbath*: All these Scripture-doctrines concerning the above particular Heads, as they are plainly laid down in the *Catechism*, are subtilly and wickedly subverted by the *Reviser*. This *Presbytery* would not have taken such particular Notice of the foresaid *Catechism* revised, were it not that the Scheme of Doctrine delivered in it is not only adapted, but very agreeable to the corrupt and depraved Taste of the present Age. And they cannot but observe it with Regret, that reveal'd Religion is so much despised by many, and that the holy Scriptures are little regarded, and the Laws of Nature cry'd up as sufficient to direct Men to true Felicity and Bless'dness; and the supernatural Operations of the Spirit, and his peculiar Energy in the Conversion of Sinners, are burlesqu'd: And many who profess some Regard to reveal'd Religion, according to the *Reviser's* Scheme, despise the Necessity, Truth and Excellency of the Satisfaction of Christ, and the Necessity of the Imputation of his Righteousness for our Justification in the Sight of God, together with the absolute Need there is of the Renovation of our Natures by supernatural Grace, and of a vital Union with Christ, in order to the bringing forth the Fruits of Holiness in Heart, Life and Conversion. Yea, these and the like Doctrines appear to be nauseous to not a few, whose Character and Profession obliges them to publish and recommend them; when, instead of the special and peculiar Doctrines of the Gospel, that concern the Person, Offices and Mediation of Christ, Salvation by the free Grace of God, and the supernatural Energy of his Spirit, Mens sincere Endeavours are, according to the *Reviser's* Scheme, cry'd up, either as concurring with the Spirit of God in Regeneration and effectual Calling, or as pre-existent Conditions unto the Application of the purchased Redemption; and the Holy
ly Spirit of God is only regarded as an Assistant and Help unto us in these our sincere Endeavours: Faith, Repentance, and what they call sincere Obedience, are preached as the Ground of our Right and Title to Life and Happiness; and, instead of enforcing Duties of Obedience to the Law from Gospel Principles and Motives, a Scheme of Morality is taught, which has Self-interest for its Principle and leading Motive, and that has little or no Respect to Christ as its Author and Ground of Acceptance, or to the Glory of God as its End.

IV. Altho' the above dangerous and pernicious Errors have been broached and are spreading through this Church and Land; yet the Standard of a plain and faithful Testimony has not to this Day been lifted up against them, for the Honour of Christ, and the Vindication of his injured Truth. This sinful Negligence and Omission of the Judicatories of this Church, in a Matter of such Importance, wherein the Honour of God, the Glory of the Redeemer, the Maintenance and Preservation of the Purity of Doctrine, and consequently not only the Souls of the present, but also of the rising Generation, are all so deeply interested and concerned, may be reckoned one of the most grievous and weighty Grounds and Causes of the Lord's Indignation and Wrath against this whole Church and Land: As for Instance, When Reports were spread at first concerning Mr. John Simson his teaching and venting Error, the late Reverend and Worthy Mr. James Webster having taken Notice of the same in the Presbytery and Synod whereof he was a Member, and they refusing to give their Concurrence therein, he tabled the Affair before the General Assembly 1714, desiring them to take Trial thereof as their proper Province; But the said Assembly were so far from assisting him in this Matter, that they appointed the said Mr. James Webster, or any who will join with him in charging Mr. John Simson Professor of Divinity at Glasgow with Error, to table their Complaint before the Presbytery where he
he lives, allowing any Person or Persons, who are willing, to give Mr. Webster Assistance in Point of Form; but declaring, that, if they engage with him in that Cause, they shall be accounted Libellers (r). Accordingly, Mr. Webster having libelled Mr. Simson before the Presbytery of Glasgow, and the said Mr. Simson having given in his subscribed Answers and Defences, wherein are contained the above-mentioned dangerous and erroneous Propositions, the Process was brought before the Assembly 1715, who appointed a Committee to take Trial of the Cause, continuing the Load and Weight of the Prosecution upon Mr. Webster as the Party pursuing and accusing. In like Manner the Assembly 1716 continued the Process in the same Channel, till it was concluded by the Assembly 1717, who instead of condemning particularly the gross and dangerous Errors owned by Mr. Simson, and inflicting due Censure upon him, did not so much as rebuke him for venting the same; altho' they were so far convinced of the Truth of the Libel against him, that by their Act they find, "That he had vented some Opinions not necessary to be taught in Divinity, and that had given more Occasion to Strife than to the promoting of Edification; and that he had used some Expressions that bear, and are used by Adversaries in, an unfound Sense; and that he had adopted some Hypotheses, different from what are commonly used among orthodox Divines, that are not evidently founded on Scripture, and tend to attribute too much to natural Reason and the Power of corrupt Nature; which undue Advancement of Reason and Nature is always to the Disparagement of Revelation and efficacious free Grace: Therefore they prohibit and discharge the said Mr. Simson to use such Expressions, or to teach, preach, or otherwise vent such Opinions, Propositions, or Hypotheses as aforesaid." This extensive Lenity, or rather sinful Remissness and Slackness, in not inflicting due Censure

(r) See Index of unprinted Acts of Assembly 1714.
Censure upon one who had given such evident Discoveries of his corrupt and erroneous Principles, and whom it was unsafe to trust any more with the Education of Youth for the holy Ministry, encouraged him to go on in venting and teaching his pernicious Errors, till at length, in a Way of righteous Judgment from the Lord on this sinful and lukewarm Church, he is so far left of God, as to attack and impugn the Supreme Deity of the Great God our Saviour. And tho' it was found clearly proven by the several Assemblies; who had this Process under their Consideration, That he had vented and taught the above-mentioned Propositions, whereby he attempted to divide the Son of God of his true and supreme Deity, and thereby blasphemed that Name which is above every Name; yet the Concern of this Church for this Foundation-truth did rise no higher than a bare Suspension of the Blasphemer from teaching and preaching, and the Exercise of any Ecclesiastical Power or Function, leaving the Door open to another Assembly to relax him from the said Sentence. In like Manner, during the Dependence of the foresaid Process, the Committee of Assembly found it clearly proven, that he had contraven'd the Injunction of Assembly 1717, in venting the dangerous Errors which they had discharged him to teach; yet the Assembly 1729 concluded the Process against him, without taking any Notice of these gross Errors. And tho' there is just Ground to fear that too many are tainted with them, whereby the Purity of Doctrine is in the greatest Danger; yet no Regard is had to these Things, but all is pass'd over by our Assemblies since that Time with a profound Silence: Except what was done by the Assembly 1736, in their Act concerning Preaching, wherein several weighty and important Truths are asserted, and several necessary and seasonable Directions are given both to Ministers and Preachers; yet the many gross and dangerous Errors, vented and taught by Mr. Simson, are never particularly condemn'd, neither is there any plain and faithful Warning
Warning emitted against them. Also the foresaid Assembly, in dismissing Mr. Campbell's Affair by an After-act in the Manner that is already observed, have so far enervate and weakened their own Act about Preaching, that the good Effects thereof, which otherwise might have been hop'd for, cannot be now expected.

The above Omission of our General Assemblies concerning Doctrine must be reckoned the more culpable, in regard they have been frequently addressed by Representations and Instructions from Synods and Presbyteries, and also from Ministers and Elders and People through the Land, representing the Necessity of a particular Condemnation of the several dangerous Errors and Blasphemies vented by Mr. Simon; and that a solemn Warning might be emitted, discovering the evil and dangerous Tendency of the same; yet nothing of this Kind is done. And tho' it be a Debt which one Generation owes to another, to transmit the Truths of God in their Purity to Posterity, and to deliver off their Hand to the rising Generation, these Truths that are particularly assaulted and opposed, with some more peculiar and solemn Testimony unto them; yet injured Truth continues to ly wounded and bleeding in our Streets, without Justice done her by the Church-representative, to whom it belongs in a special Manner to publish and declare, to uphold and defend all the Truths of God delivered in his Word, against open and avowed Enemies, or secret Underminers of the same: And therefore the above sinful Omission must needs be reckoned an Injury done to Truth, an Injustice done to our Posterity, and of a very dangerous Tendency towards the hardning of such as may be tainted with the above Errors, as well as opening a Door for the spreading of this corrupt Leaven among others.

Besides the above-mentioned pernicious Errors, which like a Flood have overspread this Church, particularly since our Deliverance from the late unnatural and wicked Rebellion, and which were never
the Sin nor Trial of the Church of Scotland in any of our former Periods of Apostasy and Defection: our Declinings and Backslidings have increased since that Time, by the several dangerous Thrusts and Wounds we have given with our own Hands to our Presbyterian Church Government and Discipline, whereby our Ruin and Destruction, if Mercy prevent not, is like to proceed from ourselves; of which the following particular Instances are offered:

1. No due Caution and Care has been taken in licening young Men as Probationers for the holy Ministry, nor a suitable Respect had to the Qualifications required in the Scriptures and Acts of our General Assemblies, of such as are to be employed in preaching the Gospel. Hence it is come to pass, that many have been licensed, who, by their general and loose Harangues in the Pulpit, discover their Ignorance of Christ and him crucified, and their Estrangement from the Power of Godliness, while there is as little of Christ to be found in their Sermons as in the Systems of Heathen Morals.

2. The corrupt and undue Entry of many into the holy Ministry, is another of the publick Sins and epidemick Evils of the present Time: The Acceptance of Presentations has become fashionable for several Years bypast; and, instead of giving a Cheque to this corrupt Course and Practice, the Judicatories of the Church have so far encouraged the same, that the Settlement of Presents has been appointed, when almost the whole Parish was dissenting and reclaiming contrary to the Word of God, and the laudable Acts and Constitutions of this Church founded thereon; yea, Settlements have been appointed in a very arbitrary Manner over dissenting Congregations, even when there was no Presentation in the Case: And, when Presbyteries concerned have refused to proceed to such violent Settlements, Committees have been appointed by the Commission, and invested with a Presbyterian Power to try and ordain Men to the holy Ministry. And likewise many Congregations thro'
the Land are still groaning under the Weight of such arbitrary and violent Intrusions; and neither the Discounted, nor such as have had an active Hand in the Intrusion, give any Evidence to this Day of their Repentance and Sorrow for the Violence they have done to the Flock and Heritage of God, who are thereby scattered and broken.

3. The Conduct of the General Assemblies of the Church has not been equal and impartial in Matters of Doctrine: as for Instance, in the Case of Mr. John Simson: The Processes carried on against him were kept several Years in Dependence before the Judicatories; and particularly the last Process, which concerned his impugning the Supreme Deity of the Son of God, was transmitted to the several Presbyteries of this Church by the Assembly 1728, that their Judgment might be reported to the ensuing Assembly about the Censure that was due to the said Mr. Simson, tho' the Evidence was so clear, that the Discipline of the Church should have been summarily exercised upon him. But the General Assembly 1720 condemned a Bundle of Propositions containing important Matters of Doctrine, when the Affair had been under the Consideration only of two different Meetings of that Assembly, and a Committee of the whole House. This very sudden Step of the said Assembly occasioned a Representation to be given in to the Assembly 1721, by several Ministers of this Church, bearing, That it appeared to them, that many Gospel-truths were wounded by the foresaid condemnatory Act and Sentence; and the Assembly 1722 saw themselves obliged to explain and declare their Minds at length concerning these important Doctrines then upon the Field, in the Terms and Expressions used in our Confession of Faith and Catechisms: But still a Wound was given to Truth by the Act of the foresaid Assembly 1720 relating to Doctrine; particularly by their condemning as erroneous the two following Propositions, That, as the Law is the Covenant of Works, Believers are wholly and altogether set free from it.
it; and, That Believers are set free both from the commanding and condemning Power of the Covenant of Works. Tho' both these Propositions are evident from the Word of God, and expressly contained in our Confession of Faith, Chap. 7. § 19. and Larg. Cat. Quest. 91. yet the said Assembly thought it summarily to condemn them. As this sudden and precipitant Stroke at that spiritual Freedom and Liberty, wherewith the Son of God hath made his People free, could not but be affecting to many Ministers and Christians thro' the Land, as well as to the forefaid Ministers; so the Assembly 1722 found themselves obliged to declare, "That it is a precious Gospel-truth, That Believers are free from the Law as it is a Covenant of Works." Yet it is Matter of Regrete, that the Credit of Acts of Assembly is so much stood upon, that the Assembly 1722 did not repeal that Act and Deed of the Assembly 1720, whereby what they themselves own'd to be a precious Truth is in express Terms condemned.

4. Several arbitrary Acts and Decisions have been framed and passed by the General Assemblies of this Church, whereby the Government of the House of God has been undermined, and the Discipline fi

fully prevented; such as the Act of Assembly 1732, concerning the Planting of vacant Churches, which lodges the decisive Power of electing Ministers in a conjunct Meeting of Elders and Heritors, no other Qualification being required of the said Heritors, but their being Protestants, however much disaffected to the Government both in Church and State. Again, the Assembly 1733 rebuked and admonished Mr. Erskine at their Bar, for impugning several Acts of Assemblies and Proceedings of Church-judicatories, in his Sermon at the Opening of the Synod of Perth and Stirling, that is, for testifying against the Act of Assembly 1732, and other violent Proceedings of Judicatories at that Time. And when he, with other three Ministers, protested against the said Sentence for their
their own just and necessary Exoneration, high Censures were threatened, and actually inflicted upon them, because they had not Freedom to retract their Protestation, and profess their Sorrow for the same, as required by the said Assembly; whereby two sinful and unwarrantable Terms of Ministerial Communion were imposed: First, That no Minister of this Church should testify from the Pulpit against Acts of Assembly and Proceedings of Church-judicatures, even tho' they were such as had a direct Tendency to undermine our Constitution. Secondly, That no Minister or Member of this Church should PROTEST for their own Exoneration against Acts, Sentences or Decisions of the Supreme Judicature, even tho' they should nearly affect the publick Cause of God, and restrain Ministerial Freedom and Faithfulness (as was the present Case) in testifying against the Sins and Defections of a backsliding Church. Further, the said Assembly, by another Act discharging the Ministers of the Presbytery of Dunsfermline, under Pain of the highest Censure, to admit any of the Parish of Kinross to Sealing Ordinances without the Permission of the present Incumbent, who was intruded upon them, imposed another sinful Term of Ministerial Communion upon the Ministers of this Church; whereby they are bound up from dispensing Sealing Ordinances, under Pain of the highest Censure, to such of the Lord's People as have not Freedom to submit to the Ministry of Intruders. And thereby likewise imposed a new and unwarrantable Term of Christian Communion, when all such as cannot own Intruders to be their lawful Pastors, are actually excommunicated from Sealing Ordinances; which is a plain homologating of a Piece of Tyranny which was exercised in the former persecuting Period, this being one of the Grounds of Peoples withdrawing from Prelatick Incumbents, that they were intruded upon them without their Call or Consent.

5. Tho' the Assembly 1734 did repeal the Act of Assembly 1732 anent the Settlement of Ministers, yet the said Act was not condemned as contrary to the
Word of God, and the Constitutions of this Church, contained in her Books of Discipline, and Acts of former Assemblies; particularly Act of Assembly at Glasgow 1638, discharging any Person to be intruded in any Office of the Kirk, contrary to the Will of the Congregation to which they are appointed. And tho' some Stop was put by the foresaid Assembly to the violent Measures and Proceedings of some former Assemblies and their Commissions; yet the Act of Assembly 1733, restraining Ministerial Freedom and Faithfulness, and censuring the Ministers and Members of this Church for protesting for their own Exoneration against such Decisions of the General Assembly as are prejudicial to the Cause and Interest of Christ in this Land, stands to this Day unrepealed; as also, the Act of the same Assembly with Reference to the Presbytery of Dunfermline, excommunicating both Ministers and Members of this Church, in Case they do not either concur with, or submit to the Ministry of Intruders. Nor is it an Apology for a sinful Act or Decision, whereby a Church is involved in the Guilt of transgressing the Ordinances and Institutions of the Lord, that there is a Connivance at the contrary Practice.

6. All the above-mentioned Steps of Defection and Apothesis are followed with many evident Signs and Causes of the Lord's Departure; such as abounding Profanity, Impiety, and the vilest Immoralities of all Sorts, wherewith the Land is greatly polluted: The profane Diversions of the Stage, together with Night Assemblies and Balls, these sinful Occasions of Wantonness and Prodigality, are encouraged and countenanced in the most considerable Cities of the Nation. Likewise an idolatrous Picture of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was well received in some remarkable Places of the Land: And tho' Popish Errors and Delusions abound more and more, and the abominable Idolatry of the Mass is openly frequented in many Corners of this Land, yet no proper nor effectual Remedies are applied against this growing Evil; and particularly, Church-discipline is not duly exercised
exercised against Papists, according to former laudable Acts and Constitutions of this Church: And of late the penal Statutes against Witches have been repeal'd, contrary to the express Letter of the Law of God, Exod. 22. 18. Thou shalt not suffer a Witch to live. Deut. 18. 10, 11, 12. There shall not be found among you any One that maketh his Son or his Daughter to pass through the Fire, or that useth Divination, or an Observer of Times, or an Inchanter, or a Charmer, or a Confulter with familiar Spirits, or a Wizard, or a Necromancer. For all that do these are an Abomination to the Lord: And because of these Abominations, the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Also the common Impressions of God are in a great Measure worn off the Spirits of Men; the Power of Religion is daily decaying thro' the Land; the very Form of it is despised by many, and rested upon by others, which is occasioned by the general Contempt of the Gospel, and neglecting the great Salvation brought near therein to Sinners of all Sorts: Upon which account the Lord is provoked to withdraw in a great Measure from his own Ordinances, and to restrain the gracious Influences of his Holy Spirit; whereby Multitudes, under the Means of Grace, are lying scattered like dry Bones about the Grave's Mouth. A sad Evidence of the Departure of a Spirit of Prayer and Mourning for our own Sins, and the Abominations that are done in the Midst of us; especially when it is considered, that a dreadful Spirit of Security, Deadness and Indifference prevails among all Ranks of Persons, notwithstanding of the many evident Symptoms of the Lord's Anger and Displeasure gone forth against us. Our Nobility and Barons, who have sometimes appeared with an Heroick Zeal and Resolution for maintaining and advancing a Work of Reformation, have generally burst the Lord's Bonds asunder and have cast his Cords from them, insomuch that the very Form of Family-worship is either despised or neglected by the most Part of them. Our Burgesses and Commons, who
who have made a zealous Profession of the Truths of the Gospel, for the most Part know not the Way of the Lord, nor the Judgments of their God. The Ministers in the House of God, who have sometimes set the Trumpet to their Mouth, and shown to the House of Jacob their Sin and their Transgression, are under a more than ordinary Restraint of the Spirit of God; and he that speaks against the Evils of this degenerate Day, makes himself a Prey. Every one of us in many, if not in all the above particular Instances, are some Way or other deeply involved in the Provocation; the Sun is gone down upon us, We do not behold our Signs, and there is not a Prophet; nor any that know the Time how long. It may be mentioned with Regret, that, in the two several Acts for National Fasting, appointed by the late Commissions, there is no particular Searching into the Grounds and Causes of the Lord's Indignation and Controversy against this Church and Land, in former and present Times; There is no Mention made of the ruining Acts and Constitutions above-named, not of the sinful Silence of Judicators, in omitting a faithful Testimony against the growing and spreading Errors of the Times; nor of the Injuries done to the Heritage and Flock of God, by the violent Intrusions that have been made upon them, which have raised a Cry of Violence and Oppression from all Corners of the Land; a Cry is gone up to Heaven, even to his Ears who hath said, For the Oppression of the Poor, for the Sighing of the Needy, now will I arise, I will set him in Safety from him that puffeth at him. When the Sins of the present Times are not particularly mourned over, it cannot be expected that there will be any faithful Inquiry into, or Acknowledgment of, the Defections and Backslidings of former Periods; for which we have just Ground to apprehend, that the Lord may pursue a Quarrel and Controversy against sinful, Gospel-despising and Covenant-breaking Scotland: Yea, instead of acknowledging the Sins and Defections of the present Times; these
these who have had an active Hand in them, continue to justify their Abominations, and, by the whole of their Conduct and Behaviour, declare, That they only want an Opportunity to re-act the same Scene of Oppression and Tyranny, and to complete what they had begun, and in a great Measure carried on, even the Ruin of any Remains of a Covenanted Reformation among us: Yea, such of the Ministry as are weighted and grieved with the above and the like Backslidings and Declinings, have not that Courage and Resolution to appear in the present Judicatories, which the Providences and Circumstances of the Day and Time call for. Hence, notwithstanding of the Stop that was put to former violent Proceedings by the Assembly 1734; yet, instead of carrying on Reformation, a visible Fainting and Declining seems to take Place in the present Judicatories of the Church, of which many Instances might be given; such as their proceeding no further than the Sentence of the Lower Excommunication against one Mr. Nimmo, Student in Divinity, who, in March 1735, in a publick Discourse in the Divinity-Hall of Edinburgh, made an insolent and blasphemous Attack upon the whole of Divine Revelation, when no less Censure than that of the Higher Excommunication, summarily pronounced, could have been justly reckoned a sufficient Testimony against such bold and daring Wickedness, which, in all its Circumstances, had never its Parallel in this Land. Likewise the Assembly that met foresaid Year, appointed a Call to be moderate for the Presentee to the Parish of Carriden, exclusive of any other. And the Synod of Perth and Stirling, upon the Remit of the Affair made by the same Assembly unto them, concerning the Inrolment of the Intruder into the Parish of Muckhart, instead of censoring him for his scandalous Intrusion, have taken him into their Body, and given him the Right-hand of Fellowship, by inrolling him as one of their Number, tho' he was never inrolled by the Presbytery, who have the more immediate In-
of that Parish: And, tho' they reclaimed against the Inrolment, and severals of them dissent from that Deed of the Synod; and tho' the Assembly 1736 in their 14th Act declare, "That it is, "and has been since the Reformation, the Principle "of this Church, that no Minister shall be intruded "into any Parish, contrary to the Will of the Con-
"gregation:" Yet, in Contradiction thereunto, they themselves appointed the Presbytery of Stirling to proceed to the Settlement of a Presentee to the Parish of Denny, tho' the whole Elders and the Body of the People are dissenting and reclaiming; and likewise they appointed the Synod and Presbytery of Dumfries to inroll the Intruder into the Parish of Traquair;" as a Member of the respective Judica-
tories, to support him in his Ministry, and to en-
deavour to bring the People of that Parish to sub-
mit to it." These are sad Evidences, that, instead of being duly affected with our Backsliding and Defection, we sigh and go backward, yea, we refuse to return.

The above-mentioned Particulars are some Instan-
ces of the gradual Declinings and Backslidings of this Church and Land (besides the doctrinal Errors already condemned) most of which have taken Place betwixt the late unnatural Rebellion and this present Time, and which this Presbytery judge it their Du-
ty to testify against: Therefore, and for all the Rea-
sions and Grounds above particularly condescended upon, they did, and hereby do, condemn, as contra-
y to the Word of God and the Covenanted Prin-
ciples of this Church, all and every one of the Steps of Defection above-narrated, and they did, and hereby do, declare, That they are amongst the Causes and Grounds of the Lord's righteous Quarrel and Controversy with this whole Church and Land, for which all Ranks of Persons have Reason to humble themselves before a righteous and holy God.

But in regard it is necessary for the Maintenance and Vindication of Truth, not only to condemn the part
particular Steps of Declining and Backsliding which a Church and Land may be guilty of; but also to publish, declare and assert the Truths which are controverted, opposed or assaulted, whether they concern the Doctrine, Worship, Government or Discipline of the House of God; and particularly, considering the bold Attempts that have been made upon the whole Doctrine of this Church, contained in the holy Scriptures and her Confession of Faith founded thereupon, by the foresaid Mr. Simson and Mr. Campbell, and by the foresaid Print, intituled, *The Assembly's Catechism revised*: Therefore the Ministers associate in Presbytery do judge it a Duty necessarily incumbent on them, in the Situation wherein adorable Providence has placed them as a Judicatory, and as now met in Presbytery, and constitute in the Name and Authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, the alone Head of his Church, judicially to acknowledge, declare and assert the Doctrine, Worship, Government and Discipline of this Church, in Opposition to the several Steps of Defection and Deviation therefrom.

Likeas, the Presbytery did, and hereby do, acknowledge, declare and assert, That the Light of Nature and the Works of Creation and Providence, without the Aid of Tradition or Revelation, shew that there is a God, who hath Lordship and Sovereignty over all: As also, That thereby his Wisdom, Power and Goodness are so far manifested, that all Men are left inexcusable; according to the Doctrine held forth from the Word of God in our Confession of Faith, Chap. 1. § 1. Chap. 21. § 1. And they hereby reject and condemn all contrary Principles and Tenets that are maintained by Mr. Campbell, the Socinians and others.

In like Manner, they acknowledge, declare and assert, That the Word of God, contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, is not only a sufficient Rule, or the principal Rule, but that it is the only Rule to direct us, how we ought to glorify
rify God, and enjoy him; and that "The Authority
" of the holy Scripture, for which it ought to be
" believed and obeyed, dependeth not upon the Te-
" timony of any Man or Church, but wholly upon
" God (who is Truth itself) the Author thereof;
" and therefore it is to be received, because it is the
" Word of God." And that "The supreme
" Judge, by which all Controversies of Religion are
" to be determined, and all Decrees of Councils,
" Opinions of ancient Writers, Doctrines of Men,
" and private Spirits are to be examined, and in whose
" Sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the
" Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture;" according to Confession, Chap. i. § 4, 10. and the Answer
to the third Question in the Larger, and the second
Question in the Shorter Catechism with the Scriptures
cited: And they hereby reject and condemn all Deifi-
cal, Socinian and Popish Errors, contrary to, or in-
consistent herewith.

Likewise, they hereby acknowledge, declare and
assert, That the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son
of God by ineffable, incomprehensible and necessary
Generation, is JEHOVAH, the Most high God, Self-
existent and Independent; and that he is necessarily
existent; and that the Terms, Necessary Existence,
Supreme Deity, and the Title of the Only true God,
cannot be taken in a Sense that includes the personal
Property of the Father, but belong to the Son and
Holy Ghost equally with the Father; and that the
Three Persons of the adorable Trinity are numerically
One in Substance or Essence, equal in Power and in
Glory; according to the Doctrine held forth from
the Word of God in our Conf. Chap. 2. § 3. and the
Answer to the Question in the Larger and Shorter
Catechism, How many Persons are there in the God-
head? and the Answer to the Question in the Lar-
ger Catechism, How doth it appear that the Son and
the Holy Ghost are God equal with the Father? And
they hereby reject and condemn all contrary Principles
vented by Mr. Simson, and all other Arian, Socinian and
and Sabellian Tenets contrary to the above Doctrine, or inconsistent therewith.

Also, they acknowledge, declare and assert, That God has, from all Eternity, by the most wise and holy Council of his own Will, freely and unchangeably decreed and ordained whatever comes to pass in Time; and particularly, that he hath predestinated some of Mankind unto eternal Life before the Foundation of the World was laid, and according to his eternal and immutable Purpose, and the Council and good Pleasure of his own Will allenarly; and that they who are thus predestinated, are chosen unto everlasting Glory out of his mere free Grace and Love, without any Foresight of Faith, good Works, or Perseverance in either of them, or any other Thing in them, as Conditions, or Causes moving him thereto, and all to the Praise of his glorious Grace; according to the Doctrine held forth from the Scriptures, Confess. Chap. 3. § 1, 5. And they hereby reject and condemn all contrary Principles contain'd in the Assembly's Catechism revised, and all other Pelagian and Arminian Errors inconsistent herewith.

Likewise, they declare, acknowledge and assert, That, when God created Man, he entred into a Covenant with him, wherein Life was promised upon Condition of his perfect and personal Obedience; and that in this Covenant (commonly called the Covenant of Works) the first Adam stood in the Capacity of a Publick Covenant-head and Representative unto all his Posterity; and that, by Reason of his Breach of this Covenant, all Mankind descending from him by Ordinary Generation, sinned in him their Head and Representative, and fell with him in his first Transgression; and this his Sin is truly and justly imputed to them every one; and that, upon account of this Sin imputed, all Infants descending from Adam by ordinary Generation, want that original Righteousness wherewith Adam was created, and are by Nature Children of Wrath, according to Confess. Chap. 6. § 3, 4, 6. Chap. 7. § 2. and Larg. Cat.
Q. 20, 22, 25, and 27. Short. Cat. Q. 12, 16. and the Scriptures cited. And they hereby reject and condemn all contrary Tenets maintained by Mr. Simson, and the Revifer of the Assembly's Catechism, and all other Principles contrary to, or inconsistent herewith.

Likewise, they acknowledge, declare and assert, That Man, by his Fall into a State of Sin, is wholly dead in Trespasses and Sins, and hath wholly lost all Ability of Will to any spiritual Good accompanying Salvation; and that Man in a natural State being Enmity against God, and averse from all spiritual Good, is not able by his own Strength to convert himself, or prepare himself thereto; and consequently, that there is no necessary nor certain Connection, either in the Nature of Things, or by any Divine Promise, between the morally serious Endeavours of Man in a natural State, and the obtaining special or saving Grace; according to the Doctrine held forth from the Scriptures, Confess. Chap. 9. § 3. Chap. 10. § 2, 3. And they hereby reject and condemn all opposite Principles maintained by Mr. Simson, and all Arminian Errors inconsistent herewith. Notwithstanding they assert, That it is the Duty of all, and every one, to give diligent Attendance upon the Ordinances of Divine Institution and Appointment, particularly the Reading and Hearing of the Word and Prayer, these being the ordinary Means by which converting and quickning Grace is communicated to such as are dead in Trespasses and Sins; according to Larg. Cat. Q. 153. 154. and Short. Cat. Q. 85. and 88.

Also, they acknowledge, declare and assert, That the Light of Nature is not sufficient to give that Knowledge of God and of his Will, which is necessary to Salvation; and therefore they who do not profess the Christian Religion cannot be saved, be they never so diligent to frame their Lives according to the Light of Nature, and the Law of that Religion they do profess; according to Confess. Chap. 1. § 1. and Chap. 10. § 4. Larg. Cat. Q. 68. And they condemn all Socinian or other Tenets inconsistent therewith in the foresaid Catechism revised; and particularly
larly Mr. Simson's erroneous Doctrine concerning an obscure Revelation and Offer of Grace made to all without the Church; and Mr. Campbell's erroneous Opinion, That the Laws of Nature are, in themselves, a certain and sufficient Rule to direct rational Minds to Happiness; and that our observing of these Laws is the great Mean and Instrument of our real and lasting Felicity.

Further, they acknowledge, declare and assert, That the second Person of the adorable Trinity did, in the Fulness of Time, assume the Human Nature into a personal Union with his Divine: That he took to him a true Body and a reasonable Soul, being conceived by the Power of the Holy Ghost in the Womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without Sin: and that he is *very God and very Man*, in two Distinct Natures and one Person for ever; according to *Confess. Chap. 8. § 2.* and the Scriptures cited. And they hereby reject and condemn all Nestorian and Sabellian Principles and Tenets, contrary to, or inconsistent herewith, whether vented in the foresaid *Catechism revised*, or other erroneous Treatises of that Kind.

Further, they acknowledge, declare and assert, That the Eternal Son of God, who was *made manifest in the Flesh*, did in our Nature, as the second *Adam*, the publick Head and Representative of Elect Sinners, and the undertaking Surety for them, yield a perfect Obedience to the Law as a Covenant of Works, in the Room and Stead of Elect Sinners; and that, in their Room and Stead alone, he bore the whole of that Punishment threatened in the Law, and incurred by the Breach of it; and that, in his Sufferings unto Death, he substitute himself in the Room of Sinners, and endured that Curse, bore that Wrath, and died that Death which is the Wages and just Desert of every Sin, and which the Sinner himself should have undergone; and that the Sufferings of the Son of God in our Nature, were a true, proper and expiatory Sacrifice, and a proper, real and
and complete Satisfaction unto the Justice of God for Sin; according to Confess. Chap. 8. § 1, 4, 5. and Chap. 11. § 3. Larg. Cat. Q. 71. and the Scriptures cited. And they thereby reject and condemn all opposite Principles held forth in the forefaid Catechism, and all other Arminian and Baxterian Tenets, contrary to, or inconsistent herewith.

Also, they declare, acknowledge and assert, That the Obedience of Christ in his Life, and his Sufferings unto Death, commonly called his Active and Passive Obedience, is that perfect and complete Righteousness, on the account of which alone a Sinner is justified in the Sight of God; and that it is upon the account of this Righteousness imputed, that Sin is pardoned, and that the Persons of any are accepted as righteous in the Sight of God; and that this Righteousness imputed, is the only Foundation and Ground of a Sinner's Right and Title unto eternal Life: And altho' the Grace of Faith be the Instrument whereby we receive and apply Christ and his Righteousness; yet neither Faith, Gospel-repentance, nor our sincere Obedience, either all of them together, or any of them separately, are our justifying Righteousness in the Sight of God, or the Ground of our Acceptance, or of our Right and Title unto eternal Life; according to Confess. Chap. 11. § 1. Larg. Cat. Q. 73. and the Scriptures cited. And they hereby reject and condemn all opposite Principles contained in the forefaid Catechism, and all other Popish, Arminian or Baxterian Tenets, contrary to, or inconsistent herewith.

Also, they acknowledge, declare and assert, That any Want of Conformity to the righteous and holy Law of God, is a Sin, as well as all actual and voluntary Transgressions of the Law, Confess. Chap. 6. § 4, 6. Larg. Cat. Q. 24. Short. Cat. Q. 14. And that every Sin doth, in its own Nature, deserve the Wrath and Curse of God, both in this Life and that which is to come, according to Confess. Chap. 15 Sect. 4. and Larg Cat. Q. 152 And consequently, that
that the original Corruption and Depravation of our Nature is a damnable Sin, Confess. Chap. 6. Sect. 6, and that Sinning and Suffering will be the Misery of the Damn'd in Hell thro' Eternity. And they hereby reject and condemn all contrary Principles, contained either in the foresaid Catechism, or maintained and defended by Mr. Simfon, and all other contrary Pelagian and Arminian Tenets whatsoever.

Likewise, they acknowledge, declare and assert, That the supreme and only Standard, Measure and Rule of all virtuous and religious Actions, is the righteous and holy Will and Law of God, and not our own Self-interest and Pleasure, according to the Doctrine held forth from the Word, Confess. Chap. 1. § 2. Larg. Cat. Q. 3. Short. Cat. Q. 2. And they hereby reject and condemn all contrary Principles and Tenets maintained by Mr. Campbell and others.

Also, they hereby acknowledge, declare and assert, That altho' all that believe in Jesus are delivered from the Moral Law as a Covenant of Works, so as thereby they are neither justified nor condemned; yet they are under perpetual and indissoluble Obligations to conform themselves to the Moral Law as a Rule of their Obedience, not only because of Blessings and Benefits which they have received, but from the Authority of God as he is Jehovah, the Great Lawgiver, whose Perfections are infinitely Glorious and Excellent, and whose Dominion is over all; according to Confess. Chap. 19. § 5, 6. And they hereby reject and condemn all contrary Principles held forth in the foresaid Catechism, and all other Antinomian Principles and Tenets inconsistent herewith.

Further, they acknowledge, declare and assert, That God hath all Life, Glory, Goodness and Blessings in and of himself, and is alone in and unto himself All-sufficient, not standing in Need of Creatures which he hath made, nor deriving any Glory from
from them, but only manifesting his own Glory; by, unto, and upon them: And that he hath most sovereign Dominion over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them, whatsoever himself pleaseth: And that any Rewards that he has promised to any of his Creatures, are free and voluntary; and that, in all their Obedience, Worship and Service, they can neither profit him, nor be any Way advantageous unto him; according to the Doctrine held forth from the Word of God, Confess. Chap. 2. Sect. 2. Chap. 7. Sect. 1. And they hereby reject and condemn all contrary Principles and Tenets maintained by Mr. Campbell and others.

In like Manner, they hereby acknowledge, declare and assert, That the Principle and leading Motive and Spring of true Love to God, or of acceptable Obedience and Service unto him, is not our own self-interest, or our own Happiness and Felicity, tho' the same is by Divine Condescension inseparably connected therewith; but that the leading Motive of all true Love to God, is the supereminent and glorious Perfections and Excellencies of his Nature, as they shine forth and are manifested in the Person of him who is IMMANUEL, God with us; and that all who truly love God, do love him chiefly for himself: As also, That all acceptable Obedience and Service unto him is primarily and chiefly influenced from a Regard unto the Authority of God in Christ expressed in his holy Law, and proceeds from a Principle of Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ: And that the principal and chief End of all such Obedience is, that God may be honoured and glorified in our Bodies and Spirits which are his; and consequently, all that Obedience and Service to God, that is principally influenced, and primarily springs from One's self-interest, Advantage or Applause, or from Fear of Punishment, or the Hope of a Reward, is legal, mercenary, and servile, and moves in no higher Sphere than what Men in a natural State may attain unto; according to the Doctrine held forth from
Larg. and Short. Cat. Q. 1. And they hereby reject and condemn all contrary Errors maintained by Mr. Simson and Mr. Campbell, as having a direct Tendency to make all our Acts of Obedience and Worship servile and mercenary, and so to destroy and overturn the specific Difference that is between Common and Saving Grace, or between the Obedience of the Temporary and the Obedience of the sound Believer, and to establish only a gradual Difference between Common Grace in the one, and Saving Grace in the other, which is a gross Error of Mr. Baxter, and of the Arminians and others.

In like Manner, they acknowledge, declare and assert, That all such as have saving Faith, believe in the Lord Jesus, as the Christ, the Son of God; and that the Apostles and Disciples of our Lord, in the Days of his Humiliation, did acknowledge, believe in, and worship their Lord and Master as the true promised Messiah, the Son of the living God, the only Begotten of the Father, and expected from him spiritual and eternal Life and Salvation; and that all who truly believe in the Lord Jesus, can neither totally nor finally fall away from a State of Grace; and that the Faith of the Apostles and Disciples of our Lord did not fail in the Interval of Time between his Death and Resurrection; and therefore, whatever Clouds and Doubts they were under, they were never so far left as to conclude, that their Lord and Master was a a downright Deceiver and Imposter: According to Confess. Chap. 8. Sect. 1. Chap. 14. Sect. 2. Chap. 17. Sect. 1, 3. Larg. Cat. Q. 72. Short. Cat. Q. 86. and Scriptures cited. And they hereby reject and condemn all contrary Principles and Tenets maintained by Mr. Campbell, or contained in the forefaid Catechism revised, and all other Principles and Tenets inconsistent herewith.

The Presbytery likewise taking to their serious Consideration, That the Testimony of the Church of Christ in this Land has, ever since our Q 2.
Reformation from Popery, been stated in a special Manner for the Prerogative Royal of the Prince of the Kings of the Earth, as King, Head and Lord over his own House, and for the Government, Worship and Discipline which he has appointed and instituted in the same; tho', in this perilous Time wherein their Lot is cast, the Doctrine is also undermined and subverted, which (as has been observed) was not the Trial of this Church in former Periods: Therefore they judge it their Duty to bear Testimony for the Sovereignty and Headship of the Lord Jesus over his own House, and to declare their Adherence to the Contendings, Wrestlings and Testimonies of this Church, and her several Members, both Ministers and Professors, for the same.

Likeas, the Ministers associate for the Exercise of Church Government and Discipline in a Presbyterial Capacity, being now met in Presbytery, did, and hereby do acknowledge, declare and assert, That the Lord Jesus Christ, our great IMMANUEL, and he alone, is King over Zion the Hill of his Holiness; and that he is the only Head, Lord and Lawgiver over his own House; and that to him alone it appertains, to give Officers, Laws and Ordinances to the Church, which is his spiritual, free and independent Kingdom; and that the Office-bearers in the House of God, in all their several Spiritual and Ecclesiastical Functions and Administrations, as also all the Courts and Judicatories appointed by the Lord Jesus in the Church, his spiritual Kingdom, are subordinate to him alone in their Ecclesiastical Administrations; and that the Office-bearers of the Church have Power, Warrant and Authority from the Lord Jesus, to hold General Assemblies, as well as other subordinate Ecclesiastical Judicatories, for the Exercise of Church Government and Discipline, either at stated Times, or occasionally, as the Circumstances or Necessity of the Church requires; and to dissolve themselves, and appoint the Time of their next Meeting, according to the Word of God, Psal. 2.
throughout. Isa. 9. 6, 7. Mat. 16. 19. Chap. 28. 18, 19, 20. Eph. 1. 20, —— 23. the laudable Acts and Constitutions of this Church, particularly Act Sess. 26th, Assem. 1638. and Act Assem. 1647, approving the Confession of Faith, Sess. 23. it being always free to the Civil Magistrate to call Synods and Assemblies of Ministers and Elders, for consulting and advising with them, in Matters of Religion, upon any necessary Occasion, according to the foresaid Acts. And they hereby reject and condemn the following Erastian Principles and Tenets; (1.) That the Civil Magistrate is Supreme over all Persons, and in all Causes, Ecclesiastical as well as Civil. (2.) That the Office-bearers of the Church, in their Spiritual and Ecclesiastical Functions and Administrations, are subordinate unto the Civil Magistrate. (3.) That the external Government of the Church is precarious, or depends upon the Will and Pleasure of the Civil Magistrate. (4.) That the Ordering and Disposing of the external Government and Policy of the Church, doth properly belong to the Civil Magistrate, by virtue of his Prerogative and Supremacy in Causes Ecclesiastical: And that the Civil Magistrate may emit such Constitutions, Acts and Orders, concerning the Administration of the external Government of the Church, and concerning all Ecclesiastical Meetings and Matters to be proposed and determined therein, as he in his Wisdom shall think fit; as was enacted by Parliament, and practised in the late persecuting Times. All which, and the like Principles and Tenets, have a direct Tendency to confound the Ecclesiastick and Civil Jurisdictions, and have been witness'd against by the faithful Ministers and Members of this Church, as dishonouring to the Son of God, and divesting him of his Prerogative Royal as King over the Church, his own free, spiritual and independent Kingdom.

Likewise, they acknowledge, declare and assert, That the Lord Jesus, the alone King and Head of his Church, hath appointed a particular Form of Government
Government to take Place therein, distinct from the Civil Government, and not subordinate to the Civil Magistrate; which Form of Government is to continue to the End of the World unalterable: And that Presbyterial Church Government, without any Superiority of Office above a teaching Presbyter, in the due Subordination of Kirk-Sessions to Presbyteries, of Presbyteries to Provincial Synods, and of Provincial Synods to General Assemblies, is that only Form of Government laid down and appointed by the Lord Christ in his Word; which Form of Government has been received and owned by this Church, as the only Government of Divine Institution and Appointment; as is evident from her publick Acts and Constitutions, particularly from the second Book of Discipline, and the Propositions concerning Church-government, with the Scripture Proofs and Arguments annexed, as the said Propositions were received and approved by the Asem. 1645, Sell. 16. And they hereby reject and condemn the following Principles and Tenets, whether Erastian, Prelatick or Sectarian; (1.) That the Lord Jesus hath not appointed in his Word any particular Form of Government in his Church under the New Testament; a Principle highly reflecting upon the Head of the Church, as if he had not been as faithful in his own House as a Son, as Moses was as a Servant. (2.) That the Diocesan Bishop or Prelate is an Office superior to a teaching Presbyter; which Principle stands condemned by several Acts and Constitutions of this Church, as contrary to the Word of God, and as a gross U-furrpation in the House of God, and which brought forth A N T I C H R I S T that Man of Sin. (3.) That a particular Congregational Church is not subordinate nor accountable unto any superior Judicatory; which Principle and Tenet is also condemned by the laudable Acts and Constitutions of this Church, as contrary to the Word of God, and as having a native and direct Tendency to introduce a licentious Laxness.
Laxness in Principle, and an universal Disorder in Practice, in the House of God.

Also, they acknowledge, declare and assert, That unto the Office-bearers of the Church, and to them alone, the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven are committed; particularly the Key of Doctrine for expounding and preaching the Word, and determining Controversies of Faith according to the Scriptures; the Key of Government and Discipline, for preserving the Beauty and Purity of the Church, and for inflicting of Church Censures upon the Erroneous, the Scandalous and Obstinate, that she may be preserved, or purged from such Errors in Principle, or such Scandals in Practice, whereby she may be in Danger of being corrupted; as also the Key of Ordination and Mission, for the ordaining and sending forth of Church-Officers, for spiritual Service and Ministration in the House of God, according to Mat. 16. 19. John 20. 23. Mat. 18. 18. Acts 15. Acts 16. 4. Mar. 28. 19, 20. Mark 16. 15. 2 Tim. 2. 2. the Books of Discipline, Propositions concerning Church-government and Ordination of Ministers, and other laudable Acts and Constitutions of this Church. And concerning that Power and Authority which belongs to the Office-bearers of the Church in their judicative Capacity. They further declare and assert, That the same is only a Stewardly and Ministerial Authority, subordinate unto the Authority and Laws of the Head of the Church, declared and published in his own Word; and, to express it in the Words of our Conf. Chap. 31. § 3. "It belongeth to Synods and Councils, Ministerially to determine Controversies of Faith, and Cases of Conscience, to set down Rules and Directions for better ordering of the publick Worship of God, and Government of his Church; to receive Complaints in Cases of Mal-administration, and authoritatively to determine the same: Which Decrees and Determinations, if consonant to the Word of God, are to be received with Reverence and Submission, not
not only for their Agreement with the Word, but also for the Power whereby they are made, as being an Ordinance of God appointed thereunto in his Word." And they hereby reject and condemn the following Sectarian Principles; That the Keys of Government and Discipline are given by the Head of the Church to the whole Community of the Faithful; and that Ecclesiastical Synods and Councils have only a mere consultative Power and Authority: Which Principles they condemn, as contrary to the Word of God, the laudable Acts and Constitutions of this Church founded thereupon, and as having a native Tendency to introduce Anarchy and Confusion into the House of God.

Likewise, they acknowledge, assert and declare, That Ministers, and other Office-bearers in the Church, ought to be set over Congregations, by the Call and Consent of the Majority of such in these Congregations, who are admitted to full Communion with the Church in all her sealing Ordinances; and that there should be no Preference of Voices in this Matter, upon the Account of any secular Consideration; according to Acts 1. 16. to the Close of the Chapter. Acts 6. 2. John 4. 1. James 2. 1. with many other Scriptures; and according to our Books of Discipline, and Acts of Assembly, agreeable thereto. And they reject and condemn all contrary Principles, Tenets and Practices, whereby the Scripture Rule and Pattern, in this important Matter, is denied and rejected, and Ministers are imposed upon dissenting and reclaiming Congregations.

In like Manner, they do hereby own and assert the perpetual Obligation of the National Covenant of Scotland, frequently subscribed by Persons of all Ranks in this Kingdom; and particularly as approved of and explained by the General Assembly 1638, and sworn by all Ranks of Persons Anno 1639, and ratified by Act of Parliament 1640. As also, they own and assert the perpetual Obligation of the So-
Lemn League and Covenant, for maintaining and carrying on a Work of Reformation in the Three Kingdoms, taken and subscribed by all Ranks in Scotland and England Anno 1643, ratified by Act of Parliament of Scotland Anno 1644; and particularly as renewed in Scotland, with an Acknowledgment of Sins and Engagements to Duties by all Ranks Anno 1648:

Concerning which Oaths and Covenants, they declare and assert, That, as to the Matter of them, they were lawful, being plainly contained in the Word of God; and, as to their Ends, they were laudable and necessary: And therefore they did, and hereby do, declare their Adherence to the same.

Likewise, they hereby receive, acknowledge and approve all the several Pieces of Reformation attain'd unto by this Church in her several reforming Periods; particularly the Confession of Faith, compiled by the Assembly of Divines who met at Westminister, with Commissioners from the Church of Scotland: Which Confession they receive and own as the Confession of their Faith, as the same was received and approved by Act of Assembly 1647, Seff. 23. As also, they receive and own the whole Doctrine contained in the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, compil'd by the fore-said Assembly at Westminister, and approved by Acts of Assembly 1648, Sessions io. and 19. as a Part of Uniformity, in Catechising, for the Three Kingdoms; and ratified by Act of Parliament, February 7th 1649. As also the Form of Church-Government and Ordination of Ministers, as the same was received and approved by Act of Assembly 1645, Seff. 16. and the Directory for publick Worship, as the same stands approved by Assembly 1645, Seff. 10. together with all the Acts of Assembly from 1638 to 1650, and since that Time, in as far as they were past for advancing and carrying on a Covenanted Reformation, agreeable to the Word of God, and the received Principles and Constitutions of this Church.

Likewise, they hereby declare their Adherence to the several Testimonies, Declarations and Warnings c-
mitted in Behalf of the Covenanted Reformation of this Church, from the Year 1650 to the Year 1688; particularly to the Contendings and Wrestlings during that Period, whereby a great Cloud of Witnesses resisted even unto Blood, in testifying for the Supremacy and Headship of the Lord Jesus over his own House, and other Branches of our Covenanted Reformation, in Opposition to abjured Prelacy, and that blasphemous Supremacy, usurped by the Civil Powers over the House of God, under the foresaid Period. And they hereby condemn all Ecclesiastical Censures whatsoever, pass'd or inflicted upon any, whether Ministers, Elders or others, from the Year 1650 to this Time, for their Adherence unto, or witnessing for, any Branch of our Covenanted Reformation.

Also, they hereby declare their Adherence to the several Testimonies, whether given in by Representations and Petitions to the several General Assemblies, or otherwise emitted and published, since the Year 1688, against the several sinful Omissions of the Judicatories of this Church above-mentioned, or the several Steps of Declining and Backsliding in this present Age from a Covenanted Reformation once attain'd unto; and particularly, to the several Representations offered by the Ministers of this Presbytery to the Commission of the General Assembly that met at Edinburgh August 1733; and to the Paper that was afterwards emitted by them, intituled, A Testimony to the Doctrine, Worship, Government and Discipline of the Church of Scotland; as also, to the Reasons, published by them, Why they have not acceded to the Judicatories of the established Church.

Thus this Presbytery have endeavoured to discharge themselves of what they apprehend to be their Duty in their present Situation; and their Design in the whole is, to bear Testimony to the Truths of God, opposed or assaulted in the present Age, and against the Defections and Backslidings, whether in the present or former Times, for the Glory of God, and the Honour
nour of his Truth, and (if the Lord may be graciously pleased to bless this Mean) to excite the present Generation to search and try their Ways, and to turn again to the Lord, from whom we have every one deeply revolted: As also, to bear Testimony to Scotland's Covenanted Reformation, for the Sake of the Generations to come; that they may consider the Palaces of Zion, and mark her Bulwarks, and may know what the Lord has done for Scotland; that they may set their Hope in God, and may neither forget his Works, nor be as their Fathers a stubborn and rebellious Generation, that set not their Heart aright, and whose Spirit was not steadfast with God. And they obstinately intreat all Ranks of Persons whatsoever, into whose Hands this their Act, Declaration and Testimony may come, that laying aside all carnal and political Intendments, every Thing may be weigh'd in the Balance of the Sanctuary; and that, in the Fear of that great and dreadful Name, The Lord our God, they may consider both their own, and the Iniquities of our Fathers, and may return unto the Lord, by Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and a particular Acknowledgment of Sin, and unfeigned and thorough Reformation: And in returning to the Lord, we may hope and expect, that He that hath torn us will heal us, and that He that hath smitten, will bind us up. But, if we go on obstinately in our Trespasses, we have just Ground to fear, that, as we are at present pining away in our Sins, and consumed under our manifold spiritual Strokes and Judgments, so a righteous and holy God may be provoked to come out of his Place, and punish the Inhabitants of this Land for their Iniquities, and that he may send a Sword, or some desolating Calamity and Judgment, to avenge the Quarrel of his Covenant.

May the Lord himself return; May he look down from Heaven, and behold, and visit this Vine, the Vineyard which his own Right-hand hath planted, the Branch which he hath made strong for himself; it is burnt with Fire, it is cut down; they perish at the Rebuke of his
Countenance: May his Hand be upon the Man of his Right-hand, upon the Son of Man whom he hath made strong for himself, so shall we not go back from him: May he quicken us, and we will call upon his Name. Turn us again, O Lord God of Hosts, cause thy Face to shine, and we shall be saved.

Extracted by

J.A. FISHER Cls. Pres.

ACT concerning the ADMISSION of the Reverend Mr. Ralph Erskine and Mr. Thomas Mair as Members of Presbytery.

At the Kirk of Orwel, the Eighteenth Day of February One thousand seven hundred and thirty seven Years. Which Day and Place, the Ministers and Elders associate together being met in Presbytery, there was presented unto them, by the Reverend Mr. Thomas Mair Minifter at Orwel, a Paper signed by him, and intituled, Declaration of Secession from the present Judicatories of the Church of Scotland, &c. And at presenting the said Paper, he represented unto the Presbytery, That it was a true and just Double of his Declaration and Protestation given in to the Presbytery of Dunfermline, at their Meeting on the Sixteenth current; and he craved that the same might be read and considered by this Presbytery, whereupon they agreed to read the same: The Tenor whereof follows:

DECLA-
DECLARATION of Secession from the present Judicatories of the Church of Scotland, by Mr. Thomas Mair Minister at Orwel, given in to the Reverend the Presbytery of Dunfermline, met at Dunfermline the Sixteenth Day of February 1737 Years.

When I joined in the Representation and Testimony therein, given in to the Commission in August last by Mr. Ralph Erskine; tho' I had a general View of several other Things among us as just Ground of Humiliation, and what ought to be testified against, which there was not then Opportunity to digest into Order; yet I had not then any form'd Intention of carrying the Matter further than was done at that Time, or at most than a tabling of some Representation and Testimony of the same Nature before our Presbytery and Synod, partly for my own Exoneration, and partly as a Mean proper to be used in a Way of Communion with the Judicatories of the Church, for exciting to what I think is the necessary Duty of this Church at this Day. Neither had I any Thought of stating all the Particulars contained in that Representation, as Grounds of Secession from the Judicatories of the Church, far less as Grounds of present Secession, or of looking on them all as Terms of Christian or Ministerial Communion.

Yet being in Providence thus call'd out (tho' most unworthy) to essay Witnessing for the Lord in a Day of his great Anger and contending with us in many remarkable Instances; as I think myself bound to adhere to every one of the Particulars already represented as Matter of Testimony, so the Things contained in that Representation, together with the Treatment it has met with from the Commission and otherwise, have, in Concurrence with several other Considerations,
tions, engaged me to a further and more close Enquiry into the State of Matters with us in this Church, and the Judicatories thereof: And particularly to enquire in what Respects, and how far the present Judicatories of this Church have receded from the Law and Testimony, and what I'm called to upon the whole. And,

1st, The Receptions of the Church from the Law and Testimony, are what appear very great and dismal; whether we take a View of the particular Ministers, Preachers and Members in the diffused Church, or the Church as represented in her Judicatories, in their own Actings, and the manifest Accession to the Guilt of the particular Members thereof.

(1.) The Law and Testimony requires, That the Lord's People, the Multitude of the Disciples, have Liberty to chuse their own Overseers, Acts 1. 23.—6. 3.—14. 23. But many Ministers in the Church are not only privately, but even publickly, and in open Court, denying and impugning this, and charging the perfect Rule with an utter Want of any Rule or Statute as to this important Matter, except the general Rules of Edification and Order, which they manifestly abuse and misapply to their own Purposes; contrary to the evident Design of these Golden Rules, which make exceedingly against their Principle and Practice in this Matter. And, as they are from Time to Time openly declaring their Mind on this Head, without receiving any Check or Censure for the same; so the Judicatories of the Church are in their Practice going the same Way, yea, as acting in Contradiction to the Rule, by thrusting in Men into the Pastoral Charge among even reclaiming Congregations, who not only are willing to chuse an unexceptional Person, but have actually made Choice of one according to Rule. And tho' the Act of Assembly 1732 anent Settlements be repealed or laid aside; yet, as there is no Acknowledgment in the Repeal of the Iniquity of that Act, as contrary to the
the Word of God, so the Act continues to take place in Practice, even as that Method of settling Congregations was much practised before the Law was framed; yea, both before and since the Repeal of that iniquitous Act, many Settlements have been made in Congregations, even worse than the said Act requires; By all which, many are now settled in Congregations wanting one special Branch of a lawful Calling to the Ministry. And we cannot omit here observing, That the Church of Scotland is in this Point more corrupt than the Church of Rome was even in the 7th Century, at least when, tho' come to a great Height otherwise in Superstition and Idolatry, they had not as yet given up with that Principle of Christianity, That the Choice of the People was necessary in the Election of a Pastor; and that, where this was wanting, the Election was null. Yea, as some observe, it was the 11th Century before this Right was taken from the People; and they were then robb'd of it by Pope John the 17th (or as others, the 19th) a Necromancer. And however long and frequent Use, together with the sad Prevalency and Generality of the Defection, may have much extinguished the Impression of the Weight of this Matter from the Minds of many; yet, as I cannot but look upon it as most nearly concerning the very Foundations of a Christian Church; so it is very evident, that both the Primitive and Reforming Church had this Matter very deeply at Heart, as a Principle which ought by all Means to be maintained. The Objection and Evasifion some here make Use of is weak and frivolous, viz. "That by the People, to whom the Right belonged, may be understood the Heirs and Elders, or the like, as representing the People: And that the Robbery committed by the Popish Church, was their restricting the Choice to their Clergy." For, as is observed by Calvin, after that the Clergy had robb'd the People of their Right of chusing their Pastors, the Princes assumed (and thus

† Petri's Hist. p. 63, 65.
thus far took from the Clergy) the Right of presenting to Congregations, as reckoning they had as good Right and Warrant for this as the Clergy. But according to the original Constitution *, it was the Plebs, the Multitude, the A L L, over whom the Pastor was to have Charge, that were to chuse or give Consent to his being set over them: And, as a further Evidence of this, in the following Section we find the People expressly distinguished from Heritors or these in Honour, and from Elders and Clergy: where, for the greater Order in the Election, and preventing Tumult and Abuse, the different Part each of these should Act is expressly assigned. Teneat virtororum Testimonium, subscriptio clericorum ordinis consensus ac Plebis, alter fieri nulla ratio sit.

So,

(2.) The Law and Testimony requires, That Judicatories be constitute of such as are lawfully ordained Office-bearers in the Church; as is plain from the very Nature of Church-judicatories, and the professed End of their Meeting. Those who profess to meet in the Name of Christ, for managing the Affairs of his House, must be clothed with his Authority. No Man taketh this Honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, Heb. 5. 4. And so even the great High Priest of our Profession, Jesus Christ, came not without a Commission from the Father: Yet now there is scarce any of our Judicatories but what have fewer or more that are obtruded upon Congregations without a lawful Calling, and may therefore be too justly said to have run unseem; and therefore have no just Pretension to Authority from our Lord to manage the Affairs of his House, or judge in his Name.

(3.) The Law and Testimony requires, That Judicatories be careful and faithful to have such purged out, as either by their Doctrine or Conversation act for the Destruction of Souls, and the Perverting of the Gospel †. But tho' there are multiplied heavy Complaints

Rev. 2. 14, 20.
Complaints thro' the Land against many who bear the Name of Ministers, both as to their Doctrine, their corrupting the Simplicity of the Gospel, and giving Poison instead of Food to Souls; and as to their vain, carnal and unbecoming Conversation, whereby they make the Sacrifice of the Lord to be abhorred: Yet, so far is there from a suitable Zeal and Concern shown for prosecuting the Ends of Discipline, in searching out and cenfuring such, that, in the Management of Judicatories, there are such Methods taken for covering them from Censure, as gives too sad Evidence there is nothing of due Faithfulness this Way to be expected; as appears evident from the Management of both first and second Processes against Professor Simfon, and in the Conduct with reference to Professor Campbell, who was dismissed without the least Censure; yea, without so much as any narrow Enquiry into his Scheme, either by the Assembly, the Commission or their Committee. For whatever Length the Sub-Committee brought that Enquiry, yet the Committee, who put that Work upon them, would not so much as examine or judge of their Report, so as either to adopt or reject it; but wrapt all up in a few Generals, to put an End to the Process, in such Manner as might screen from Censure the Broacher of that very dangerous Scheme. Yea, such was the Issue it was brought to, as while the Committee and Assembly endeavoured to cover Professor Campbell from the Imputation of Error, and from Censure, for the same, they themselves are entangled in the Snare of his pernicious Errors, while they make the Ground of their assailing him from the Charge of Error to be his asserting, That our Delight in the Glory of God is the Origin, chief Spring, sole Standard, &c. of all virtuous and religious Actions: And so that Self-interest, or Pleasure and Delight, is still the highest and chief Motive to Obedience; only that this Delight should terminate on or extend to the Glory of God: By which Professor Campbell means...
(as he elsewhere explains himself) our Enjoyment of an infinitely glorious God, who alone can fully satisfy our Desires, or gratify our Self-love. These are Instances of the Conduct of Judicatories as to Doctrine. And the Charge seems no less verified against their Conduct with reference to Processes against the Conversation of Ministers, if we take a View of the Issue of the Processes against Mr. Greenlees at Ceres, and that against Mr. Young at Leslie (not to insist on the Management with reference to several Candidates for the Ministry, who accepted Presentations, and had Accusations led against their moral Character, and, in the Judgment of many, so far at least instructed, as rendered a Delay of their Settlement, in order to further Enquiry, necessary for Edification.) When such Instances of Error and scandalous Behaviour have been wrapt up in the Manner wherein particularly these four specified were; What Ground have any to hope for Redress in other Cases? Or what Conclusion can they draw from the Procedure in these, but that it is in vain to table any Complaint of that Kind? Seeing all that will be gained will be much Trouble and Charge to the Pursuer, without any Redress of the Grievance complain’d of.

(4.) The Law and Testimony requires the Lord’s People to flee from Strangers and Hirelings, and not hear them, because they are Thieves and Robbers; to beware of false Prophets, who are known by their Fruits; and declares, That they who run unsent, shall not profit the People: Yet our Judicatories will have People to hear such, or be deprived of Ordinances altogether, Act Assem. 1733, anent the Presbytery of Dunfermline.

(5.) Ministers, and so Judicatories, are called to be at Pains to gather the Flock of Christ; and there is a Wo pronounced against the Shepherds that scatter the Flock, and gather them not: But Judicatories are now at much Pains to scatter the Flock, and deprive them of their spiritual Food, by their Acts, Intrusions, &c.

(6.) Ju-
(6.) Judicatories are called to lay out themselves for reforming what is amiss, and that by returning to the Law and Testimony: But now the Practice of Judicatories seems too plainly to speak out a stated Design (at least of those who are the special Springs of the Management) to have a Covenanted Work of Reformation altogether overthrown, and the Church modelled in a Conformity with England, if not worse. And, tho' a good Act was of late made anent Gospel-preaching, and a Recommendation anent settling Congregations, which some valued as seeming to be some Kind of Reviving of the old good Rules of this Church on that Head; yet it is evident, that this Recommendation, so far as it might be called a Reviving of these old Rules, together with the above Act anent Doctrine, are in a special Manner transgressed and broken through without Control; yea, transgressed, as it were with the same Breath by the Assemblies by which they were made: Particularly in the Affair of Professor Campbell, when the Assembly, together with the Committee appointed to ripen that Affair, did not only involve themselves in the Guilt of the Scandal given by his Scheme, by dismissing that Affair without due Enquiry into it, or inflicting the least Censure upon the said Mr. Campbell; but also, they have materially adopted his Scheme, particularly by their making his asserting that which is the very Substance of it (viz. That our Delight in the Glory of God, is the Origin of moral Virtue) to be the Ground upon which they assizezie him from the Charge of Error. So that now, not only according to Mr. Campbell's Opinion, but even according to the Assembly's Decision, our Delight, Pleasure or Satisfaction (all which, among other Terms, Mr. Campbell makes synonymous) terminating on the Glory of God (by which, as Mr. Campbell explains himself, is meant the Enjoyment of an infinitely glorious God, as He who can give us full Satisfaction, or fully gratify our Self-love) is the first Spring and chief Motive of all virtuous and religious Actions. And
as to the Recommendation anent Settlements, it was no less palpably broke through by the Assembly in the Case of Traquair and Dennie; And what then can be expected of inferior Judicatories? I'm far from instituting a Comparison of Designs, especially with the worthy Members of Assembly who were active and zealous for that Act anent Doctrine, and for the Reviving of our old Rules anent Settlements: Yet it is to be lamented, that the Event has too much of a Parallel with that of King Charles's Proclamation against Profanity, which ushered in a very Deluge thereof; and the Exception made in the late Toleration, of Popery, and those who deny any of the Persons of the Godhead; Both which Evils do in a special Manner prevail in the Land, without effectual Check.

(7.) While the Lord requires the Stewards of his House to be faithful, and particularly not to spare to shew unto the House of Jacob their Transgressions; He surely calls Judicatories to encourage and strengthen the Hands of such as are thus faithful in the Discharge of their Work. But the Judicatories of the Church have not only discountenanced and censured Faithfulness this Way, but have even thrust out four of their Fellow-labourers from their Communion upon account thereof.

(8.) They who bear the Office and Character of Builders in Zion, are called to build upon the Foundations of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief Corner-Stone. But the Judicatories of the Church, and Office-bearers therein, are (may we not say) at least in a great Measure, gone off from these Foundations; Many of them in their Doctrine, as appears from their materially adopting Mr. Campbell's Scheme, intirely waving Mr. Simpson's Scheme in his first Libel, and slightly cenfuring his Arian Errors. And as to Government, they are too palpably building on the Foundations of worldly Policy (some of them even openly denying that there is any Rule in Scripture directing how to settle Con-
gregations, or in Opposition to Patronage) and some of them building upon Latitudinarian Principles, (giving Liberty to every Man to worship God in their own Way, or according to their own Sentiments) and thus building on Principles opposite to the Doctrines taught by the Apostles and Prophets, which are the Foundations of the Building whereof Jesus Christ is the chief Corner-Stone.

(9.) The Law and Testimony requires Ministers and Judicatories to commit the Gospel that is intrusted unto them, unto faithful Men who shall be able to teach others, 2 Tim. 2. But is it not for a Lamentation, that while those that have most Evidence of their having obtained Grace to be faithful, are discouraged and discountenanced, such are taken by the Hand, and appointed Office-bearers in the Church, not a few of whom give little Evidence, either by their Doctrine or Conversation, that they are or will be faithful.

2dly, I come next to enquire, Whether I can warrantably, with Safety, and without manifold Hazard, continue in Communion with the Judicatories of the Church; or, if the Lord be calling to a present Withdrawing and Coming out from them? And,

(1.) It seems evidently unsafe and dangerous to continue in Communion with the Judicatories of this Church, if we consider the manifold Proofs she has given of her hating to be reformed. This may appear partly from what is above-said; and we may further observe, that the Lord has been using a great Variety of Means with us for a long Time, not only by a plentiful Dispensation of his Word and Ordinances, but also by manifold Dispenations of adorable Providence, both adverse and prosperous: And, when he has, in more than ordinary remarkable Ways, been of late Years threatening us with Sword, or Famine, or Pestilence, or all the three, and punishing us by many temporal and spiritual Judgments; yet, in midst of all, not only are all Ranks sinning still more and more; not only are many
many accounting these the best Days, and the Gene-
rality thinking more and more deep in carnal Security,
yea, even the wisest as well as foolish Virgins flum-
bring and sleeping, and cannot be awakned by all
the Alarms we have hitherto met with; but even
the Judicatories of the Church, after all Endeavours
used for their Excitement to Reformation, do not
only neglect to fall in with these Means, but flight,
contemn, and treat with Disdaine, such Endeavours
used; and this after long Continuance of Light, and
fullest Means of Conviction: And when, notwith-
standing of exceeding great Backslidings, and the
Lord's remarkably lifting up his Hand against the
Church; yet the Judicatories cannot be brought to
a free and unhampered Acknowledgment of the
Causes of the Lord's Controversy; yea, is sometimes
even denying the need of solemn Fasting and Humi-
lation (as was the Case at last Commissions.) Have
we not Reason to apprehend that the Lord is about
to plead with us, because we say we have not sinned?
and that he is about to take away the Hedge of his
Vineyard, and suffer it to be trodden down? and that
continuing in the Judicatories in such a Case (especial-
ly when Opportunity may be had of essaying, in a ju-
dicative Capacity, that Work and Duty which they
will by no Means comply with) will involve in the
Guilt of that Neglect and Refusall, and so expose
to the Judgments threatened for the same?

(2.) When the Judicatories of a Church are so far
infatuated, as to thrust out from Church-communion
and Society, both faithful Watchmen because of
their Faithfulness, and the purer Part of her Mem-
bers, who cannot go along with the Courses of Defe-
dion, but desire to keep their Garments clean; and
when the Judicatories continue thus to treat Multi-
tudes of the Lord's People, who, according to the
Rules of the Church, stand debarred from Church-
communion for their Non-submission to Intruders,
&c. As this may be compared to the Case of a City
or Nation thrusting out their Chariots and Horsemens
from
from among them, even at a Time when the Enemy is not only entered their Borders, but is wafting the Country (which is the present Case) and as this sudden Ruin and Destruction is loudly threatened, so I reckon it both Duty and Interest for me to adhere to, and embark with, those who are in this Manner thrust out; especially when they are essaying, under the Conduct and Influence of the Spirit of the Lord, to lift up a Standard for the Lord’s Cause and Truth, and against the Enemy that is come in like a Flood. So,

(3.) I think it appears evident, that as the true Church, the Tabernacle of David, is built on the Foundations of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief Corner-Stone; so, at this Day, the Tabernacle is, by a Chain of extraordinary Providences, removed without the Camp: There is now a constitute Church thrust out from the Society of the Judicatories of this Church for their Faithfulness; and these who are thrust out, are building upon the true Foundations of the Church of Christ, while the Judicatories of this Church are many Ways overthrowing these Foundations, both as to Doctrine and Government, and building upon the Foundations of human Reason and carnal Policy. And therefore it is my Duty, as I would desire to be approved of the great Builder of Zion, to bear Hand to those, who are by Grace aiming at building on the true Foundation.

(4.) If the Flock of Christ are called to flee from, and not hear Strangers, Hirelings, and such as are Wolves, Thieves and Robbers; then I cannot see either Duty or Safety in joining with these, especially in such a near and close Union, as that of one sacred Society met in the Name of the Lord for the Management of the Affairs of his House; or the Consistency of doing so, with Ministerial Faithfulness in warning People to flee from such: And as little is it consistent with the very End of such Meetings, which, if at all valuable, is to take joint Counsel and Measures in the Management of the Affairs of the Church, to
to the Glory of God and the Good of Souls. To pretend to do this with declared Enemies of our Covenanted Reformation, and who are imbracing every Opportunity of pulling down the carved Work of God, seems exceeding inconsistent, and contrary to Reason and Religion. Sure it would be a most incongruous and unnatural Part, for a Company of Shepherds to resolve to associate with a Herd of Foxes and Wolves, to consult for the Welfare of the Flock, and so to adhere to these strange Counsellors, as nothing of any Moment shall be done without their Knowledge and Consent. But that this is and must be the Case of the Judicatories of this Church in their present Situation and Constitution, is most evident: And therefore it is high Time for any who desire the Good of the Flock, to withdraw from such a Mixture.

(5.) The Duty of maintaining the Peace and Unity of the Church, the Body of Christ, requires this Withdrawing from the present Judicatories of this Church, as they are constitute and manage: For, 1. Christ is the Centre of Union, from whom the Judicatories have of a long Time been making deep Defection; and as there can be no spiritual Union but by meeting in the Head, so sure it is vain to pretend Union, or the maintaining of true Unity, in a Way of departing from the Head. True it is, there may be Differences in lesser Matters, when yet, as to the Main, there is a Centring in the Head: But that this is not the Case now, is plain, seeing the very Foundations of both the Doctrine and Government of the Church of Christ are overturned, both in Word and Practice, by the present Judicatories, and such as are by them kept in Communion with this Church; as appears from what is above. So, 2. What Peace, Concord or Unity in a Society, especially a sacred one, where the Principles of the constituent Members of it are opposite to, and destructive of one another, and that in Matters of the greatest Moment to the very Being of a sacred Society? which
is the present Case, with the Judicatories of this Church: And therefore it is my Duty, especially, when I see a Society of the Lord's Servants pointing toward the Centre of Union, to withdraw from the present Judicatories, and adhere unto them in promoting the Ends of a Gospel-Ministry.

(6.) The Judicatories of this Church have been doing what in them lay to pull the Crown off from Christ's Head, and refusing to give him the Glory due to his Name, to give him the Glory of his Supreme Deity, by resenting suitably the blasphemous Denial of the same; and, instead thereof, have even kept the Blasphemer in full Communion with the Church, and refuse all Calls to lay to Heart, or acknowledge their Sin in this; whereby they have sadly involved themselves in the Guilt of denying the Son of God; 1 John 2, 22, 23. which is one special Mark of Antichrist: They have refused to give him the Glory of his Sovereignty, as the sole King and Lawgiver of his House; yea, have usurped a legislative Power over the same, and will not acknowledge any Sin therein: They have refused to give him the Glory of his Prophetical Office, by vindicating his Truths; and have suffered wounded Truth to ly bleeding on the Ground, rather than inflict Censure upon the Subverters of the Truth, and those who preach another Gospel, and bring another Doctrine than is taught in the Scriptures of Truth: And therefore it is my Duty to withdraw from them, and adhere to those who are endeavouring to maintain the Crown on Christ's Head, and to lift up the Standard of a Testimony for his injur'd Cause and Truth.

(7.) It is Duty in the Lord's Sight to make a Secession from those who combine to slay the Witnesses of Jesus Christ: But that this has been, and is the Way of the Judicatories of this Church, is plain from their suppressing Ministerial Freedom and Faithfulness, and thrusting out several of their Members for their Faithfulness; while at the same Time, they are embracing Intruders, and such as may contribute more
more and more to bury the Testimony of Jesus:
And therefore I ought to withdraw from them.

(8.) The Lord requires all, and so, in a special Manner, Ministers of the Gospel, to shew a Concern for his Glory and the Welfare of Zion, preferring Zion to their chiefest Joy; and that Ministers particularly testify this, by endeavouring, by all Means, to have the Knowledge of the Lord’s Name propagated in the Land, and to have the Generations to come in Case to praise the Lord. But, as the native Tendency of the present Practice of the Judicatories of this Church, particularly ancient Settlements, is the training up the rising Generation in Ignorance and Error; so, according to the present Constitution and Ways of managing, there is little or nothing can be done, for preventing this Evil, in a Way of Communion, while the young Generation are altogether destitute of a Gospel-Ministry, having Hirelings intruded upon them, who cannot preach, because they are not sent: And therefore I reckon it Duty to essay in a Way of Secession, what cannot be done in a Way of Communion with the present Judicatories of the Church, and which yet is necessary to be done, for the Advancement of the Gospel, and Good of Souls.

(9.) Those whom the Lord seems to be polishing for his Work, are neglected as useless, yea, ordinarily traduced as dangerous in the Church; and there is no rational Prospect, in the present Situation of Matters in the Church, of their receiving Encouragement. Severals are discouraged from attempting Preparation for publick Service in the Church, yea, considering the State of Matters as to the Fountains of sacred Learning, what Prospect can we have of a Succession of Gospel-Ministers? And, while Matters are thus with us, I think it an evident Call to essay other Methods for maintaining the Lord’s Testimony in the Land.

(10.) There are many Evidences that the Sun is gone down upon us; that the Night is come on us; that the Lord is departed in his Anger, particularly
and in an eminent Manner from the present Judicatories; while not only is there a general deep Sleep as at Midnight, not only further are the Beasts of Prey come abroad (while Arians, Infidels, Necromancers, are treading down the Vineyard of the Lord, yea infernal Spirits, as loosed by Law, coming abroad in the Land) but in the Judicatories Truth, and the Cause of Christ, receive new Wounds from Time to Time: And even those who desire to be faithful, are either so blindfolded that they cannot see the Snares laid for them, and the Plots against the Cause of God; or their Mouths so shut, that they cannot speak with Freedom and Boldness in the Cause, even when the Need is greatest; So that, may we not say, Counsel is perished from the Wise, and the Man of Might cannot find his Hands, while Counsel, Courage and Strength is retained by the opposite Party? As this is a sad Evidence of the Lord’s forsaking the Judicatories of this Church; so I think he is making the Light to shine upon his Servants that are encamped in the Wilderness, and countenancing them in their Effay of bearing Testimony for him, his Truths and Cause, and in Opposition to the Defections of the Judicatories of the Church; and thus giving some clear Evidence, that it is his Work and Cause that is in the Hands of his Servants: And therefore, as I think it both Duty and Interest to follow the Light, so the Warning is awful against refusing to come out to the Help of the Lord against the Mighty.

Wherefore, and upon all the above-mentioned Reasons, and others that might be added, I judge it my Duty to declare and protest; Likeas, I hereby declare and protest, That I find myself obliged to make Seceision from the present Judicatories of this Church, and that I can no longer join in Communion with them in a judicative Capacity, until they set about the Reformation of the above-mentioned and many other Evils complained of. And, notwithstanding of this my present Seceision, I hereby declare my Resolution, thro' Grace, constantly to adhere to
our received Standards of Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government; particularly to our Confeffion of Faith, as the fame was received and approved by Act of Assembly 1647; which Confeffion I still own as the Confeffion of my Faith; and to our Larger and Shorter Catechisms; and also to our Form of Church-government, Directory for Publick Worship, and Ordination of Ministers, as the fame were received and approved by the several Acts of Assembly adopting the fame. In like Manner, I hereby protest, That it shall be lawful and warrantable for me to join with such of my Brethren as have been thrust out from Ministerial Communion with the presentJudicatories, and who are associate together in a Presbyterial Capacity, and endeavouring to lift up a Judicial Testimony against the prevailing Evils of the present Day, and the Sins and Backslidings of former Times; according to the Word of God, theforesaid Standards of Doctrine, &c. and the National Covenant of Scotland, and the Solemn League and Covenant of the Three Nations. And I further protest, That notwithstanding of this my Seceffion, my Pastoral Relation to the Congregation of Orwel shall still be held firm and valid; and that if, in Consequence of this my present Seceffion, any Thing shall be done by the present Judicatories in Prejudice of my Pastoral Relation to the said Congregation, or in Prejudice of my Ministerial Office and the Exercise thereof, &c. the fame shall be held and repute null and void; in regard I desire and hope, thro' Grace, still to adhere to our Covenanted Uniformity, both in Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government, which is not only sullied, but subverted by the present Judicatories, not only in the Particulars I have represented, but in others that may be afterward more fully laid open. 

And, Finally, I protest, That my Ministerial Con-duct and Character, both now and hereafter, shall only be under the Trial and Cognifance of the fore- said Ministers associate together. And I crave, that this
this my Declaration and Proteftation be recorded in the Presbytery Books, and I allowed an Extract thereof. And upon the whole of the Premiffes I take Instruments.

THOMAS MAIR.

After reading the above Declaration, the Reverend Mr. Ralph Erskine Minifter at Dunfermline gave in to the Presbytery a sign'd Adherence to the fame; and he also repreffed, that the said Paper was a just Double of his Adherence given in to the Presbytery of Dunfermline at their forefaid Meeting: And the fame was read, the Tenor whereof follows:

I Hereby adhere to the fame Proteftation as above, with the Grounds thereof, as sufficient, complexly considered; and to the fame Secession, but under the Limitation, and in the Sense following, which I think fit to explain more fully than is above expressed. I having been called forth in Providence to lay before this Presbytery, as well as formerly before the Commiffion of the General Assembly, the forementioned Repræntation and Testimony, not only judge it my Duty to adhere thereunto, but also judge it would be a sinful Omission in me, not to embrace any Opportunity Providence shall offer, in Conjuncion with others, for emitting to this, and transmitting to the rising Generation, the fame Testimony more fully, which I have offered to the Judicatories in shorter Hints, and for doing it in as formal and explicite a Way as can be; which I think, not only the four Brethren above-mentioned, in their present Situation, but also any other Part or Number of the Ministers of this Church meeting together in the Name of the Lord, may lawfully do; especially in a Day of the Lord's Anger on account of the Sins, Errors and Backflidings of the Church; in order to bear Wit- nesfs for the Caufe of Chrift and his Truths, and against the Defeotions of the Church and Land wherein they live. And the four Brethren being par-
particularly stirred up to this Work by a remarkable Chain of Providences, I think myself obliged to join with them in this Matter; not as they are a Presbytery or Judicatory separate from the Church of Scotland, but as they are a Part of that same Church, constituting themselves in the Lord’s Name as a Judicatory of Ministers associated together, distinct from the present Judicatories of this Church, and witnessing against their Corruptions and Defections; insomuch that, by withdrawing from these Judicatories at present, and joining with the said Brethren, I intend and understand no Withdrawing from Ministerial Communion with any of the godly Ministers of this National Church, that are groaning under, or wrestling against, the Defections of the Times, even tho’ they have not the same Light with us in every Particular contained in the foregoing Testimony. Nor do I hereby intend to preclude myself from the Liberty of returning and joining with the Judicatories of this Church, upon their returning to their Duty, and so far as my Joining with the foresaid or any other Ministers in their lifting up the said Testimony, and promoting the End and Design thereof, and the said Return can consist together; seeing, if the Judicatories, who at present either unjustly refuse, or unduly delay, to receive that Testimony, were acting a contrary Part, and putting Hand to Reformation, the same Reasons that induce to this Withdrawing, would necessarily induce to a Returning, which I cordially wish I may quickly see good Reason for.

So that (as an eminent Light in this Church expresses it on another Occasion) “Here is no Separation from the Church of Scotland, either in her Doctrine, Worship, Discipline or Government; but rather a Cleaving more closely thereto, by departing or going forth from her Backslidings and Defections, as we are commanded by the Lord,” and from some Judicatories because of these; “and only a negative, passive and conditional With-
drawing:” not importing any “ Resolution never
to join with them in any Circumstance, but a pre-
fent refusing to follow the declining Part of the
Church, while carrying on these Defections,
and a Choosing rather to stand still and cleave to
that Part, tho’ smaller, that is endeavouring to
“ retain and maintain a Covenanted Reformation.”
Which Reformation, and the standing Obligation
of our Covenants, National and Solemn League,
I was obliged judicially to own, both when licened
and ordain’d in this Presbytery; insomuch that I
look upon this present Step I make, for afferting
and advancing these Covenanted Principles, and op-
posing the Defections made therefrom, to be every
Way agreeable and consequential to these Solemn
Vows and Engagements.
And tho’ I am sensible what a bad Tendency Di-
vision natively has, and desire to abhorre and shun all
divisive Principles and Practices, contrary to the
Doctrine, Worship, Government and Discipline of
the Church of Scotland, agreeable to and founded
upon the Word of God; and judge it my Duty to
endeavour, thro’ Grace, to follow after that Peace
that has Truth for the Ground and Ornament of it;
yet the safest Way for pursuing Peace, being to
cleave unto Jesus Christ who is the Centre of all
ture and holy Union, and to advance the Truth as it
is in him; I therefore think myself obliged, leaving
Events to the Lord, to take the present Opportunity
of joining with other Brethren, in what I reckon a
faithful Testimony for it, such as I have no Access
to promote in the same Manner with the foresaid
Judicatories as presently stated. Adhering therefore
to the above Protestation and Seceffion as here ex-
plained, I thereupon take Instruments.
RALPH ERSKINE.

After reading the above Adherence, Mr. Mair de-
clared to the Presbytery, That he was of the same
Mind with his Brother Mr. Erskine: And both the
said
said Brethren further represented, That they had read and considered the Act and Testimony approved by this Presbytery the third Day of December last, and that they adhered to the same. And also they declared, That they were willing to join themselves to this Presbytery as Members thereof. After reading of both the above Papers, and hearing their Brethren fully thereupon, the Presbytery proceeded to consider the same; and they found, That the Grounds upon which their Reverend Brethren had declared a Secession from the present Judicatories of the Church of Scotland, were the same upon the Matter with these upon which the Ministers of this Presbytery had sometime ago declared their Secession from the said Judicatories. And further, the said Brethren having declared their Adherence to the Act and Testimony concluded at Perth; and their Willingness to join themselves to this Presbytery as Members thereof: Therefore they unanimously agreed to receive them. Likewise, the Presbytery did and hereby do, cheerfully receive and admit their Reverend Brethren, Mr. Ralph Erskine Minister of the Gospel at Dunfermline, and Mr. Thomas Mair Minister of the Gospel at Orwel, as Members of this Presbytery, and appoint their Names to be added to their Presbytery-roll. And this being intimated to them, they took their Seats accordingly.

Extracted by

J. A. FISHER Cls. Pres