

THE ABERDEEN PIRATE,

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THE CHURCH.

"REFORM is the order of the day," although somewhat trite, is nevertheless a true remark. We have already seen it verified to some extent, and we doubt not of seeing it still more so, in the course of the year on which we have just entered. This is just as it should be, for where Reform is wanted, by all means let us have it, only let us take care, that the cure be not more dangerous than the disease, let us beware, least in our endeavours to remedy an evil, we should introduce others of a more serious nature, than that which we sought to remove, least by neglecting to trace properly, the effect to its cause, we should overturn or demolish that, which our wisdom may not be able to replace.

We apprehend these remarks apply with some degree of justice, to the present Church-destruction mania, which in some quarters, is raging to a considerable extent. The present moment seems to be, in the opinion of the *Church Destructionists*, very favourable for the agitation of this subject, and accordingly Church Associations are being formed in every village, hamlet, or city throughout the kingdom, and will soon be as plentiful as Political Unions were on a late occasion, pamphlets on this subject are issuing from the press, *ad infinitum*, and no means are left untried, to convince us of the gross injustice and horrible oppression, consequent on Church Establishments.

That there are many abuses in the Church which ought to be removed, and many defects which ought to be remedied, are facts, which its greatest friends will not controvert; the pruning knife should be applied to several branches of corruption, which have sprung up even in the Church, but we can see no good reason why the fabric itself should be destroyed. The Church of England and Ireland, for instance, is lamentably defective, and we apprehend it will be the interest, as well as the duty of its friends, to set about its speedy renovation, otherwise it requires no great foresight to predict its abolition. The enormous livings of her clergy, wrung from the dissatisfied people, are beyond all description shameful, and it is obvious, that in order to her being established on a better footing, her clergy must be a *working* one, while their exorbitant livings must be considerably diminished.

The Church of Scotland, we apprehend, is the purest establishment in existence, yet there are evils connected with her which we trust will soon be removed. Patronage, for instance, is an intolerable yoke, which the people are now de-

termined to shake off, and which we conceive to be the greatest evil connected with our Scottish Establishment, as to it may be traced most of the other faults which are to be found in our Church. Let this once be removed, and the Church of Scotland will survive all the attacks with which her enemies may assail her.

In our opinion, the most of the faults that are found with the Church of Scotland, are attributable to the corruptions which prevails in her, and not to any defect in her constitution, of course then the arguments are against the abuses which have crept in, and which the sooner they are removed the better. In a letter sent by Dr. M'Crie to the Secretary of the Anti-Patronage Society, he says, that the best written defence of the Scottish Establishment will not weigh against felt grievances, we presume the learned Dr. speaks the sentiments of the majority of the inhabitants of Scotland, and that notwithstanding the outcry that has been raised for the downfall of their church, there will not be wanting many to rally round her, ready to unite together, to effect her reformation, as well as to defend her from the assault of her enemies.

Although we have hazarded an opinion on this subject, we take credit to ourselves for not being dogmatically prejudiced in favour of the side we have espoused. We are favourable to Establishments, because we think them more efficient than the voluntary system, but we profess ourselves open to conviction, and should we at any future time see cause to alter our opinion, which we confess, will require better arguments than we have yet met with—we shall lay it before our readers, for we wish to advocate nothing but truth and justice, on whatever side they are found; and if at any time, we unwittingly advance aught contrary to these, we shall, on conviction of our error, with pleasure retract it.

To the Editor of the Aberdeen Pirate.

SIR,—A considerable quantity of butter was seized, on account of deficiency in weight, last week, as the authorities appear much on the alert, for the detection of defaulters in this respect I would suggest that they direct their attention to the weight of coals, which, in many cases, I am told, is considerably *minus* what it should be.

To obviate this, and to prevent its becoming a practice, I would recommend that such carts as are supposed to contain coals deficient in weight be, by order of the Dean of Guild, taken to the weigh-house, and the coals weighed, for the satisfaction of those concerned.

I am, &c.

PAUL PRY.

Aberdeen, January 2, 1832.