

weaken the Apostolical foundations, or impair the scriptural purity of our Church.

We are quite willing that their own registers should be taken as legal evidence of the births, marriages, and deaths of the members of their respective communions; and likewise that they should be authorised to celebrate marriages according to their own rites; but we decidedly object to their being allowed the right of burial, by their own Ministers and after their own forms, in our parochial cemeteries; not only as an invasion in most cases of freehold rights conferred on us by the original founders of our churches, and subsequently guaranteed to us by law, but also as tending to place the varied modes of religious opinion and religious worship upon an indiscriminate footing, and thus to introduce a dangerous confusion into the minds of our people.

We do not see upon what ground of equity Dissenters can object to the payment of church rates, which are in fact a charge upon property entailed on its inheritance and estimated in its transfer; nor can we perceive the hardship of their being required to aid in the support of an establishment, in the benefits of which themselves participate in common with all the members of the State. Nevertheless, we hold it very desirable that the purposes to which church rates are applicable should be more accurately defined, the levying of them more simply authorised, and a rigid economy exercised in their expenditure.

To the claim urged by Dissenters for admission to degrees and offices in our universities we are decidedly opposed. The plea that they are supported by the nation, and, therefore, should be open to all without regard to differences in religious opinion, is not founded in fact; and if it were, it would ill become a Christian nation to secularize education in its seats of learning, and to incur the risk of making those the nurseries of scepticism and error which were designed to be seminaries of piety and truth.

On the subject of tithes we deem it unnecessary to say much. We are not insensible to the inconveniences partially incident to the payment of them; and though we have our doubts as to the success of any system materially differing from the present, we are quite willing to leave the adjustment of this difficult question to the wisdom and justice of your Majesty and Parliament, in the confidence that no change will be sanctioned by your Majesty which, by depriving ourselves or our successors of their just rights, shall frustrate the end for which those rights were conferred on us, namely, the religious instruction of all classes of the people by a ministry not dependent on the will of the people for its support.

Whilst, however, we are thus anxious to guard the foundations and maintain the just privileges of our National Church, we beg to assure your Majesty that we are not opposed to a calm and careful investigation of her alleged imperfections, nor to the adoption of any safe and duly authorised measures for the removal of such defects as shall be found, on enquiry, to exist.

We freely acknowledge that in some of its provisions our ecclesiastical system is not sufficiently adapted to the spiritual wants of our population, in

regard, particularly, to the unequal extent of dioceses and parishes, and the difficulties which still impede the erection and endowment of additional places of worship in the establishment. We admit it also to be most desirable that some more effectual regulations should be introduced for the restriction of pluralities and securing a more general residence of the clergy; and likewise that some specific and appropriate course of theological education should be enjoined on the candidates for the ministry in our church.

In relation to these and similar matters concerning the details of our ecclesiastical polity, we humbly pray that your Majesty will be pleased to issue, after the precedent of former reigns, a Commission of enquiry and revision to certain of the Bishops and other learned Divines, and Lay members of the Communion of the Church of England, with a view to the recommendation of such changes as, without impairing any of the fundamental principles of our beloved and venerated church, shall increase her efficiency and render her, in a still higher degree than she has hitherto been, under the favour of Divine Providence, an honour to your Majesty's crown and a blessing to your people.

And your Majesty's Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow the signatures.]

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

*May it please your Majesty,*

WE, the undersigned, British subjects, natives of the Island of Jersey, or residents therein, beg leave to approach the Throne, with the most heartfelt attachment to your Majesty's sacred Person.

Considering the bounden duty of Rulers, to establish and uphold the religion of Christ, and regarding the United Church of England and Ireland as a true and scriptural branch of the Church founded by the Apostles, we cannot without deep concern behold the efforts making to separate it from the State, and against every such attempt we would most respectfully, but most earnestly, protest.

Deriving from the Establishment, ourselves, blessings of inestimable value, we desire to transmit them to our children; but we are assured that to weaken that union between the Church and the State, from which the latter derives at least as much benefit as it confers, would be to take from the efficiency of the Church, to subvert the interests of Christianity generally, and to shake to its foundation every bulwark of our national happiness.

We are firmly convinced that the United Church is sound in all her fundamental points. As however, time, and the tendency of every thing human to deteriorate, may have impaired her administration and discipline, we shall rejoice in every measure by which they may be renovated, and the blessings of our scriptural establishment diffused more widely.

We beg to be allowed to repeat the assurance of our most devoted attachment and loyalty.

That your Majesty may live long in health and wealth, may be strengthened to overcome your enemies, and attain to everlasting felicity, is our earnest prayer.

[Here follow the signatures.]