

own persuasion: but still I would not go to the extent of making that imperative on the clergy. The very argument urged by one of our brethren goes far to establish me in a conviction that such a sort of discipline is necessary. For if, as was argued, it may be said to a female in order to induce her to assent to such a marriage "You see how many cases there are of others who do the same, and yet are not censured or lightly esteemed in consequence"; and if this representation may have weight in leading her to do what she

otherwise would refuse, knowing it to be wrong, then my conclusion is that the Church must have neglected her duty in not marking such cases with her censures. She has evidently been a party to the admission of an irreligious practice, which (by the influence of successive examples) continually gains force, and multiplies the amount of vice. And therefore I am compelled to ask, What is the Church if not a divinely appointed agent to discountenance offences by punishing those who offend; and so taking away

away the pretext, which enou-
rages fresh offences by pointing
to previous ones in which
they have been allowed to pass
without any reprobation? This
case brings to my mind the
instance of Mr. Sta. Kenison's
baptism, administered in
opposition to my declared
sense of its impropriety, upon
the plea that it was uncharitable
to withhold what he so humbly
and heartily desired. It did us
indescribable harm: and ^{such is} my
persuasion, that the same evil
consequences will sooner or later
flow from a similar yielding in
the present case, that I feel bound
in conscience neither to administer
to Mr. S. nor to approve of its being
done: but only can go so far as