

within the limits of the property—which exposes this strong natural affection to an annoyance that is felt to be intolerable.* But far the best method of adjusting the state of the law to those principles of ownership which are anterior to law, and which all its authority is unable to quench—would be a commutation into land. Let the church property in each parish be dissevered in this way from its main territory; and then, both for the lay and the ecclesiastical domain, there would be an accordance of the legal with the possessory right. It is because these are in such painful dissonance, under the existing state of things, that there is so much exasperation in England, connected with the support and maintenance of her clergy. No doubt

* The following example of the thousands which might be alleged will show how apt the possessory feeling is to revolt against the legal right, and at length to overbear it.

The fee-simple of the Church property of the Dean and Chapter of Durham is in the Dean and Chapter of Durham.

The custom for ages has been to let houses on leases of forty years, and lands on leases of twenty-one years, at small reserved rents, these leases being renewable at the end of seven years, at the pleasure of the Dean and Chapter on the payment of arbitrary fines—which fines however as actually levied are exceedingly moderate, one year and a quarter being asked for houses, and one and a half for lands.

Several of the families of the occupiers of lands and houses so leased have been in possession for generations—and long possession has given to some of these occupiers such a strength of possessory feeling, that they have the sense of being aggrieved, if they do not get the renewals on their own terms.