

necessities of a system which many of them deplore, into the attitude of extortioners ; and placed in that very current along which a people's hatred and a people's obloquy are wholly unavoidable.* Even under the theocracy of the Jews, the system of tithes was with difficulty upholden ; and many are the remonstrances which the gifted seers of Israel held with its people, for having brought of the lame and the diseased as offerings. Such, in fact, is the violence done by this system to the possessory feelings, that a conscientious submission to its exactions may be regarded as a most decisive test of religious obedience—such an obedience, indeed, as was but ill maintained even in the days of the Hebrew polity, although it had the force of temporal sanctions, with the miracles and manifestations of a presiding Deity to sustain it. Unless by the express appointment of Heaven, this yoke of Judaism, unaccompanied as it now is by the peculiar and preternatural enforcements of that dispensation, ought never to have been perpetuated

* There is often the utmost injustice in that professional odium which is laid upon a whole order ; and none have suffered more under it than the clergy of England have, from the sweeping and indiscriminate charges which have been preferred against them by the demagogues of our land. We believe that nothing has given more of edge and currency to these invectives, than the very unfortunate way in which their maintenance has been provided for : and many are the amiable and accomplished individuals among themselves to whom it is a matter of downright agony.