

**THE CHURCH IN
RELATION
TO THE STATE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649549528

The Church in Relation to the State by James Gibson & James M'Naught

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JAMES GIBSON & JAMES M'NAUGHT

**THE CHURCH IN
RELATION
TO THE STATE**

THE CHURCH IN RELATION
TO THE STATE.

BY THE LATE

JAMES GIBSON, D.D.

PROFESSOR OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY AND CHURCH HISTORY,
FREE CHURCH COLLEGE, GLASGOW.

EDITED BY

REV. JAMES M'NAUGHT,

GLASGOW.



Second Edition.

EDINBURGH: JOHNSTONE, HUNTER, & CO.

GLASGOW: THOMAS MURRAY & SON.

LONDON: HAMILTON, ADAMS, & CO.

ABERDEEN: A. & R. MILNE. BELFAST: C. AITCHISON.

1872.

110. R. 461.

PRINTED BY BALLANTYNE AND COMPANY,
EDINBURGH AND LONDON.

RECOMMENDATORY NOTICE.

THIS work is from the pen of one who was a most powerful champion on the side of National Religion. The late excellent and accomplished Dr Gibson occupied a foremost place in the struggle so successfully maintained fully thirty-five years ago, in behalf of the duty of nations and their rulers to acknowledge and promote the cause and kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. This he did, not only by maintaining what has been called the principle of Church Establishments directly on Scriptural grounds, but by refuting plausible objections to that principle. In the present volume a specimen is given of each of these forms of defence. One of the most plausible arguments against Church Establishments consisted in a bold allegation that the Church of Christ was pure till the time of Constantine, and that after what Constantine was alleged to have done in the way of establishing the Church, she gradually sank into corruption. Dr Gibson, on the other hand, in the first treatise here reprinted,—which was originally published in 1833,—examined and exposed this unfounded allegation. He demonstrated that, instead of its being founded on truth, it was entirely baseless. This able and learned treatise—which received the cordial approbation of Drs M'Crie and Cunningham, and was never answered—has been long out of print, although there have been many demands for it from various quarters from year to year. The second treatise—which was originally

PART II.

The Moral Law applicable to the Social Constitution.

CHAP.	PAGE
INTRODUCTION,	175
I. FROM SOME GENERAL PRINCIPLES INDICATED IN THE WORD OF GOD, BUT FOUNDED IN THE NATURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN GOD AND MAN, IT IS PROVED THAT ALL SOCIAL RELATIONS ARE UNDER LAW TO GOD,	178
II. FROM THE DIRECT PRINCIPLES AND DECLARATIONS OF THE SCRIPTURES OF TRUTH, IT IS PROVED THAT ALL SOCIAL RELATIONS ARE UNDER LAW TO GOD,	186
III. DISORGANISING THEORIES RIFE IN THE PRESENT DAY, THAT WOULD SEEK TO SUBVERT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE WORD OF GOD,	205
IV. THE RELATIVE ADVANTAGES OR DISADVANTAGES OF THESE THEORIES ON THE ONE HAND, AND OF THOSE PRINCIPLES ON THE OTHER,	215

PART I.

THE
PRINCIPLE
OF
VOLUNTARY CHURCHES,
AND
NOT THE PRINCIPLE OF AN ESTABLISHMENT,
PROVED TO BE
THE REAL ORIGIN
OF
ROMISH AND PRIESTLY DOMINATION.

1

2

P R E F A C E.

THERE are few subjects upon which so many unsound or defective notions prevail, as upon the question of Church Establishments ; and no one part of that question is so ill understood, or so entirely misrepresented, as the consequences to the interests of religion of what is usually called Constantine's Establishment of Christianity. The present Essay has for its object to set this matter somewhat in its true light, and to afford, within a short compass, to those who will peruse it, the means of determining, on adequate proof, whether the corruptions that preceded, accompanied, and followed it, are owing to what is called the " Voluntary Church " principle, or the principle of Establishments. The author of this Essay is of opinion that they are owing to the Voluntary, and not to the Establishment principle—and believes that he has adduced ample historical testimony in support of his opinion.

He would wish to impress upon his countrymen, not merely the importance of the great religious principles and general interests involved in this momentous question, but also the necessity of having the public mind well instructed on the subject. All the great changes that have lately taken place, some of them for the better, and some of them for the worse, have arisen from small beginnings, and have been brought about as much by the union, determination, and perseverance of their promoters, as by the soundness of their arguments. The friends of Establishments, who, in