# LECTURES ON CHURCH ESTABLISHMENTS. UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE GLASGOW VOLUNTARY CHURCH SOCIETY. DELIVERED IN THE RELIEF CHAPEL, JOHN STREET

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# **VARIOUS**

LECTURES ON CHURCH
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VOLUNTARY CHURCH SOCIETY.
DELIVERED IN THE
RELIEF CHAPEL, JOHN STREET



# LECTURES

ON

# CHURCH ESTABLISHMENTS.

#### UNDER THE PATRONAGE

07

## THE GLASGOW

# VOLUNTARY CHURCH SOCIETY.

DELIVERED IN THE BELLEV CHAPEL, JOHN-STREET.

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#### MDCCCXXXV.

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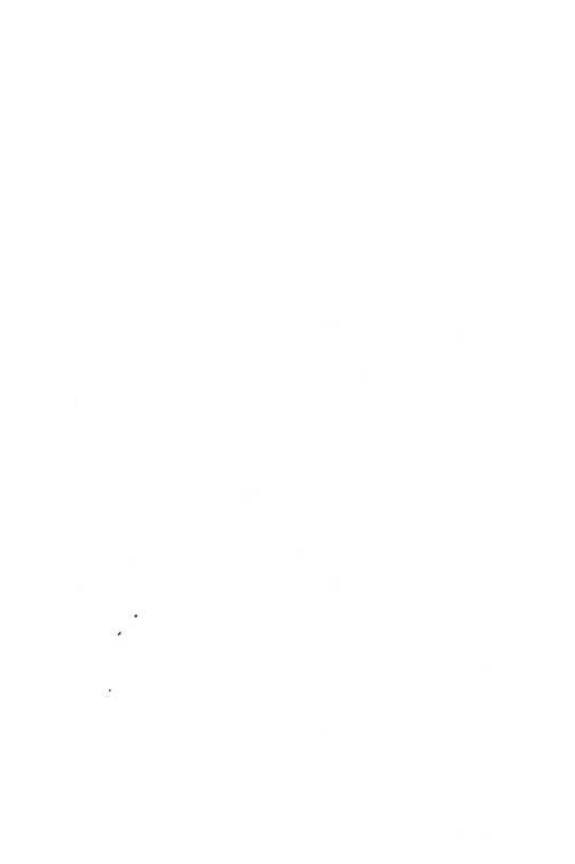
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## LECTURE FIRST:

## UNDER THE PATRONAGE

OF

## THE GLASGOW

# VOLUNTARY CHURCH SOCIETY.

### THE OPENING OF THE CASE.

DELIVERED ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 27th, IN THE RELIEF CHAPEL, JOHN-STREET.

#### By WILLIAM ANDERSON.

MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

THIRD EDITION, ENLARGED.

#### MDCCCXXXV.

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ALTHOUGH the Series of Lectures, of which that published in the following pages was the First, be patronized by the Voluntary Church Society of Glasgow, yet their sanction is given in a manner so general, that each Lecturer is to be understood as being almost entirely alone responsible for the particular sentiments be may utter, or the expressions be may employ. Besides, the present Lecture is published from the press without any concurrence, in any shape, on the part of the Committee.

It may be proper farther to explain, that, although the following pages, the length of No. 18, are printed verbutim from the manuscript from which the Lecture was publicly read, yet, afterwards, there is a little difference between what is printed and what was spoken, in consequence of the Lecturer having, towards the conclusion, addressed his audience, even without prejucditation.



## LECTURE.

#### FRIENDS AND HEARERS.

The part of the work assigned me, in the projected course of Lectures, is to do little more than make a statement of our objects and views, and offer such explanations as seem necessary for setting our cause fairly before the public. This being done, the way will be open, for those who succeed me, to engage in the argumentative discussion.

In the First place, then, as to our object—it is to gain such a separation of Church and State, that our civil legislators and governors shall cease, when acting in their official capacity, from patronizing either one or other party of professing Christians;—that they shall desist from making declarations, in the name of the subjects, either of what is, or what ought to be, or what ought not to be, the National religion;-that they shall abrogate all existing laws which make a distinction among the subjects on the ground of religious opinions; -and, consequently, that they shall also abrogate all laws which have for their object the perpetuation of the endowment of what are called the National Churches, with the nation's property and treasure; and that they shall apply the funds thus disengaged from partial services, to secular objects of universal national benefit. In a word-that they shall confine their legislation and government to those objects to which we are convinced the ordination of God limits them, viz. the protection, regulation, and cherishing, of our temporal interests; and cease from presuming (for less than presumption we cannot account it when they attempt,) to help forward, by their compulsory legislation, the spiritual ark of the Christian covenant. Ne sutor ultra crepidam, we say of them; let them keep