

**HINTS ON THE REGULATION OF
CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, ADAPTED TO THE
PRESENT STATE OF THEIR AFFAIRS. TO
WHICH ARE ADDED, REMARKS ON THE
VOLUNTARY SYSTEM, CONSIDERED IN
RELATION TO ITS SPIRITUAL IMPORTANCE**

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Hints on the regulation of Christian churches, adapted to the present state of their affairs. To which are added, remarks on the voluntary system, considered in relation to its spiritual importance by C. Stovel

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C. STOVEL

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BY THE REV. C. STOVEL.

"Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy
palaces."

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PREFACE.



THE remarks contained in the following sheets, are all founded on one truth, which is used throughout as an axiom. By Lord Bacon, it was applied to the subjects of general learning, here an attempt is made to apply it to the government of a Christian church. The Bible is thus placed before a Christian in a church, as the whole physical universe is presented to a student in the world. The object of Bacon, was to guide his pupil in studying present existences, and hence, the form of his axiom.

“Man is a minister, and an interpreter of nature, and nothing more.” The object of this work, is to guide the Christian in studying the will of God as it respects the government of his church. The axiom assumed, therefore, is, that man is the disciple and servant of God, and nothing more. As in nature he cannot make facts, or general principles, but only learn and use them; so in the church a Christian cannot make laws: his whole business is to understand and obey them. The first few pages are occupied in explaining this principle, the remainder of the treatise is employed in its application to particular points of practice. In order to shorten the work, very few passages of Scripture are introduced in full. To make up for this, the quotations are arranged so as

to facilitate their study. The reader will, therefore, be kind enough to peruse them in the order in which the references stand in the margin. The whole was drawn up at the request of friends, for whom the Writer entertained the highest esteem. If anything useful should be found in the work, let the praise be given to the Author of our redemption; the defects must be attributed to the imperfection of him to whom the duty has been assigned.