

**THE EVANGELICAL
ALLIANCE THE
EMBODIMENT OF THE
SPIRIT OF CHRISTENDOM**

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The Evangelical Alliance the Embodiment of the Spirit of Christendom by James Wright

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JAMES WRIGHT

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SPIRIT OF CHRISTENDOM**

THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

THE EMBODIMENT OF

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTENDOM.

ADDRESSED TO THE

MODERATOR OF THE FREE CHURCH.

BY

THE AUTHOR

OF "LETTERS TO DR CHALMERS ON PRESENT POSITION OF THE FREE CHURCH," &c.

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TO

DR SIEVEWRIGHT,

MODERATOR OF THE FREE ASSEMBLY.

REVEREND SIR,

THE greater part of the following Letter was transcribed for the Press when the Author learned that Dr Chalmers, to whom it was designed to be addressed, had been removed by death, which rendered it necessary to give it, while retaining its original sentiment, a somewhat different form. In order to secure it a perusal by some in the Free Church, I have taken the liberty of addressing it to you, as Moderator of the Free Assembly.

I have it for my principal object to shew, that the Free Church, by falling in with the popular voice in regard to the Evangelical Alliance, has committed herself to lax views on the great questions of Toleration, Free-Communion, and others of a kindred character, and has thereby obscured, if not destroyed, her distinctive standing, virtually proclaimed her inadequacy, if not incompetency, for resisting the aggressions of Popery and Infidelity, negatived her professed constitution, and forfeited her claim of Identification, and even substantial agreement, with the Historical Church.

of Scotland. The questions that thus fall to be considered, and which bear directly on the distinctive character, peculiar work, and eminent duty of the Visible Church of God, are at all seasons, but especially in the present serious juncture, of the very last importance. Apprehending, as I do, that the mode in which these questions are now discussed, is in contravention of that adopted by the Reformers both in this country and on the Continent, I have not hesitated to speak freely; and I have felt encouraged so to do from the wholesome breath of some of the Free Church ministers, during the late discussion on the Alliance, and the general question of Christian Union. Although there is little or no prospect of the Free Church, as such, retracing her steps, yet as a few of her ministers have honourably acquitted themselves on this subject, I submit, through you, for their confirmation, the following consideration of these popular subjects.

I am,

REVEREND SIR,

Yours, &c.

THE AUTHOR.

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REVEREND SIR,

OUR country's crisis, oft and long predicted by many of her clearest headed and warmest hearted sons, having at length arrived, must plead my apology in taking advantage of your official name, in addressing to the public, and especially to the Free Church, the few following rather free, but I trust courteous remarks, on that popular scheme which many "Masters in Israel" conceive to be well fitted to meet the perilous emergency. For some time previous to, but especially since the passing of the Relief Bill in 1829,—that dark measure for Britain's liberty, and which some of its most eloquent theological advocates are now forced to admit has proved "a historical failure,"—a series of very extraordinary events has passed over our heads. The more prominent and eventful of these were the Anti-patronage, the Voluntary, the Non-Intrusion, and last, but not least, the Disruption movements, which appeared in the ecclesiastical firmament with a fiery glare, and in rapid and startling succession. The talent, and learning, and eloquence, not to say piety, that were thus brought into play, gave formal promise that the Third Reformation had commenced, that Scepticism must hide its face before such a display of religious principle, and that Popery, under whatever name or guise, would cut a sorry figure in that brief and brisk, but conclusive struggle, which would introduce the glory of the latter day. In order to reach this "consummation devoutly to be wished," in addition