other inferior prelates preſcnted to benefices, ſhould be examined by the biſhop or ſuperintendant of the dioceſe or precinct where the preferment was ſituated; and that their fitneſs to repreſent the church in parliament ſhould be duly inquired into. It was judged that the king and the regent ſhould recommend qualified perſons to vacant biſhoprics, and that the elections of them ſhould be made by the chapters of the reſpective cathe­drals. It was ordered that all benefices with cure un­der prelacies ſhould only be diſpoſed of to officiating miniſters; that every miniſter ſhould receive ordination from the biſhop of the dioceſe, or the ſuperintendant of the province; and that the biſhops and ſuperintendants, upon the ordination of miniſters, ſhould exact an oath from them to recognize the authority of the king, and to pay canonical obedience to their ordinary in all things that were lawful.

By thefe artful regulations the earl of Morton did not mean ſolely to conſult his own rapacity or that of the nobles. The exaltation of the Proteſtant church to be one of the three eſtates was a conſequence of them; and the clergy being the ſtrenuous enemies of Mary, he might by their means ſecure a decided influ­ence in parliament. The earl of Marre, as regent, giving his ſanction to the proceedings of the commiſſion, they were carried into practice. The deluſive expecta­tion of wealth, which this revival of Epiſcopacy held out to the miniſtry, was flattering to them; and they bore with tolerable patience this ſevere blow that was ſtruck againſt the religious policy of Geneva. Mr John Douglas was deſired to give a ſpecimen of his gifts in preaching; and his election took effect, not- withſtanding the oppoſition that was made to it by John Knox and other eccleſiaſtics, who flood up for the rules and forms which had been eſtabliſhed at the reformation. He was inaugurated in his office by the biſhop of Caithneſs, Mr John Spotſwood ſuperintendant of Lothian, and Mr David Lindſay, who violating the book of diſcipline, communicated to him his character and admiſſion by the impoſition of hands. This was a ſingular triumph to Epiſcopacy; and thc exaltation of Douglas included other peculiarities remarkable and offenſive. He denied that he had made any ſimoniacal agreement with the earl of Morton; yet it was known that the revenues of the archbiſhopric were almoſt wholly ingroſſed by that nobleman, he had promiſed to relign, up­on his inſtalment, the office of rector which he held in the univerſity of St Andrew’s: yet he refuſed to exe­cute this engagement. He was in a very advanced age; and his mental qualifications, which had never been emi­nent, were in a ſtate of decay.

A general aſſembly, which was holden at St An­drew’s, conſidering the high moment of the new regu­lations introduced into the church, appointed commiſſioners to go to John Knox, who was at this time indiſpoſed, and to conſult with him deliberately in his houſe, whether they were agreeable to the word of God. But from the arts of the nobles, or from the ſickneſs of Knox, it happened that this conference was not car­ried into execution. In a general aſſembly, however, which met at Perth, the new polity was reported and examined. The names of archbiſhop, dean, arch-dea­con, chancellor, and chapter, were excepted againſt as Popiſh diſtinctions, and as ſlanderous to the ears of pious Chriſtians. A wiſh was expreſſed that they might

be exchanged for titles leſs profane and ſuperſtitious; and an unanimous proteſtation was made, that the new polity was merely a temporary expedient, and ſhould only continue and prevail till a more perfect order ſhould be obtained from the king, the regent, and the nobility. This tolerating reſolution left the new po­lity in its full force; and a colourable foundation was now eſtabliſhed for the laity to partake in the profits of biſhoprics. The ſimoniacal paction of Morton and Douglas was not long a matter of ſingularity. Mr James Boyd was appointed to the archbiſhopric of Glaſgow, Mr James Paton to the b;ſhopric of Dunkeld, and Mr Andrew Graham to the ſee of Dumblain; and theſe compromiſing eccleſiaſtics, upon being allowed competencies to themſelves, gratified their noble friends with the greateſt proportion of their revenues. The virtue of the common people approved not this ſpirit of traffic; and the biſhops of the new polity were treat­ed openly with reproach or with ridicule.

The year 1572 is alſo remarkable for the death of John Knox, whoſe miſtaken zeal had contributed not a little to bring upon the queen thoſe misfortunes with which ſhe was now oppreſſed. Neither by his death, however, nor by the change of the regency, could ſhe now be relieved. The earl of Morton was ſo much devoted to Elizabeth, that he received particular inſtructions from her how to guide the young king. His elevation, indeed, gave the finiſhing ſtroke to the queen’s affairs. He employed himſelf with ſucceſs in dividing her party among themſelves, and by his means the duke of Chatelherault and the earl of Huntley were in­duced to forſake her. As for Elizabeth, ſhe was bent on putting Mary to death; but as no crime could be alleged againſt her in England, ſhe thought it proper that ſhe ſhould be carried back to ſuffer death in her own dominions. This propofol, however, was rejected; and the friends who remained true to Mary once more began to indulge themſelves in hopes of ſuccours from France. New misfortunes, however, awaited them.— The caſtle of Edinburgh, which had hitherto been held for the queen by Kirkaldy of Grange, was obliged to ſurrender to an Engliſh army commanded by Sir Wil­liam Drury. Kirkaldy was ſolemnly aſſured by the Englilh commander of his life and liberty; but Eliza­beth violated this capitulation, and commanded him to be delivered up to the regent. An hundred of his re­lations offered to become vaſſals to Morton, and to pay him 3000 merks yearly, if he would ſpare his life; but in vain: Kirkaldy and his brother Sir James were hang­ed at Edinburgh. Maitland of Lethington, who was taken at the ſame time, was poiſoned in the priſon houſe of Leith.

The jealouſy of Elizabeth did not diminiſh with the decline of Mary’s cauſe. She now treated her with more rigour than ever, and patroniſed Morton in all the enormities which he committed againſt her friends. Leſly biſhop of Roſs had been long impriſoned in Eng­land, on account of his concern in the duke of Nor­folk’s conſpiracy. Morton earneſtly ſolicited the queen to deliver him up, and would undoubtedly have put him to death; but as he had acted in the character of ambaſſador from Mary, this was judged impolitic, and the prelate was ſuffered to depart for France. When he arrived there, he endeavoured in vain to ſtir up the em­peror, the pope, and the duke of Alva, to exert them-