

JOURNAL AND LUMINARY.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

MONDAY, JULY 10, 1837.

To our female readers, we, perhaps, owe an apology. The Journal has suddenly become crowded with matters of controversy. This is our misfortune, not our fault. We would gladly have avoided it, but recent events left us no option. A blow has been aimed at the Presbyterian church, its order and the principles of its government, which if suffered to fall unresisted, would establish in this our cherished land, an ecclesiastical despotism as ruinous as intollerable. The position of the Journal and the circumstances in which we found ourselves placed, called imperiously upon us to spread the whole matter before our readers, and to take a decided stand against acts, which, if unrebuked, would endanger all our institutions both civil and ecclesiastical. Slave-holders and those who would wield ecclesiastical authority uniting have aimed a blow, which, if effectual, will place our church in the hands of men whose power will know no limits but their own will. We should be false to the church—false to the principles of religious and political freedom, if we raised no warning voice.—Our readers will bear us witness, that we have not sought the contest, and they will, too, see the necessity of making themselves acquainted with the principles involved, and of looking to the consequences of the measures which have been adopted.

But while we all stand firm in defence of our just rights, we must not forget to cultivate a time of deep piety. In no circumstances would this be more necessary. Christians should not become mere controversialists. And to what human means may we look to soften the asperity of controversy, and to encourage an ardent and active piety, with as much of hope as to the sex, which have ever been so once the friends of liberty and of peace?—While new and important duties have devolved on your husbands, fathers, brothers, sons and friends, increased responsibility rests on you to keep alive the fire of christian love, and to encourage the christian virtues which should adorn the characters of the professed followers of Christ.

You can do much to preserve men from personal hostility while they differ upon principles of ecclesiastical action. Let your influence be felt in preserving the charities of life and brotherly love, among even those, whose opinions may, in some respects, be wide apart. Do this and the cause of pure religion may be advanced in the midst of all these unpropitious circumstances.