

"a readiness everywhere manifested on the part of the laity to use all the legitimate authority which is vested in them, through the election of Church-wardens; and all their personal influence to check the growth of Romanising tendencies."

Here, therefore, is an appeal from the chief Pastors and Bishops of the Church of England, calling for a united and hearty co-operation, alike of Clergy and Laity, in the maintenance of principles of vital importance, which they declare to us are not only at stake, but are being deliberately attempted to be subverted by unfaithful men professing to be ministers and members of the Church. The dangers thus earnestly pressed on every faithful member of the Church of England are no novel or sudden innovations; nor is it to be doubted that an organised system has been pursued, which, though traced in its inception, forty years ago, to the zeal of a group of devout men at Oxford, some of whom were actuated by an honest desire for a return to what they regarded as primitive principles, based on tradition, or taught by certain fathers of the Church; yet has unquestionably ended in a deliberate conspiracy to undo the great work of the Protestant Reformation. Nor must it be overlooked that neither earnestness nor devoted zeal, is any evidence of spiritual truth. If the advocates of ante-reformation doctrines, rites and ceremonies, which have already led hundreds of clergy and laity to renounce their allegiance to the Protestant Church of England, are zealous; the agents of the Church of Rome are not less so. Doubtless many of their fathers, when kindling the martyr fires at Smithfield, Hereford, and Oxford, believed they were doing God service. Nor does the Church of Rome any longer disguise her rejoicings at the results. "*The Catholic Register*," a Roman Catholic organ, in a recent issue, triumphantly sets forth the fact that the number of converts to Romanism in London alone, during the past year, has been upwards of 2000; and it adds: "the number of converts " during the last few weeks increased very much. Many, as we are informed, have joined us who are all but Catholics; and who had little need of instruction before they made up their minds to take the final, the long deferred, but the

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