

ers, and a large straw hat on his head. His hair is extremely long, and he has a large mustache. Altogether his appearance is very singular. This morning he was brought up before the Recorder on a charge of disturbing the peace. He pleaded not guilty, and asked the Recorder if a man had not the right of openly expressing his opinions in this city. The Court believed the charge proved, and asked him if he would leave the city if he was discharged. He replied that he would leave the city when he got ready, and not before; he came here to preach the truth, and not even the walls of a jail would hinder his doing so. The Recorder said he would then be obliged to confine him in jail, to which he replied, that he might do so if they pleased, that the charge was wholly unfounded, and that the witness had sworn falsely. He said no power on earth could confine him in jail longer than he chose to stay, and that Montreal would sip the cup of sorrow to its very dregs for what it had done to him this day. He says he believes he will ultimately be killed for the truth's sake, but, before that takes place, that he will be thrown into jails hundreds of times, and that he will yet make his voice heard, and his views known in this city. He calls himself "The King of the Gentiles" and "The Hermit of the North." His name is William Tell Wilkins, and we understand he lives in the vicinity of Melbourne. He prophesies that there will be a great drought this year, and that farmers will suffer greatly, also, that in three years the River St Lawrence will be completely dry. The Recorder fined him \$20, or in default of payment, two months confinement in the common goal. Not being able to pay he was sent down.

European Intelligence

SPAIN. A letter from Valencia states that about one hundred persons comprised in the late disturbances were embarked for Murviedo, where they are to be confined until the time arrived for their trial. Valencia and Granada were quiet, but some commencement of disorder had taken place at Baza. The Duke of Victoria, after having inaugurated the works of the railway from Valladolid to Burgos, has left the latter city for Logrono and Saragosa.

The Madrid Gazette of the 29th ult., contains the following singular paragraph: "In consequence of what some foreign journals have recently published on the affairs of Spain, it appears that a high personage has had a conference with the Queen, and that her Majesty declared that she would sooner lose her crown, and the hope of seeing her daughter reign, than suffer any foreign nation to interfere in our affairs." The ballot for the conscription has passed off quietly at Saragosa. Great preparations are making there to receive Marshal Espartero.

AUSTRIA. The Archduke Maximilian, accompanied by Count Mendorf, has left for Paris. THE EMBASSY AT ST. PETERSBURG.—We have reason to believe that Lord Woldehouse is appointed Minister Plenipotentiary at the Russian Court. The noble Lord's known talents, and his intimate acquaintance with the affairs of Europe, eminently fit him for this important post.—Morning Post.

PRUSSIA. The Berlin correspondent of the Times analyses a report made by a committee of the Prussian Chambers, showing the rigor of the Russian prohibitive system and the Russian frontier exclusive system on the east provinces, which is not only prejudicial to commerce, but contrary to existing treaties with Russia.

The court of Prussia is throwing itself energetically into the rejoicings for peace, as much so if it had taken part in the war. At Berlin, on the 4th, the proclamation of peace took place in the midst of an immense multitude. His Majesty, on his way from the palace to the Cathedral, was received with the warmest acclamations. A Te Deum was sung, bells rang, and 101 canons fired. The same military and ecclesiastical ceremonies were observed at Cologne.

The fortifications at Konigsburg, commenced in the last reign, are now completed, and are in the autumn to receive a garrison.

RUSSIA. The Dowager Empress of Russia is at present too unwell to undertake the projected journey to Germany. Gen. Soukhoussnot has been appointed Minister of War. The appointment of Prince Gortschakoff as Minister for Foreign Affairs is officially published.

A letter from St Petersburg of the 25th ult., states that the project is mooted of converting into permanent fortifications the defensive batteries and field works erected last year on the north side of the capital. The government has sent officers to Prussia to study the constitution of the administration of the army of its neighbor, and to report particularly on the special arms of the service. The Russian government has ordered the irregular troops in the Crimea to be disbanded. Major Bartolomei has just been appointed attaché to the Russian embassy at Constantinople.

Another letter from St Petersburg states that the Emperor Alexander will certainly accompany his mother as far as Warsaw, and it is hoped at Berlin that he will pay that city a visit also. The singers of the King of Prussia's chapel have received orders to study the chants of the Russian liturgy for the divine service which will be performed in a chapel of the embassy during the stay of the empress dowager at Berlin. She is expected there on the 14th.

TURKEY. Advices from Constantinople, and dated the 24th ult., state that the Sheriff has been dismissed, but that he refuses to submit, alleging that the Sultan has become an infidel. 50,000 armed Arabs support his resistance; and, it is said, refuse the entrance of the town to pilgrims, under the pretence that the Ottoman empire is profaned. The Journal de Constantinople only mentions the disturbances at Napuluis; but announces that energetic measures will be taken to suppress the insurrection. A circassian delegation, consisting of 200 persons, had arrived at Constantinople.

DENMARK. Advices have been received, and notice officially given, of the arrival of an American squadron in the Elbe, Copenhagen being announced as their destination. This event is supposed to be connected with the expiration of the treaty with Denmark relative to the Sound Dues.

THE BALTIC. We read in the Independence Belge: The ice having disappeared from the coasts of Courland, the port of Riga has been open to navigation since the 26th ult., but from Riga to Cronstadt the Gulf of Finland is still so obstructed by ice that it is impossible for vessels to reach Revel without great risk. A vessel from our port, La Jeune Henrietta, has been literally cut in two and sunk instantly with all her cargo.

ITALY. The following curious statement is found in the Genoa correspondence of the Independence Belge: The permanence of the Anglo-Italian Contingent at Malta keeps the Neapolitan Government in a state of great perturbation. It is proposed to send a reinforcement of troops to Sicily to secure that island against a coup de main.

FOREIGN ITEMS. Orders have been issued from the War Department to the agents for transports at the various ports, to have prepared and fitted all the available ships that may arrive at their respective ports with the least possible delay. Notwithstanding the very large number of transports in the service, it is found necessary to take up 20,000 tons of shipping in addition for the transport home of the army and its material.

The Government of Victoria has been offered by the Colonial Secretary to the Earl of Elgin, and declined by the noble Earl—Globe. And to Lord Marcus Hill, according to the Daily News. Mr Oliphant, formerly Secretary to the Earl of Elgin, is now spoken of.

The troops of Oudo have tendered their services to a man. A portion of them for a short time hesitated, under the apprehension that they might be compelled to slave; on being assured that the lushest of berards were no objection, they enrolled themselves at once. The villagers experience astonishment and delight at receiving prompt and punctual payment for everything required from them for the public service, and at being permitted to give or to withhold whatever they please.

The Marquis of Dalhousie, late Governor General of India, arrived at Malta on the 10th inst., in the Caradoc. His lordship had derived great benefit from the voyage. After a week's residence it is reported that the health of the noble Marquis is tolerably good, but his leg continuing so seriously bad as to prevent his moving without assistance. He was to leave on the 18th in her Majesty's ship Tribune, for England direct.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP "BAL TIC."

New York, May 27. The Baltic left Liverpool shortly after 3 p. m., on Wednesday the 14th inst., and brings London papers of that day, as well as Commercial reports to the close of business. She reached her dock at half-past 6 o'clock this morning. The Africa arrived at Liverpool on the 12th inst.

There is considerable interest by this arrival. It is stated at Constantinople, that a defensive alliance had been concluded at Teheyan, between Persia and the United States, and that the text of it had arrived at Constantinople, which is kept very secret.

A report from Hamburg states that an American Squadron is expected soon to enter the Baltic.

On Friday the 19th inst., Russia, Sweden and Oldenburg signed a protocol at Copenhagen, agreeing to adopt the last proposition of Denmark for the capitalization of the Sound Dues, provided all other states interested do the same.

Russia is reported to have demanded explanations respecting the joint treaty secretly concluded between France, England, and Austria, guaranteeing the independence of Turkey. As the rumor has not effected the stock exchange, it cannot be considered dangerous.

Russia is about to commence another campaign under General Mouravieff against the Circassians.

Considerable excitement yet reigns at Belgium on the subject of the attempt of France to coerce the press. An ovation had been offered by Belgian Editors to Count Valair for his express determination to uphold the liberty of the press.

A Paris correspondent says that the French and Belgian Governments have come to an understanding in the matter—that Belgium will take more active measures to prevent the publication of appeals to assassination, and France will take an early opportunity of expressing satisfaction therewith.

The affairs of Italy continued to excite a large share of attention. Count Caroux has presented two important notes to the Sardinian Chambers. The news of General Walker's battle at Rivas attracted some attention in England. The French Government is stated to have its vigilance particularly awakened towards the movements of Secret Societies, which are becoming dangerous.

At a meeting of capitalists, at the British Treasury office, on the 13th instant, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated, that the proposed loan of £3,000,000 was calculated to cover the whole service of the year, except £2,000,000 for which he should propose to issue Exchequer Bonds, but the £2,000,000 would not be required until the end of the present year, or perhaps not until the first quarter of 1857.

MARKETS. Large quantities of breadstuffs were afloat and detained by easterly winds. Some rain had fallen and was much needed. Wheat and flour reported rather lower; wheat to corn being scarce, was held firmly for an advance, while yellow and mixed were freely offered at 6d to 1s decline.

White corn 30s to 32s. Yellow and mixed bringing barley 29s to 29s 3d for prime, in retail. Red wheat 9s 3d to 10s 3d; White wheat 9s 9d to 11s 3d; Western Canal flour 32s to 33s 6d; Ohio 45s to 47s.

LONDON, Wednesday noon. Consols quoted at 93 1/2 to 96 1/2. Money 1/2 to 1 1/4.

Eight Engines were burnt in the Grand Trunk Engine House, Toronto, on Sunday morning last. It is not yet stated whether the Company or the Contractors are the losers.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDER.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, Toronto, May 16, 1856.

A portion of the Arms and Accoutrements for the armament and equipment of the Active Militia Force of the Province having arrived— His Excellency the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief is pleased to direct that the Adjutant General shall cause such Troops and Companies to be armed in the first instance as are already uniformed, and whose organization is sufficiently advanced.

The Captains in command of the several Troops and Companies, &c., in the Province, are directed to take the utmost care of these Arms, &c., which are of the very best description, and when not in use by the men, to keep them in store, for which purpose, at places where there are no public Armouries, an annual allowance is granted by the 29th Clause of the Militia Act.

In Lower Canada the issue will be under the superintendence of Lieut-Colonel Elmatinger, Inspecting Field Officer of Volunteer Militia; and in Upper Canada under that of Lieut-Colonel Macdougall, Inspecting Field Officer of Volunteer Militia for that portion of the Province.

Each Volunteer in a Rifle Company will receive a rifle musket with rammer, bayonet and bayonet scabbard complete; a set of rifle accoutrements consisting of a forty round pouch, pouch belt, waist belt and gunging, one muzzle stopper, one nipple wrench.

Each Cavalry Volunteer will receive one cavalry sword, with scabbard complete, one six shooting Colt's pistol, one sword belt, one sword knot, one cartridge box and belt, one hol-ter, one cleaning rod, one nipple wrench.

Each Volunteer in a Foot Company of Artillery will receive one rifled Artillery Carbine with rammer, sword, bayonet and steel scabbard complete, one twenty round pouch with waist belt.

The Arms for the several Companies will be issued before issue under the superintendence of the Inspecting Field Officers, the butts of the Rifles, Carabines and Pistols.

Those in Lower Canada, with the letters L. C.; those in Upper Canada, with the letters U. C. over the letter of the Company, and the Company first authorized in General Orders, in each section of the Province, to be marked with the letter A, the next with the letter B, and so on; the arms to be numbered from one consecutively, according to the number of Volunteers in each Company.

The following directions for loading and cleaning Colt's pistols, are published for the information of Officers and Men in the Volunteer Militia Troops of Cavalry.

Directions for Loading. First explode a Cap on each nipple to clear them from oil or dust, then draw back the hammer to the half notch, which allows the cylinder to be rotated; a charge of powder is then placed in each chamber, and the balls, without wadding or patch, are put one at a time upon the mounds of the chambers, turned under the rammer, and forced down with a lever below the mouth of the chamber. This is repeated until all the chambers are loaded. Percussion caps are then placed on the nipples, when, by drawing back the hammer to the full catch, the arm is in condition for a discharge, by pulling the trigger; a repetition of the same motion produces the like results.

To carry the arms safely, when loaded, the hammer should be left down on one of the pins between each nipple, on the end of the cylinder. The arms should be thoroughly cleaned and oiled after firing, particularly the base pin on which the cylinder turns. Soft lead must be used for the balls, they should be forced below the surface of the cylinder so that they cannot hinder its rotation.

N. B.—It will be safe to use all the powder the chambers will hold, leaving room for the ball, whether the powder is strong or weak.

Directions for Cleaning. You must set the lock at half cock; then drive out the key that holds the barrel and cylinder to the lock frame—they can be removed; should the barrel stick on the pin, the lever may be used to aid in removing it, by forcing the rammer on the partition between the chambers.

Wash the cylinder and barrel in warm water, dry and oil them thoroughly; oil freely the base-pin on which the cylinder resolves.

To take the lock to pieces, clean and oil. 1. Remove the stock, by turning out the bottom and two rear screws that fasten it to the guard and lock frame.

2. Loosen the screw that fastens the main spring to the trigger guard, and turn the spring from under the tumbler of the hammer.

3. Remove the trigger guard by turning out the three screws that fasten it to the lock frame.

4. Turn out the screw, and remove the double spring that bears upon the trigger and bolt.

5. Turn out the screw pins that hold the trigger and bolt in their places.

6. Turn out the remaining side screw pin, and remove the hammer with hand attached, by drawing it downwards out of the lock frame. Clean all the parts and oil them thoroughly.

To put them together. Replace the hammer with hand attached, then the bolt, the trigger, the trigger guard, the main spring, and finally the handle; re- turning each of the screws in their proper places, the arm is again fit for use.

By Command of His Excellency the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief.

DE ROTTEBURG, Colonel, Adj. Gen. Militia.

APPOINTMENTS.

HEAD QUARTES, Toronto, May 21.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDER. No. 1.—His Excellency the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief is pleased to make the following promotions and appointments in the Militia Force of Canada, viz.

ACTIVE OR VOLUNTEER FORCE MILITARY DISTRICT NUMBER FIVE, UPPER CANADA. First Volunteer Militia Rifle Company for Toronto.

To be Lieutenant: Ensign Jesse Thomson, vice Brooke, promoted.

To be Ensign: William George Macdonald, Gentleman, vice Thomson.

SEDENTARY MILITIA: MILITARY DISTRICT NUMBER FIVE, UPPER CANADA.

Fifth Battalion, Toronto. The name of Ensign Flanagan, whose appointment appeared in the General Order of the 15th inst., is William Flanagan.

MILITARY DISTRICT, NUMBER SEVEN, UPPER CANADA.

Third Battalion, Welland. To be Captain: Lieutenant Robert G. Killman, to take rank next after Captain Samuel Weaver.

Second Battalion, Lincoln. To be Captain: Lieutenant John C. Bessey, vice Cavers, retired.

First Battalion, Wentworth. To be Major: Captain Edward C. Thomas, vice Dugan, deceased.

To be Captains: Lieutenant Jasper T. Gilkison (Assistant Adjutant General) Lieutenant Colin D. Reid, vice Thomas, promoted.

Lieutenant Michael W. Brown, vice Buchanan, left limits.

Lieutenant Alfred Stow, from late 3rd East York.

To be Lieutenants: Ensign and Adjutant John W. Kerr, from late 3rd East York.

Ensign Richard Bengier, vice McKeirie, left limits.

Ensign John MacNab, vice Bull, appointed to Wentworth Cavalry.

Ensign Hutchinson Clark, vice Meredith, left limits.

Ensign Jonathan Simpson, vice Prow, left the country.

Ensign Robert N. Law, vice Reid, promoted.

To be Ensigns: Robert C. Fergusson, Gentleman. Thomas N. Best, " Joseph Hamiton, " James MacNab, " Stephen Binson Kellogg, " Alexander MacNab, " vice Wylie, left limits.

Edmund L. Ritchie, " vice Booker, appointed to Artillery Company.

John Mitchell, Junior, Gentleman, vice Hamilton, left limits.

To be Adjutant: Lieutenant John W. Kerr, vice Gilkison, promoted.

Fourth Battalion, Wentworth. To be Major: Captain Thomas H. McKenzie.

To be Captains: Lieutenant the Honorable Robt. Spence, Pay Master Joseph Webster, Lieutenant Kenneth Wishart, " Benjamin Reynolds, " William Tunis, "

Ensign Jonathan Morden, " Jam's Morden, Matthew Peables, Esq., "

To be Lieutenants: John M. Thornton, Gentleman. Samuel Coulson, " Thomas Robertson, " David Betyner, Jr., " John Hamilton, " Wm. Miller, " John Tunis, " Jacob Morden, " Peter C. Morden, " Patrick Freal, " Vice J. Morden, transferred to the 6th Wentworth.

To be Ensigns: Thomas Davis, Gentleman. Thomas McKee, " William Smith, " James Ewart, " William Cary, " John Kocheour, " George Smith, " George Coulson, "

James Delmer Lafferty, Gentleman, vice Long, left limits.

James Hetherington, Gentleman, vice Woods, left limits.

To be Surg on: James McAlton, Esq., M. D.

By Command of His Excellency the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief.

DE ROTTEBURG, Colonel, Adjutant General of Militia.

The Boston ordinance against smoking cigars and pipes in the streets, has for some time past been suffered to become a dead letter. But the recent destructive fire at Lewis' wharf, involving a loss of \$30,000, having originated from a pipe or cigar, the anti-smoking party have become active again, and the mayor is besieged with petitions. As an offset to them, the smokers have got up petitions also.

PARLIAMENTARY.

From the Colonist of Wednesday.

As we expected, the discussion on the motion of Want of Confidence last night, produced some interesting explanations.—Mr Cayley explained at some length his famous "communal scheme," and made some statements which should have been given long since. He denied that the Three Rivers and Athabaska road was instigated by members of the Assembly; that the Four Millions land grant was an improper one and intimated that so far from the Messrs. Smith having been tempted by the offer of £100,000 for the Port Hope and Cobourg Railroads, they had actually gone into opposition because they could not get a better bribe. The Government proposed, he said, to aid the Grand Trunk Company by having the provincial guarantee and receiving stock in payment of any deficiency of interest.

Sir Allen MacNab denounced in strong terms the "villainy" of those who are false to their friends; and administered a castigation of great severity to Mr Cayley, for some remarks which seemed to impute to him (Mr Allan) the not having exerted his influence on Messrs Cameron, Powell and Murray, to elect the vote of last week which left the late Cabinet in an Upper Canada minority. He completely vindicated Mr Cameron from a charge of political intrigue, and showed that gentleman had obtained with the greatest delicacy from all communications with Sir Allan on political subjects, from the date of a Duval motion up to the day, proceeding his vote of want of confidence in reference to the Seat of Government.

Mr Drummond as present last evening, and stated his reasons for resigning, the chief of which was, that he would not resign his claim to the leadership of the House of Assembly. He also, as well as Mr Felton declared his intention of opposing the new Administration, on the ground that it would not carry sufficient weight in Lower Canada.

An attack was made by Mr Foley on Mr Vankoughnet, which was cowardly, because of the latter gentleman's not being in the House, and paltry, because its object was to misrepresent sentiments uttered by Mr Vankoughnet at a meeting of the league in 1849—sentiments which were then shared by all parties in Up, or Canada, and which even now, no man who speaks his mind candidly, will think of denying. Mr Vankoughnet said in effect, that the Lower Canadians could not be destroyed or driven into the sea; that they should be satisfied with a privilege of British freedom, and not seek more; and that he thought the best way of preventing their exercising any political influence was to unite the five provinces of British America. We can excuse the French Canadians for misunderstanding the language as read by Mr Foley, but it was excessively disgusting to see Mr. Brown and a number of his friends cheering Mr Foley in a gross and inexcusable attempt at wilful falsification.

MUR ROBERTS.—The Dundas Warder states that on Saturday evening last, the steamer "Wentworth" was robbed of nearly everything portable, and that the garden of Thos. H. MacKenzie, was invaded by a gang of ruffians; but who did not succeed in getting into the house. Perhaps they are the same gang who were last week prowling about the docks.

It will not be forgotten by our readers that Wednesday next, 4th June, is the appointed Day of Thanksgiving.

We find the following selection of Psalms and Lessons, with a form of Prayer, in an English Church paper, for the Day of Thanksgiving on account of the blessing of peace which we now enjoy with Russia:

Morning. Proper Psalms, 33, 34. do Proper Lessons, Isaiah 12, Romans 12.

Evening. Proper Psalms, 145, 146, 147. do Proper Lessons, Deuteronomy 8, Romans 13.

PRAYER. Almighty and most merciful Father, who by Thine overruling Providence dost govern the nations upon earth, we, Thine unworthy servants, desire to approach Thee this day with the voice of praise and thanksgiving. We bless Thy holy name for the success with which Thou hast crowned the arms of our Sovereign and her Allies in a perilous and destructive warfare; for inspiring our forces, both by sea and land, with a courage and endurance which neither the numbers nor the bravery of those opposed to them could overcome. But chiefly we acknowledge it to be of Thy goodness that Thou hast caused strife and contention to cease, and hast restored the blessings of peace to Europe. Praised be Thy name for this and all Thy mercies. Grant that every renewal of Thy loving kindness towards our country may lead us to unfeigned thankfulness, and dispose us to walk humbly and devoutly before Thee, by following Thy holy will and commandments, and by promoting whatever may tend to the increase of true religion and virtue throughout the land. Unite all ranks of men amongst us in the bonds of brotherly love and Christian charity; endue them with a spirit of piety and justice, of industry and temperance; that the blessings which we have long enjoyed may be continued to us and our posterity.

We further beseech Thee, O Lord, that the nations who are now engaged in the late contest, and are now relieved from the dangers and calamities of war, may seek and pursue those things which make a people's happiness and welfare, by the maintenance of righteous laws, by the furtherance of kindly intercourse one with another, and above all, by the cultivation of true and undivided religion, to the end that through the tranquility now happily restored, the Redeemer's Kingdom may be enlarged, and the nations of the world united in striving to exalt and magnify Thy glorious name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CLERGY AND THE LAITY.

We have very few observations to make respecting the letter of our reverend brother the Pastor of Guelph, which appeared in our issue of last week.—Most of his observations being personal, we are quite content to let them pass for exactly what they are worth; and with respect to the rest, they have little to do with the point in issue, as our remarks, as we have before stated, had much more reference to the "animus" of the line of argument used at the Synod to maintain equality of influence between clergy and laity than to the fact itself.—seriously erroneous as we deem it to be. Besides, our editorial of the 9th, occasioned by a private note from another friend, has anticipated much that we might otherwise have now said.

Still, upon the general question, we have a few further reflections to submit for the consideration of dispassionate Christian men, both clergy and laity.

First, however, we wish to disabuse the mind of the Rev. A. Palmer of one mistake into which he has fallen. We, who have for some time past written the ecclesiastical editorials for the Church, have no connection with the Gazette, nor had we seen or heard of its trenchant strictures on Mr. P.'s Separate School inconsistency until it appeared the former paper in due course by mail; hence we hope our reverend brother will not expend more than a fair share of his wrath upon us!

But with regard to what is of infinitely more importance than these personal matters—the true relation of the clergy and laity to ecclesiastical affairs in general, and to the election of Bishops in particular. And herein we cannot but think that both the laity and ourselves are very unfairly dealt with by some of our opponents. We are represented as treating the whole of our lay brethren disrespectfully, because we censure a few individuals for being ambitious and factious, although we have for years marked with sorrow the bitter opposition of some amongst them to almost every distinctive principle of the Church. But the fact is, that we dare not say, we cannot find it in our hearts—we love our lay brethren as members of the Body of Christ too well—to "prophesy of smooth things" for the sake of popularity, when we know how fatal to the best interests of themselves and all our children such carnal adulation would be. And yet, unlike our brother of Guelph, we have "favours" to ask of the laity; for not only do we ask the justice of their liberal support, but we earnestly crave the favour of their respect, their kindness, and their love.

We do certainly think, also, that the laity are treated with most serious and galling disrespect by many of those whose views differ from ours, inasmuch as they speak and act respecting them as though they were a group of spoiled children, who must be coaxed and petted to get them to act at all as they ought to do; or a self-willed, unreasoning mob, who would turn and rend us, or at least "be made to grow cold and indifferent," we suppose, to their own salvation, and to that Church which the Redeemer loveth so that he laid down his own life for it. We solemnly protest against such a slander of the brethren. We know their intellects to be on a "perfect equality" with our own, and it may be their intelligence and piety are superior; we therefore believe that the faithful amongst them will honor us the more, as we should them, for a determinate setting forth of those principles, at some present sacrifice on our own part, which though offensive to the fallen pride of man, yet tend to his deeper purity, his abiding peace, and his ultimate glory.

Further, we are convinced that these amongst the lay gentlemen of the Church who are most accustomed to think upon such matters, will at once perceive that in arguing that the clergy are peculiarly fitted for spiritual functions and ecclesiastical-spiritual judgments, we are not claiming the smallest "superiority," intellectually, educationally or socially, but simply acting upon a principle common to us all, of placing most reliance for guidance in any important matter upon the judgment of those competent persons whose attention has been most fully directed to it; thus, in matters of law we seek counsel of the lawyer; in medicine of the doctor, in the construction of important works of the civil engineer, in questions of finance of the banker, and so forth. In fact, we claim no necessary superiority, but simply an official fitness; but we do, however, confess to claiming this "fitness" not solely on natural, but also on supernatural grounds, believing, as our Church teaches, that the Holy Spirit is specially imparted for official aid to those who are rightly ordained to the office of the Christian Priesthood; we again quote the language of our ordination service—"Receive the Holy Ghost for the office and work of a Priest in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the imposition of our hands." Now, it is unhappily possible that some of our lay brethren may not themselves believe the fact here stated; but we cannot think that, as gentlemen, Churchmen and Christians, they will respect us any less for believing it, since it was upon the assumption that we honestly did so that we were admitted to the Christian ministry.

Nay, we feel convinced that the intelligent laity themselves must and do see, therefore, that clergymen are acting incon- sistently when they cease to insist upon

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CLERGY AND THE LAITY.

their peculiar fitness, as clergymen, to judge of spiritual matters, both on the ground of their professional acquaintance with them, and their being under the special guidance of the Holy Spirit. Besides, not to do so is surely being "ashamed of Christ," and is deeply dishonoring Him by failing to uphold the dignity of His priesthood, and to insist upon its vital importance to His redeemed people; and yet it is for the very purpose of imparting its blessings to them, and not for our own sakes, that He condescended to place upon us the infinite honor of sharing it. It appears to us also, we honestly confess, that if these things are not so, we are the most disgusting class of pretenders upon the face of God's earth!

We weekly, at least, "absolve our people from their sins," professing to have received "power and commandment from God" to do so; we start with horror at the idea of permitting a layman to consecrate, or even to administer the sacred elements of the Holy Communion; we continually bless the people of our charge as with authority, forbidding even a Deacon to do the like; we refuse to admit a dissenting minister into our reading desks, or even into our pulpits; and many such like things we do, which if we have not peculiar spiritual functions, peculiar Divine authority, and peculiar spiritual direction for the guidance of the Church of the living God, we are, we repeat, it, the most unmitigatedly arrogant class of men that ever dared to cross the threshold of the house of prayer; and the abusive charges so liberally heaped upon the Church and her clergy, of High Church exclusiveness, spiritual pride, dead formality, sacerdotal arrogance, &c., &c., were never more richly merited!

But if, on the contrary, we do, as Ambassadors of Christ, and servants of the Church for His sake, share the sacred priesthood with the Son of God himself, how can its powers be more suitably and usefully employed than in taking the lead in selecting a Bishop who is to be the chief amongst his ministerial brethren? We grant that it is equally true that he is also the Chief Overseer of the whole Church, both clergy and laity; but, after all, his principal office is the head and leader of the Christian priesthood within his own Diocese. And who so fit, we appeal to our lay brethren, who so fit to have the primary voice in the election as those who share with him the sacred and Divine functions—if those functions are not a fearful pretension and an awful lie!—of this most holy priesthood?

But Mr. Palmer treats the matter very lightly, and says—"Will you, for no practical purpose whatever, create an invidious distinction between the clergy and those on whose active co-operation and support you have now to depend, under God, for the maintenance and extension of the Church in this Diocese?" Why this "now?" With the pure Church of Christ it was always! Were the whole wealth of the Indies poured at the feet of the Diocese of Toronto, the Church therein would languish and die, if with the Church of Laodicea, her members began to say, "I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing." But, on the contrary, were her poverty deep as that of the Church of Smyrna, we would not fear, if also she might only be found "faithful unto death."

We have repeatedly stated that our deepest anxiety regarding the question of equality of lay and clerical influence in the election of our Bishops arises not so much from the thing itself as from the principle involved in it; that principle is, the tacit denial of the true character and holy vitality, for the people's sake, of the Christian priesthood. And the "letting out of error, like that of sin, is as the letting out of water"—no man may venture to say where the evil will stay. But yet the question in itself, of the equality of clerical and lay choice and influence in the election of Bishops, is by no means so unimportant as Mr. Palmer and his supporters would wish to make it appear. A simple negative on the part of the laity would give them, it is true, the power of rejecting one after another, ad infinitum, the individuals proposed by the clergy for Bishop. Our answer is simply this, that Christian laymen are not a gang of mere obstinate obstructives, nor would they be found, in general at least, opposing the wishes of a large body of the clergy for the mere chance of forcing them, at length, to propose some one particular person more pleasing to themselves. But were it a part of their acknowledged prerogative, equally with the clergy, to propose for that sacred office whomsoever they chose, it is contrary to all reason to suppose that they would then feel the same reluctance to placing themselves in elective antagonism to the clergy. And how unseemly this would be, let every one consider: the flock openly declaring their shepherds that they were better judges of fitness for the highest grade of their own office than their ministers themselves.

We have taken higher and holier ground than expediency, even the word and spirit of the Gospel; but yet, nevertheless, let us for a moment turn to the two most flourishing sects in existence, Romanism and Wesleyanism. Have they thought it wise to adopt co-equal lay influence? And why not? Perhaps they have herein been guided by the Word of God and holy antiquity; but at all events, it is evident that they have not considered that men busied incessantly amidst the secularities of life, and too generally not untainted by the maxims of the world, nor uninfluenced by its sordid hopes, were proper judges of sound doctrine, or that it was either lawful or safe to entrust them with the spiritual part of ecclesiastical legislation. And yet do they—as Mr. Palmer intimates would be the case with the Church, if she acted with