

*THE LEGALITY OF THE BLACK GOWN.*

The decision of the Court of Appeal last week, in *Wright v. Tugwell*, affirming the legality of the black gown in the Anglican pulpit, is another illustration of the fact that the Queen, through her Courts, is supreme over all ecclesiastical persons and things within the realm. As regards the Church of England, this supremacy springs primarily from the Act of Supremacy, interpreted and corroborated by the *articuli cleri*. Apart from this aspect of the case, the affirmance by the Court of Appeal of the legality of the black gown possesses very considerable intrinsic legal interest. It limits definitively the range of the judgment of the Privy Council in *Ridsdale v. Clifton* to the vestments which may be worn during the administration of the Holy Communion, and, what is more important still, it involves the conclusion that preaching is no part of the Communion Office. The former of these results—if one may say so without any disparagement to the persistence and ingenuity with which the contrary opinion was argued—was inevitable. The *obiter dicta* of the Privy Council in the *Ridsdale Case* may go farther. But the *ratio decidendi* is clearly confined to the celebration of Communion. The severance which the Court of Appeal have now effected, however, between the sermon and the Communion Office is distinctly startling. But we believe it to be legally and historically justifiable, not to speak of the notorious facts as to the times and seasons and the places in which the sermon in this country used to be delivered. The result, however, may be to give a decided impetus to the use of other and, as some might think them, more exceptionable vestments than the black gown. Possibly it may raise the whole vestment controversy, which many ecclesiastical experts regard as the next issue on which the ecclesiastical Courts will have to adjudicate.—*Law Journal*, (London).

*INTRAMURAL INTERMENTS.*

Both in Canada and in England the decease of an archbishop and his interment in his cathedral church, have directed attention to the above subject. The following from the *London Law Journal*, will therefore be of interest :—

The revival in the case of the lamented Primate of the mediæval custom of burying a prelate in his cathedral church natur-