

He never fails. The above fact shows to us that true confiding prayer never fails, and will always bring down what God sees is good for His creatures.

### Protestant Mass.

These words appearing in the pages of the *Record* a few months ago, have no doubt set many others, besides the writer of these sentences, to examine absurdities in our gloriously simple Church of Scotland Ritual. We are horrified when we read of such "Papistry" in the English Church as when the minister turns his back to the people in some parts of the service, and we justly condemn and protest against such absurdity, whether in the Church of Rome or elsewhere. But let us look at home. We have never seen a Presbyterian minister do this—he dares not, on pain of immediate prosecution before his Presbytery; but we have seen the members of Choirs doing this time and again with impunity; and, instead of facing those whom they profess to lead in the worship of Praise, with imperturbably bad taste, turning their backs upon the people. Now why should this be permitted the Choir, and the Minister debarred from this posture during the service of Prayer? Then, again, the people should have their popery pointed out to them. It is quite a common thing now to have the Choir perched up as near the roof of the building as possible, upon a sort of scaffold called an end gallery—sometimes with and sometimes without an organ—and now in turn the "Mass" is on the part of the people, who as persistently turn their backs on the Choir as the Choir in the former case did on the people. It can also be seen in Nova Scotia that in prayer the people turn their backs on the Minister. While these things exist among ourselves, let us hear no more about the Ritualists turning their backs on the people, till we have first remedied this irregularity in our own Church. It is needless to conclude by saying that wherever we have the thoughtless rendering music without "melody in the heart to the Lord," we have High Mass of the most glaring order. And further, let us say nothing of the question of vestments till we can cure the members of our Choirs of the disease of running off to all manner of absurdity in dress. Let the

prevailing fashion be ever so absurd, the sacred courts of the Sanctuary have no power for good, and the human form is made to appear more inhuman than that of the brutes that perish. And let us say nothing of the Papist for bowing to the East or to the Altar, till we can cure our own people of chattering and talking during the service of God's House. It is much more becoming the public worship of God to beat upon the breast and repeat "God be merciful to me a sinner," during the ringing of the bell, as the Roman Catholic, than to carry on a buzzing conversation in all quarters of the church as the Protestant does.

"First cast out the beam that is in thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." C.

### Obituary.

DIED, on Saturday, April 8th, at Upper Blanchard, East River, Pictou, in the 82nd year of his age, Alexander Ross, an emigrant from the parish of Urquhart, Ross-shire.—an elder, during 34 years, in connection with the Kirk of Scotland.

In this simple notice, many readers, it is believed, will find reason for more than a passing sigh of regret. Than the deceased, no man was better known or more highly esteemed among the greater portion of our Gaelic-speaking people; and never was this high estimation more justly entertained.

The good old Deacon! a man of considerably more than the average natural abilities, shrewd judgment, keen observation, and tenacious memory, stored with a wonderful fund of knowledge, considering his opportunities—the whole under perfect command;—a Christian, broad, healthy, genial in his views, even profoundly versed in the Scriptures, and curiously felicitous in his apt quotations from their inexhaustible treasury;—large-hearted, unworldly, self-denying; in how many ways shall we miss him!—At our Church meetings, and Kirk Sessions, where he shone as a counsellor, prudent, far-seeing, respected, because it was felt that his advice was invariably dictated by the most single-minded regard to the interests of truth and right,—where, if rebuke were needful, his un-