

Believing this Tract to be subversive of the discipline of our Church, and destructive of true Christian practice, I feel it to be my duty to take such notice of it as the occasion seems to require, in order to guard you against both its schismatic tendency and spiritual delusion.

I shall consider the subject in two points of view : Firstly, the authority of the Church in respect of stated days and seasons of fasting or abstinence, in connection with the offices in the same Church of the author and re-publisher of the Tract—and secondly, the arguments adduced in support of their schismatic view of the subject.

It is provided by the 36th Canon of our Church that “no person shall be received into the Ministry, except he shall first subscribe to these Articles following :

1. The supremacy of the Sovereign, &c.
  2. That the Book of Common Prayer, and Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons, containeth in it *nothing contrary to the Word of God*, and that it may lawfully be used, and that *he himself will use* the form in the said Book prescribed,” &c. &c.
  3. That he alloweth the Book of Articles of Religion agreed upon by the Archbishops and Bishops of both Provinces, and the whole Clergy, in the Convocation holden at London in the year 1562, and that he acknowledgeth all and every the Articles therein contained, being in number nine and thirty, besides the Ratification, to be agreeable to the Word of God.
- “Which subscription, as it seemeth by the same and following Canon, must be before the Bishop himself.