

TO THE CHOIRS OF THE CHURCH AND PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, TORONTO.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

When I assented in 1867 to the adoption of the surplice by the Choristers of the Church of the Holy Trinity, I meant, of course, the surplice in common use in the Church of England; and that was the dress assumed, with universal approbation, so far as I have heard.

I have observed of late a tendency on the part of several of the members of our Choirs to depart, on their own authority, from the rule, in respect of dress, agreed to in 1867. I notice the quiet assumption, here and there, of a kind of surplice not seen in common use within the area of the English Church, but only among members of the Latin Churches of the continent of Europe and among the Romanist schismatic bodies in the British Dominions and United States.

The kind of surplice newly assumed is, I am aware, recommended by some of the London ecclesiastical clothiers in conspicuous woodcuts prefixed to their widely-disseminated advertisements; recommended, too, I believe, by engravings in the books called Directoriums put forth for the guidance of the Clergy by other private persons who have given attention to English clerical dress in different eras; recommended likewise by the example set in London and various rural parts of England by the now notorious irresponsible places of worship, the doings in which have in recent years proved so disastrous to the general interests of the English Church.

But it scarcely need be said that such recommendations as these carry with them no valid weight.

With us in the Canadian dioceses the common custom of the existing English Church has been hitherto our guide; where our local ordinaries or our local synods have not decreed a variation therefrom:—a rule which considerate members of the Church amongst