

thinking part of the world, who are the most affected by that which meets the eye, and this is one step gained : And it is still another recommendation of the practice; that the ideas of seriousness and solemnity thus familiarly associated with the profession, would, as I cannot help believing, keep out of it some persons whose testimonials, with their own attainments, may procure them admission, but who partake too much of a light and worldly spirit, to be an acquisition to the Church.

It may seem needless to have quoted French authors upon this subject when we have the solid and venerable authority to the point, which is found in our own Canons of 1603.

“ The true, ancient and flourishing Churches of Christ, being ever desirous that their Prelacy and Clergy might be had as well in outward reverence as otherwise regarded for the worthiness of their ministry, did think it fit, by a prescript form of decent and comely apparel, to have them known to the people, and thereby to receive the honour and estimation due to the Special Messengers and Ministers of Almighty God : We, therefore, following their grave judgment, and the ancient custom of the Church of England, and hoping that in time newfangledness of apparel in some factious persons will die of itself, do constitute and appoint, &c. &c.”—Canon 74.