

ties of Ireland was entrusted by Queen Mary to Dr. Cole, Dean of St. Paul's, to bring to Dublin with him. On his way, having arrived at Chester, he stopped at an inn there, where he was soon waited on by the mayor of that city, a zealous Romanist, who came to pay his respects and testify his affections for the Government. Dr. Cole, conversing with the mayor, could not refrain from communicating to him, in the overflowing of his zeal, the business with which he was charged. "Here," said he, "is a commission that shall lash the heretics of Ireland," calling the Protestants by that title. The woman of the house being well disposed to the Protestant religion, and having a brother named John Edmonds, who professed the same creed, resident in Dublin, was much troubled at the Doctor's words. But watching her opportunity while the mayor took his leave, and the doctor was complimenting him down stairs, she opens the box and takes the commission out, placing instead of it a pack of cards with the Knave of Clubs uppermost, wrapped up in a sheet of paper. The doctor, returning to his chamber and not suspecting such a trick, put up his box as before, and on the next day sailed for Dublin, where he arrived Oct. 7, 1658. Repairing directly to the castle, he presented the box to the Lord-Lieutenant in full council, who ordered the secretary to read her Majesty's commission. But when the box was opened, it was found to contain nothing but a pack of cards, to the astonishment not only of the Lord-deputy and council, but of Dr. Cole himself, who assured them solemnly that he had a commission, but could not tell what had become of it. Thereon the Lord-deputy answered, "Let us have another commission, and we will shuffle the cards in the meanwhile." The doctor, much confounded, went his way, and, returning to England, obtained another commission; but while he waited for the wind at the water-side, news came to him that Mary was dead, and thus God preserved the Protestants of Ireland. It is said that Queen Elizabeth was so delighted with hearing the story, and heard from the Lord-Lieutenant, that she sent for Elizabeth Edmonds, and on her arrival, she presented her Majesty with the commission.

Reasons for Returning to the Catholic Church of England;*

IN A CONVERSATION BETWEEN MR. SECKER, A CHURCHMAN, AND MR. BROWN, A METHODIST.

DIALOGUE I.

Mr. SECKER—Good evening, Mr. Brown, I am happy to see you looking so well; I have stepped over to congratulate you on your safe return, after so long an absence.

Mr. Brown—Thank you; I am obliged by your friendly visit, and the more so as I scarcely expected it.

Mr. Secker—Why, how so? Surely you did not think that your old neighbours would forget you, even though your stay in England has been so much longer than you intended.

Mr. Brown—No; but when I heard on my return, that you had forsaken our society, soon after I left Canada, which you know is now about three years ago, I confess that I did fear that by this time you would have forgotten your old Methodist friends. I am however very glad that you have come over, as I am particularly anxious to have some conversation with you, on this subject, and happen to be quite at liberty this evening.

I do not know that anything ever surprised me so much as your leaving the Methodists to join the Church. I know you always respected the church, and so do I too; and think that it is a great blessing that we have such an Establishment to uphold right principles in general, and to maintain an outward respect for religion amongst the worldly and fashionable. But then all used to think you a converted man, and one who knew the value of those spiritual privileges which we certainly enjoy above any other Christian community in the world, such as our class-meetings, prayer-meetings, love-feasts, &c. I cannot, therefore, conceive how you could leave us and join the cold and formal Church of England. I shall therefore feel exceedingly obliged if you will tell me what reasons could possibly induce you to take so singular a step.

Mr. Secker—It would give me pleasure to comply with your request, only that I fear I may be obliged to say some things which, as a zealous Methodist, you may not quite like; however, assuring you that if I do give pain, it is most unwillingly,—for there is much in Methodism that I admire, and many of its members who hold a very high place in my regards.—I will endeavour to state to you my views and feelings from first to last. You must excuse me,

* These Dialogues were originally contributed to the 'Church' newspaper, by one of the editors of the 'Churchman's Friend.' But as several years have elapsed, since their first appearance, and as they are peculiarly suited to this publication, and contain matter of very vital importance, we have determined to reprint them.