

and by the people at large. Still, the incessant vigilance of the representatives of the Western Powers, and of the United States, have secured its practical enforcement in many cases, so that missionary labour among the Mohammedans had begun to bear very cheering fruit. A Bible depository had been opened in one of the chief bazaars, and the gospel was openly preached in places of public resort. There appear to have been some unusual provocations of fanaticism by the circulation of controversial works, and indiscretions on the part of some of the native missionary assistants. At all events, a few months ago, the Bible depositories were closed by order of the government, public preaching forbidden, and several of the converts arrested. The local Evangelical Alliance met, and a united representation from its members, belonging to several Protestant bodies, English, American, and European, was sent to Sir Henry Bulwer, the British Ambassador, the recognised protector of Protestantism at the Sublime Porte. But the days of Lord Stratford were gone. To the bitter disappointment of the whole missionary body, the Ambassador vindicated the action of the Turkish Government to a large extent, and entered upon a convention under which the preaching of the Gospel in public places was forbidden. The Bible depository was ordered to be removed from the bazaar to a private location, and the converts were conveyed to distant places, ostensibly for their own protection! It is a scandal to the British name that these things should be done under the sanction of the Queen's representative. The Evangelical Alliance have memorialized the Foreign Secretary on the subject, and we notice that the American Board at its recent meeting, has moved earnestly in the matter, so that we cannot but hope that this backward step in religious liberty will yet be retraced.

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THE NEW COURT OF ECCLESIASTICAL APPEAL.—We mentioned, last month, that Dr. Pusey and others were moving for the creation of a new Court of Appeal in ecclesiastical questions. An influential meeting has been held in London to agitate the question in and out of Parliament. The *Times* opposes the project to have a merely clerical tribunal, and Rev. F. D. Maurice has written some powerful letters on the same side. We believe that few of the clergy would not prefer to be tried by a court of lawyers than by one of their brethren! "It would be folly in us (says the *Nonconformist*) to attach more importance to this discussion than it deserves. We look upon it as the extreme form in which High-Churchism, stung by the recent decision of the Privy Council in the "Essays and Reviews" case, thinks fit to make known its dissatisfaction. It expresses rather the measure of its vexation, than a clue to its intentions. It resembles the desperation with which an angered wife will drop hints of an ultimate resort to the Divorce Court, far more than a resolution calmly and seriously entertained even as an alternative. It will not, we may be sure, be pushed to a dangerous limit. As a practical movement, or, more correctly speaking, the conception of one, it will never come to the birth. Nevertheless, it has its significance. It indicates the direction in which the thoughts of earnest-minded men are pointing. It is the kindling of a spark under a vast heap of combustible material, and no one can be sure that they who have kindled can extinguish it."

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MR. SPURGEON AND THE ESTABLISHMENT.—The attacks made on Mr. Spurgeon for his sermon on Baptismal Regeneration, seem only to have