

In the first of these the gist of the matter really lies. And in dealing with it we must begin by admitting that the transaction has not that lofty character with which Episcopal acts should properly be impressed. It savours over-strongly perhaps of the domestic duties—of the solicitor or man of business rather than the saint—of common sense rather than uncommon devotion. But this is no reason why it should be called by so hard a name as simony. When a man having the power of conferring a spiritual grace or function uses that power, not for the good of the Church, but to secure some personal advantage to himself, that man is guilty of simony; and those who induce or enable him to act in this way—who furnish the consideration or knowingly benefit by it, are partakers—perhaps more than equal partakers—of his sin. It is a traffic in spiritual powers or offices, which is the forbidden thing. Formerly such offices were desired even by laymen for their own sake—now they are desired for their revenues. In either case there is an inducement to buy and sell them for money, and it is this purchase or sale which the Christian law condemns as sacrilegious. So far as a transaction partakes of the character of such a sale, and so far only, it can be fairly called by the severe name of simony.

And now let us look at the case on which the question arises. A Bishop is unequal to his work. There is a recognised mode of action in such a case, that, namely, of continuing to hold his rank and revenue, while making a scanty provision for the performance of his duties. It is important to remember that this is at present the recognised, the lawful, nay, the only lawful mode of proceeding; the course which it is not only open, but usual, for Bishops to take. What do these Bishops propose to do? They propose to give up their rank and two-thirds of their revenues, if they are allowed formally to relinquish duties which, in any case, they will no longer perform. They receive nothing—not even an exemption from labour, for that was obtainable otherwise—they merely seek to abandon that to which they are no longer entitled. or, at least, so much of it, as they consider they ought to give up. They deprive themselves of some temporal advantages—they acquire none; and their motive we may with great sincerity presume to be the good of the Church, for none other is, under the circumstances, easily conceivable. How can this be the simony which consists in the sale of spiritual office or power?

To put the matter differently:—Suppose the Bishop of London had requested permission to endow with two-thirds of his revenues a coadjutor Bishop to be appointed by the Crown, by such title as might be thought fit, on the understanding that this new Prelate was to perform his duties and succeed to his office. This arrangement would have been substantially identical with that now proposed. The pecuniary result and the distribution of spiritual functions would have been the same, and the transaction would have equally arisen out of a so-called bargain or negotiation originated by the Bishop. The retention of one-third of the revenue would equally have been the "condition" of the new appointment. But would any one have called this simony? Certainly not. And is it possible that of two transactions substantially the same, and different only in their shape and clothing, the one shall be innocent, the other sacrilegious? Surely not. If, therefore, it is admitted that they are not both prohibited, they are both allowable.

But, lastly, may it not be that though under the circumstances allowable, they are yet *malè exempti*? Innocent in themselves, may they not yet, if admitted as precedents, cover transactions which are guilty? We believe, that so long as the law is in its present uncertain state, they may. They are examples of *privilegia* on a subject matter on which *privilegia* are especially dangerous. Nothing, it is justly argued, can be more dangerous than to enable Prelates to procure favourable terms of retirement by negotiation with Ministers. But this evil is capable of being met by a general law. Such a general law has long, perhaps, been desirable—the present transaction makes it a necessity. We look forward to such a law, not necessarily founded on the present precedents; but whether so founded or not, superseding both these and the discretionary power which is now vested in the Ministers of the day. And because we hope the question will speedily be so closed up, we believe it right that the cases of London and Durham should be disposed of, without any rigid scrutiny of details. In such a manner as shall most speedily place their dioceses under efficient management.—*London Guardian, July 30.*

News Department.

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ENGLAND.

Parliament was prorogued July 29, by commission, the Lord Chancellor, Lords Harrowby, Stanley of Alderley, Willoughby D'Eresby, and Monteague, acting as commissioners. The Commons having been summoned, they gave the Royal Assent to a number of bills. The Lord Chancellor then read the following Speech in a loud and distinct tone of voice:—

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"We are commanded by her Majesty to release you from further attendance in Parliament, and at the same time to express to you her warm acknowledgments for the zeal and assiduity with which you have applied yourselves to the discharge of your public duties during the session.

"When her Majesty met you in Parliament, at the opening of the session, her Majesty was engaged, in co-operation with her allies the emperor of the French, the king of Sardinia, and the Sultan, in an arduous war, having for its object matters of high European importance; and her Majesty appealed to your loyalty and patriotism for the necessary means to carry on that war with the energy and vigor essential to success.

"You answered nobly the appeal then made to you; and her Majesty was enabled to prepare for the operations of the expected campaign, naval and military forces worthy of the power and reputation of this country.

"Happily it became unnecessary to apply those forces to the purposes for which they had been destined. A Treaty was concluded, by which the objects for which the war had been undertaken were fully attained; and an honorable peace has saved Europe from the calamities of continued warfare.

"Her Majesty trusts that the benefits resulting from that peace will be extensive and permanent; and that, while the friendships and alliances which were cemented by common exertions during the contest will gain strength by mutual interests in peace, those asperities which inherently belong to conflict will give place to the confidence and good-will with which a faithful execution of engagements will inspire those who have learnt to respect each other as antagonists.

"Her Majesty commands us to thank you for your support in the hour of trial, and to express to you her fervent hope that the prosperity of her faithful people which was not materially checked during the pressure of war, may continue, and be increased by the genial influence of peace.

"Her Majesty is engaged in negotiations on the subject of questions in connection with the affairs of Central America, and her Majesty hopes that the differences which have arisen on those matters between her Majesty's government and that of the United States, may be satisfactorily adjusted.

"We are commanded by her Majesty to inform you that her Majesty desires to avail herself of this occasion to express the pleasure which it afforded her to receive during the war in which she had been engaged numerous and honorable proofs of loyalty and public spirit from her Majesty's Indian territories, and from those colonial possessions which constitute so valuable and important a part of the dominions of her Majesty's Crown.

Her Majesty has given her cordial assent to the Act for rendering more effectual the police in counties and boroughs in England and Wales. This Act will materially add to the security of person and property, and will thus afford increased encouragement to the exertions of honest industry.

"Her Majesty rejoices to think that the Act for the improvement of the internal arrangements of the University of Cambridge will give fresh powers of usefulness to that ancient and renowned seat of learning.

"The Act for regulating joint stock companies will afford additional facilities for the advantageous employment of capital, and will thus tend to promote the development of the resources of the country; while the acts passed relative to the mercantile laws of England and Scotland will diminish the inconvenience which the differences of those laws occasion to her Majesty's subjects engaged in trade.

"Her Majesty has seen with satisfaction that you have given your attention to the arrangements connected with County courts. It is her Majesty's anxious wish that Justice should be attainable by all classes of her subjects with as much speed and with as little expense, as may be consistent with the due investigation of the merits of causes to be tried.

"Her Majesty trusts that the Act for placing the coast guard under the direction of the Board of Admiralty, will afford the groundwork for arrangements for providing, in time of peace, means applicable to national defence, on the occurrence of any future emergency.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"We are commanded by her Majesty to thank you for the readiness with which you have granted the supplies for the present year.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"Her Majesty commands us to congratulate you on the favourable state of the revenue, and upon the thriving condition of all branches of the national industry; and she acknowledges with gratitude the loyalty of her faithful subjects, and that spirit of order and that respect for the law which prevail in every part of her dominions.

"Her Majesty commands us to express her confidence that on your return to your homes you will promote by your influence and example, in your several districts, that continued and progressive improvement which is the vital principle of the well being of nations, and her Majesty fervently prays that Almighty God may attend your steps, and prosper your doings for the welfare and happiness of her people."

After the Speech had been read, the Lord Chancellor declared it to be her Majesty's will and pleasure that Parliament should be prorogued till Tuesday, the 7th October, and that it was accordingly prorogued till that day.

Mr. Mechi had a large company of City magnates and agriculturists at his annual Tiptree gathering on Saturday. The company were assembled, by the sound of a bell, around Mr. Mechi, and he led them round his farm. The first field visited was one of Italian rye grass; it was growing its fourth crop this season. The crops are raised thus rapidly by immediate irrigation, and the grass is peculiarly tender. At another field Dr. Ritterbandt exhibited a preparation from "clinkers," the dross of melted iron, which Mr. Mechi had used on his soil; there was a great deal of potash in the preparation, and this he said, prevents the potato disease. Both that and the vine disease were caused by deficiency of potash. Field after field were visited and all had good, and some heavy, crops, under the liquid manure system. The company then went to look at the cattle, which were found in excellent condition, and witnessed the operations of a steam plough. Boydell's steam horse was to have been there, but did not arrive. The collation followed, at which "British and Foreign Agriculture" was coupled with the names of Mr. Fisher Hobbs and the Hon. Mr. Cameron. In responding to his own health, Mr. Mechi said—

"Without referring to anything he had done, he was prepared to say unflinchingly that if all the lands of England were cultivated as well as his own farm, and a number of others which he could name, there would not only be food enough, but to spare, without any foreign importation. He did not make this statement without authority, but on a consideration of the acreage of the country. He thought Mr. Cameron could have told them that while England had no agricultural statistics, Canada, that young and almost untamed country, possessed the most accurate statistics of every bushel of corn that was produced. It was a hard thing to get over old prejudices. He believed that the agricultural fear which prevailed in this country relative to a disclosure of their affairs was a perfect phantom. There was no reason to despair of improvement in agriculture when the steam engine and the steam plough were at work in the field. He foresaw in the prospective that the present system of agriculture would be considered obsolete. 'Forward!' was the English agriculturist's word. They meant, to go forward; they meant to spend more money or to have less acres in their farms; and if they had not money of their own they would borrow to lay out upon the land, and they would find it a profitable operation. There would be twice as many farms in fifty years as now, and how could they obtain these additional farms unless the present holdings were cut in half. They had in towns all kinds of associations to get everybody's money out of everybody's pocket—but they had no agricultural improvement companies. Was it because the agriculturist was too proud? It was asked, when improvements were recommended, where was the money to come from. But the agriculturists had never asked for it. They chose rather to have an area of acres which were poor and proud acres, than to lay out sufficient money to improve them."

Amongst other toasts afterwards given was "The Laboring Classes."—*Guardian, July 29.*