

Church Association of the Diocese of Toronto.

OCCASIONAL PAPER, No. V.

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

The action taken by the Church Association is based upon the conviction that, although much has been for some years past done in this Diocese, and throughout Canada, towards educating Churchmen in *Sacerdotal* and *Sacramentarian* views and Ritualistic notions, yet that this work has not gone so far but that by a strong and determined effort it may be stayed; and the members of our Church may be brought once more to rejoice in that simplicity of worship, purity of doctrine, and humble faith in the finished work of Christ, which were marks of the Primitive Church.

That there is a deliberate design among a certain party in the Church of England to subvert the principles of the Reformation has already been pressed on our notice by the highest authorities in the Church. In further proof of this there has been sent forth from our own Canadian capital of Ottawa, this month, the first of a promised series of Church Tracts, "by Canadian Laymen," in which Luther, Zwingle, Melancthon, Bucer, "the notorious Cranmer," and others—the fathers of the Reformation—are spoken of as bigamists, adulterers, drunkards, &c. That gift of the Reformation, "an open Bible," is denounced, if "read without the guidance of the Church." The story of Luther's conversion by the accidental discovery of a Bible is called "this precious lie!" and "the period which followed the '*Blessed Reformation*'" is styled "an age whose very light was the blackness of darkness." Finally the Ottawa Ritualists, whose excesses have already led to the apostacy of one of their clergy to Rome, and have driven out of our Church a large and influential body of Laity, invite their fellow-churchmen to exert themselves to prevent "the so-called Church Association from staying the course of the *Catholic Revival*, and perpetuating among us the dull and cold traditions of the *real Dark Ages*"—that is, of "the *Blessed Reformation*."

But this, we will be told, is the work of laymen; just as the Rev. O. P. Ford, assistant minister of Holy Trinity, responds in a printed Tract, to Paper No. IV. of this Association; and thinks it reason enough for denouncing our exposure of the