

Catholic tradition. The Bishop of Wakefield, in his recent charge, uttered the following sentiment, "I hold that imitations of Rome are inconsistent with loyalty, on the one hand; while, on the other hand, I find it equally difficult to reconcile with such loyalty . . . anything which may derogate from the honour our Church assigns to the holy sacraments ordained by our Lord."

There is another aspect of Ritualism that demands serious consideration. May it not explain the great success of such books as *Robert Elsmere* and *John Ward, Preacher*? Why should an authoress be assured of abundant readers "if she describe with sufficient minuteness the religious throes of a high-minded, but imperfectly informed and very conceited, young man, and the intellectual vagaries of the teachers in a seat of learning which has been wittily described as the place to which good German philosophies go when they die"? There must be something in the palate of the times that causes such whipped cream to be a favourite dish. May it not be that when men are offered only iridescent bubbles as nourishment they find this sweetened froth to be solid by comparison? Practical men do not understand "ineffable unions," invisible miracles, and the godliness of vestments, genuflexions, and positions. They appreciate harmony for the ear, and beauty for the eye, but feel that either there is no religion to guide life and control men's passions, or it must be something different from this; and, being ignorant of true, manly Christliness, they fall into the daintily baited trap.

"THE HIGHER CRITICISM."

THE "Higher Criticism" is the Lower Criticism, not indeed in name, but in reality. We far too readily assent to the magnificent names our opponents so freely bestow on themselves. They dub themselves "Freethinkers," "Advanced thinkers," "Higher Critics," and other equally flattering designations; we meekly bow consent, and without a word of protest give in to their pretensions. This is very foolish on our part, for there is more in a name than is generally realised. If a man call himself "The Philosopher," and others oblige