

into the holy order of priest.' Yet there is too much evidence known to prevent our believing that every man ordained a priest or deacon was 'beloved in Christ,' or led a 'pious life.' The very predicament of the deacon or priest has too often been the very state of the minister's ordinary or bishop. Where there is a want of personal piety in a minister, there can be but little hope of success in the ministry. There should be conversion in the priest, before we can expect conversion in the people. '*Physician, heal thyself.*'

XIV. I am not a member of the Episcopal Church of England, because a large number of the ministers are not only destitute of piety, but actually exhibit unbecoming and indecent manners.— Who would expect to find

'A cassock'd huntsman and a fiddling priest?'

And yet they may be found. Well,

'Strike up the fiddles, let us all be gay,
Laymen have leave to dance if parsons play.'

And who would expect to find clergymen encircling the gambling-table, and shuffling the cards, or moving the figures of a chess-board? or in the pit or the boxes of a theatre, and clapping their hands and crying 'encore,' 'encore!' with the rabble? or throwing the bowl in the skittle-alley of an inn? or on the race-course with the coarsest of the people? But I proceed no farther; and cry shame on the men who compel the exposure of the cloth! Shame on the bishops who permit such manners! The men delighting in these carnal and worldly pursuits must be very unfit for the holy and spiritual exercises of the pulpit and desk. And the church permitting such conduct in her ministers must needs separate devout persons from her communion, or deter them from entering her precincts. '*Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to-morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.*'

XV. I am not a member of the Episcopal Church of England, because of the general want of *preaching qualifications* in the clergy. It is true that the bishop gives each of the ordained license to become a public preacher, saying, 'We, being duly certified of your morals, learning, and knowledge in the Holy Scriptures, give and grant to you our license and faculty to preach and expound the Word of God, and to be a public preacher in and throughout our diocese; you having first taken the oaths of allegiance and supremacy to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and of renouncing all foreign jurisdiction, according to an act of Parliament in that behalf provided; and also to pay true and canonical obedience to us, and our successors, bishop of ———; and having subscribed to the thirty-nine articles of the Church of England, and to the three articles in the thirty-sixth canon.' And yet who among the clergy is a public preacher? who is anything more than a public reader? As the Preface to the Homilies declared in 1562, so we find it still, 'All they which are appointed ministers have not the gift of preaching sufficiently to instruct the people which is committed unto them.'