

## CORRESPONDENCE.

ornaments, and vestments, which has caused so much discussion and scandal.

For thirty years at least this struggle has been going on in the body of the Church, and has now assumed such dimensions as to cause the passing in England of the Public Worship Regulation Act, 1874.

Again and again has it forced itself on the attention of the Law Courts, not so much perhaps because of the numbers as of the obstinacy of the parties concerned.

So far, we have been in this colony tolerably free from the effects of the struggle. Our soil does not appear to be congenial for innovation. Whatever inclination towards Ritualism there may be on the part of a few among us it is scarcely known among the masses. The great body of the laity are opposed to church millinery.

In Great Britain there is much wealth, and a system of endowments and livings which, in many instances, renders the clergy independent alike of the support and regard of their congregations. Under such conditions we may expect excesses that would not be thought of in a country where wealth does not much abound, and where livings and endowments, independent of the people, are scarce known. Whether or not the clergy should or should not be entirely dependent upon the contributions of the laity is a matter which it is not our province or our pleasure to discuss; but there can be no dispute as to the fact that there is much warmth and some bitterness in the Church of England, arising from what on the surface are mere ceremonials, but which, as some allege, have a deeper meaning and a much more hurtful menace.

The object of Dr. Brice's work is to afford a full exposition of the law of public worship in so far as it concerns the external forms enforced or merely permissible by the rules of the Church of England. Special prominence is given to ornaments, ceremonial, and vestments.

Such portions of the various Liturgies are set forth as will, in the words of the author, probably be sufficient to enable the reader to compare the existing prayer book with the earlier editions, and so to obtain a clear notion of the changes that from time to time have taken place in the services of the Church, and in the

regulations for the due conduct and holding of them.

The author appears to have undertaken the work in a very fair and impartial spirit, and to have executed it almost with judicial impartiality. His aim has been simply to unfold the law as it is—not to stretch it as partizans "high" or "low" would desire it.

The work is divided into three parts, the first containing the substantive law relating to public worship; the second, the means provided for enforcing a due observance of the substantive; and the third, the Public Worship Regulation Act, 1874, and the Church Discipline Act, with comments and annotations upon both statutes, and an abstract of the cases decided under the latter act.

Last year we had much pleasure in introducing to our readers a Treatise on the Doctrine of Ultra Vires, by Dr. Brice. This year we have equal pleasure in recommending the present work. The author has the faculty of imparting instruction in terse and attractive language, and this is rather the exception than the rule in the case of English law writers.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*County Rate—How Certified. Duties of County and Local Clerks, respectively.*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LAW JOURNAL.

SIR,—A county clerk gives a township clerk notice, in the form of a certificate, that the amount required to be collected in the township is \$3,185: for general purposes, say, \$2,240: educational, \$750: special, \$195.

Can the township clerk put all the above together on his collector's roll in the column headed "County Rate," or must he put the several items in separate columns? See sec. 90, Municipal Act.

Is such notice sufficient, or must the county by-law state a certain sum in the dollar; that is to say, is it competent for a county council to make an estimate of the gross sum to be collected in each township, without striking a rate per cent., or in the dollar on the assessment?

I have the honour to be, &c.,

J. PHELAN,

Township Clerk, Walsingham.

PLEASANT HILL, June 24, 1875.