

referred to, and that he justified his conduct as consistent with the rubrics and doctrines of the Church of England. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London now tell us that this is not so ; that the views of Mr. Poole on the subject of Confession generally, and especially upon Confession where a violation of the Seventh Commandment is at issue, are of dangerous tendency, and calculated to bring scandal on the Church.

It is curious to mark how numbers of excellent people, simply by dwelling for a length of time exclusively upon one idea, can arrive ultimately at conclusions which they would have spurned before the process of intellectual and sentimental incubation began. Here is Mr. Poole, now—we doubt not a most excellent and moral man—who, after a due course of the one-idea fever, found himself locked up with a woman in the vestry of St. Barnabas, putting searching questions to her upon the subject of her unchastity. But be it most clearly and broadly understood, that we do not mean to suggest the faintest shadow of an inference against Mr. Poole's personal morality. We quote him but as an example of an excellent but simple young man whose brains had got muddled on the point of Auricular Confession, just as Don Quixotte's wits were turned upon the subject of chivalry. Could the Knight of La Mancha, when in his sober senses, and before he took to his library of romance,