

ed to protest against the custom of associating such religious solemnities with *public* festivities of this description. There is a fitness in things; and occasions of this kind we submit, with all due deference, are more honoured by the breach than the observance of even so old a custom. Not that we object to ministerial social intercourse, for we believe there is far too little of it. It is the quasi official imprimatur given in the market place to practices that are preached down in the pulpit that is to be deprecated, and that leads us to wish for the reform in the old land, of a conventional usage which, we are happy to think, has already become nearly obsolete in this new country.

The Rev. William Knight, of St. Enoch's, Dundee, is no longer a minister of the Free Church, and his large congregation have unanimously resolved to withdraw along with him from that body. The *Edinburgh Courier* is responsible for the rumour that some of the leading office-bearers of his congregation are inquiring as to the steps necessary to be taken in order that formal application may be made for the admission of Mr. Knight and the congregation into the Established Church. It takes two to make a bargain, however, and it is quite possible that with the experience the Church of Scotland has gained in connection with very recent proceedings in one of its own Presbyteries, such an application would be entertained with extreme hesitation, or, at least, caution. In the interests of liberal ideas and free thought, it is to be regretted that the minority of the Presbytery of Dundee had not been content to *dissent* from the finding of the Court to abandon further proceedings, in view of Mr. Knight's explanations and retractions, without holding over him *in terrorem* an interminable persecution of "appeals" to the superior courts. As it is, the Church has lost a very clever minister and one of its most influential congregations, while it has laid itself open, even in the estimation of many of its own members, to the charge of a "narrowness" in its polity which is inconsistent with the intellectual progress of the age. Says the *Dundee Advertiser*,—"It cannot but have a most injurious influence if it be declared that there is no place in the Christian Ministry for any one who attempts to reconcile modern science with Christian revelation, and that any such attempt will subject him to the alienation, the isolation, and the mental suffering which have been inflicted upon the minister of Free St. Enoch's. The loss of such a congregation is not inconsiderable even to so large a body as that Church, for it has a significance not indicated either in numbers or in wealth. It signifies that the indiscretion of a minority of zealots may at any time cause irreparable injury, in spite of the remonstrances of a wiser, more prudent, and far-seeing majority."

A notable event—an unnatural outgrowth of the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance in New York—has transpired, which cannot fail to be a matter of general regret. We refer to the withdrawal from its episcopate and membership of Right Rev. Dr. Cummins, hitherto Assistant Bishop of Kentucky. Amongst the reasons assigned, we find Bishop Cummins stating that

"he can no longer exercise his office in those churches in his diocese which are Ritualistic in their tendency and practice," and he now wishes to clear his soul of of all complicity in such errors. "I leave the Communion," he adds, "in which I have laboured in the sacred ministry for over twenty-eight years, and transfer my work and office to another sphere, having an earnest hope and confidence that a basis for the union of all Evangelical Christendom can be found in a communion that shall retain, or restore, a primitive episcopacy and a pure scriptural liturgy, with a fidelity to the doctrine of justification by faith only—a position toward which the Old Catholics in Europe are rapidly tending." Henry Ward Beecher thinks that Bishop Cummins is labouring under a strong delusion. "We trust," says the *Christian Union*, "that in his altered position the Bishop will find relief of conscience and room for usefulness; but we fear that the Episcopal Church will be neither more peaceful nor more evangelical for his departure, and that his particular 'Church of the future' is a chimera."

LITERATURE.

NOVA SCOTIA, IN ITS HISTORICAL, MERCANTILE, AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, by DUNCAN CAMPBELL, of Halifax, N. S. John Lovell, Montreal, pp. 548.—We congratulate the author on the completion of his *magnum opus*, which, while it does credit to his head and heart, shows a thorough appreciation of his subject and a judicious treatment of it. From the authentic narratives of Haliburton and Murdoch, the author has succeeded in the somewhat difficult task of giving a comprehensive and at the same time a condensed and interesting account of the early history of the Colony. Its subsequent progress is minutely traced down to the year 1867, when, though "convinced against its will," it became an integral part of the Dominion of Canada. The negotiations that preceded this eventful consummation, and the protests and appeals for "better terms" that followed, are set forth at large, in a way that will make the book a standard work of reference for future historians. Its pages are pleasantly enlivened with biographical sketches and anecdotes, though in a few instances we could have wished for the sake of continuity that the change of subject had been less abrupt. We are glad to make the acquaintance in those pages of men whose names deserve to go down to posterity, such as John Young, the father of Sir John, the present accomplished Chief Justice of the Province—who, under the soubriquet of "Agricola," and with the ability of a Junius, first roused the attention of the country to the importance of its agricultural interests and the best means of advancing them, and it is pleasant to be reminded of those whose names are more familiar, such as Judge Haliburton (*Sam Slick*), old Samuel Archibald, of Truro, Joseph Howe, and a number of others. The concluding chapters, though unavoidably crowded into small type, are, perhaps, the most valuable part of the whole work, comprising as they do a vast amount of information respecting