

works." Again, "the same work that I do bear witness of me that the Father hath sent me." The Apostles when declaring that Christ who had been crucified had gone to heaven, referred to the proof of this (speaking of the descent of the spirit on the day of Pentecost), they said, "He hath shed forth this which ye now see and hear."

READER!—Listen to Paul's advice:—"Be not children in understanding," 1 Cor. xiv., 20, but be ye men—"men in understanding. Seek to be found among those, who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" H. b. v., 14.

The Law Church and Her Victim in 1847.

A certain man, in the gospel, fell among thieves, and a certain man at Cambridge has fallen among great thieves. At the last assizes in that town, a poor man named Bedwell, the father of five children, who can only earn three shillings a week among them, was sentenced to half a year's imprisonment for refusing to pay sixteen shillings for church rates. The prosecution has been pending against him for two years—it has cost the prosecutors, it is said, upwards of five hundred pounds. They might have distrained upon his household furniture—might have sold his bed, and so have punished him for his alleged contumacy—his offence being the grievous one of having a conscience, and of declining to disobey its solemn injunctions. Bedwell, be it known, is a sincere disenter. He objects to the doctrines of the Church of England, and he declines to pay towards the support of a church to which he does not belong, and of doctrines which he disavows. This is his crime. The law, with five hundred pounds to back it, has been directed against him, and he, being the weaker party, having, as he says, "not a shilling in the world to bless himself with," has been committed to the county gaol. Shall we say—Oh! wicked Bedwell, or, oh! wicked Church?

We are desirous of being temperate, though our blood is rebellious. For ourselves, we consider the Church of England to be a nuisance and a curse in the land. But there are numbers who widely disagree with us, and who regard the church as a blessing. Of these, we ask—Is this her mission! Is this treatment of poor Bedwell one of her benedictions?

Mr. Justice Patterson, who passed sentence upon him, said, "It does not become any individual to set up his own private and obstinate opinion in opposition to the law: and if such a course is carried on, it will certainly turn out that the law is the strongest." Very likely. The law was the strongest in the reign of Mary, when it ordered Protestants to be burned, and in the reign of Elizabeth, when it caused Catholics to be pressed to death. It was the strongest when it cut off the ears of Quakers. It was the strongest when at the fift of certain Scotch Presbyterian priests, it put aged women to death as witches. If strength be really synonymous with justice, the prosecutors of poor Bedwell are worthy of honour, but not otherwise—by no means, otherwise. Otherwise, indeed, they are quite detestable.

The English State Church is, at this moment, what it ever was—the most intolerant church in the world. Its intolerance is, indeed, in a great measure, subdued by the spirit of the age. It cannot torture—it

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