



RITUALISM.

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Ritualism being a subject which at present is greatly exercising the minds of the public, we think it not out of place to copy the following *resumé* from the columns of the New York 'Daily Tribune' as it relates somewhat to the general bearing of the movement in this country. The article is from the pen of a distinguished ecclesiastic of the Anglican Catholic Church in America:

Ritualism has been a prominent theme, both here and across the water, for over ten years. At first it was regarded as a question of ecclesiastical aesthetics, beneath the serious consideration of any, except a few frivolous young ladies and eccentric young clergymen; but phenomena have been appearing in connection with the Ritualistic movement, which at first seemed singular, and at last forbade such a supposition. The movement spread as a disturbing element throughout every Episcopal diocese in America. Two successive General Conventions attempted to grapple with it, but in vain. The one thoroughly Low Church Diocese of Massachusetts narrowly escaped electing a Ritualist for its Bishop. Other dioceses have elected men to the Episcopate who have been in sympathy with the movement. The highest court of judicature in England finds the profoundest legal acumen arrayed before it on opposite sides of

the question; Mr. Gladstone has written an elaborate essay upon it; and at last the Parliament itself of the British Empire, and the General Convention of the entire American Episcopal Church, are shaken by the subject.

It is not for a moment to be supposed that so staid and respectable a body as the Episcopal Church in America and England should be thus long and thus thoroughly agitated over a mere affair of religious dilotanteism, or that so powerful a body should not long since have been able to control and crush out the difficulty, if it merely involved the whims of a few eccentric agitators, male and female. Clearly the question is not simply one of candles and the cut and color of ecclesiastical soutanes. Sensible men do not wrangle over such things, nor do middle-aged clergymen willingly sacrifice position and comfort, or pass years of obliquy and ridicule for them. Ritualism in the Episcopal Church has bided its time to be understood. If it is not a thing to be respected, it is evidently a thing that is very much feared. Practical people perceive that it is useless for dignitaries in the Church to say any longer that Ritualism is confined to a half a dozen young clergymen and a few small parishes. Men do not fire broadsides at a butterfly. The fact is, Ritualism has