

tion in a manual of moral philosophy just issued by Mr. Rickaby, S.J., who talks of "speaking the truth under a broad mental reservation." Little wonder if unbelief be prevalent when this is the only teaching given as Christian. "It is sad to know that the chief See of Western Christendom has betrayed the crowning glory of the Christian faith in ways hardly less hideous than those of Pagan Rome;" but to receive this as the one visible Church of Christ on earth would sap the very foundations of faith.

WHAT IS RITUALISM ?

THERE is much talk at present about this something called Ritualism, and that by many who do not exactly know what they are talking about. There are some who stigmatise any service more ornate than their own as "Ritualistic"; this is so easy, and as it saves all further trouble or investigation, it is naturally popular. The first step, however, in ascertaining the truth, or falseness, of any system is to discover accurately what it is. Ritualism may be defined as "the enforcement by external symbolism of certain dogmas." It is not to be mistaken for an increased æstheticism in service, though that is a necessary element. The Rev. W. J. E. Bennett, when before the Ritual Commission, stated that he did not contend for any æsthetic purpose, but strictly for a doctrinal purpose. A writer in the May number of the *Fortnightly Review* very pertinently asks, "What is this doctrine?" and shows by abundance of quotation that it is the doctrine of the sacrificial character of the Eucharist. In the *Manual of Devotion*, for example, before the Communion these words are to be used by the worshipper, "It is as yet only bread and wine, but by the miracle of Thy power and grace it will shortly become the body and blood of Thy beloved Son." The writer proceeds most temperately and ably to prove that such teaching is not sanctioned by the formularies of the Church of England, and that it is contrary to the commonest and most elementary principles of honesty and morality for men who have taken the position of priests in that Church to set aside its teaching and substitute for it some intangible