

one object of which was to prove that MAHOMET was no impostor, but, on the contrary, was divinely appointed to diffuse such religious light as the people were capable of receiving! A man may thus subscribe to the thirty-nine Articles, and be, after all, a true Mussulman!

CONVERSATION BETWEEN A SHOEMAKER AND A DOCTOR OF DIVINITY,

About Priestly Titles, and the Age at which "a Child of God" should be "Confirmed."

"The Lord Bishop of Toronto, in announcing the following appointments for Confirmation, requested that it may be understood that candidates are not admissible to that rite until they shall have attained the full age of 15 years."—"The Church" Newspaper.

B. Good morning, Friend! I see you have brought your boy with you: doubtless you intend that he shall be "confirmed" to-day, with others.

S This was my intention, certainly, when I last saw you, Sir; but having lately directed my attention to the Bible upon this matter, I have had very serious misgivings about it, and other subjects also.

B I can easily suppose that it would be so with an illiterate mind, for you had no religious instructor by you at the time, to explain the passages aright—that is, spiritually.

S Well, I don't know; I have the idea that the Bible appeals to one's common sense; and that Jesus Christ, and his Apostles, who were plain hard-working men, could explain spiritual things to me as well, if not a great deal better, than the Parsons, who are sometimes, you know, very carnal men.

B Carnal! They are the alone channel of spiritual good to the world;—the blessing descends wondrously in one chain, even "though the ordinance be administered by evil men." Read your Prayer Book, Sir, a little more carefully. Your manner and language are, I must say, offensive. Do you know in whose company you are?

S I believe, Sir, you are called the "Lord Bishop;" and this reminds me of the notice in the Church Newspaper about the age of confirmation, in which you assume that title. Pray, Sir, can you tell me when Lord Bishops were first created? Did Jesus Christ create any "Lords" among the Apostles, or the Apostles any Lords among the Primitive Bishops?

B The question is an impertinent one, coming as it does from a Layman; nevertheless, I direct you to one fact, that Peter was honoured with the Keys of the Kingdom.

True, Doctor: but this is the argument of the Romish Priests; and, let me ask, does the fact that you give the keys of the Cathedral to the Sexton, give him pre-eminence over others who go in at the door, or entitle him to be called "My Lord?" The supposition is ridiculous. Besides, did not the Saviour positively condemn all supremacy among his Apostles? So I read in Matthew xx. 25, 27, and many other places.

B I perceive, Sir, that you are not learned in the mysteries of national religion, nor have you ever read "the Fathers" of our Church, who lived nearer the Apostles' age than we do. They clearly teach that those honorable distinctions did exist among the Clergy at a very early age.

S This may be, Sir; but, if I may be allowed the expression, I have read the lessons of "the Grand Fathers"—the Apostles, which you must admit to be more ancient, as well as infallible; and there I learn nothing of such things. Do we ever learn that Peter was addressed as "His Holiness," "His Lordship," "The Reverend," "The Right Reverend," "The Most Reverend," or that Paul or his associates were ever addressed as "Lords" or as "Honourable," and "Venerable?" Besides, when the great Apostle addressed the Bishops of the Ephesian church (Acts xx. 28) would he not, upon your principle, have said, "Take heed, 'My Lords,' unto yourselves, and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you 'Lord Bishops.'" And finally, when telling them, as honest men, to work for their bread, he would have said, "I have shown you all things, 'My Lords,' how that so labouring (at some honest handicraft, as you have seen me do at tentmaking), ye ought to support the weak," &c. But no such titles are employed. From these facts I conclude that true Bishops then were plain hard-working men, and that there were no Lords among them; now, however, they are all Lords, and live upon the labour of others!

B Thus reasoning, Sir, away goes our venerable Hierarchy! sunk are all our Formularies and Standards! and the Ministry of the Succession would be no more!! Alas! alas! what an infidel age we live in!