

July 10, 1867.]

native which might be advocated with the greatest skill and ability. As we glance down the list of names before us, it is impossible not to see which party would usually possess that advantage. Among the High Church spokesmen are several learned, dexterous, and eminent controversialists, deeply committed to Ritualism, and most zealous in its support.

It would have been far better had it been possible that no pronounced Ritualist or anti-Ritualist should have been placed on the Commission. The next best thing, however, to an absence of all prejudices is an equipoise should at least have been secured by the Government.

(From the Daily News.)

When the Government promised to issue a Royal Commission on Ritualism, it was very generally understood that it would do so as a step towards legislative action.

opinion. It is important to consider what must be the consequences of Lord Derby's course of action in this matter. In the first place the Ritualists have gained a year. The subject has been before Parliament for several months, but its practical consideration has been put off by the Government, and now the Commission cannot report in time for legislation to take place this session.

(From the Record.)

The character of the Ritualistic Commission may be read in the names of its members. "No one," said the *Guardian*, "will complain that the Ritual Commission is not numerous enough; no one will say that it is not impartial."

THE ENGLISH CHURCH.—The following remarks from the *London Times* on the great dividing question of the English Church at the present day, will be found interesting, as giving a summary of what may be said on one side of the question:

Can it be necessary, in the present year of grace, three centuries after the Reformation, and nearly two centuries after the expulsion of a Popish Sovereign, to reassert "the distinctively Protestant character of the Church of England?"

ries, with a little assistance from the Canon, will leave very little doubt on any honest mind as to the general intention of our Reformers.

It is not, indeed, upon the express and deliberate language of those who founded the Church of England that opponents of her Protestant character prefer to rely. They tacitly admit that very awkward passages are to be found in the Prayer-book; but then, as they maintain, the Church does not owe its origin to the Reformation.

The reaction against Protestantism within our own Church, and in these times, has caused, as we venture to believe, much needless alarm.

Shall we, then, renounce the Reformation? Shall we, as some unfaithful pseudo-Churchmen have affirmed, pronounce the Reformation "a grand mistake"?

same lesson may be learnt by the observation of facts nearer home, the prevalent tone of literature, the debates on certain questions in Parliament, the latitude of opinion in unreserved conversation, the impatience of dogmatism among the ablest students at our Universities.

A COLONIAL BISHOP SPEAKING OUT.—In a discourse to his congregation at Trinity Church, Islington, Dr. Alford, the new Bishop of Victoria, made the following remarks on the Romish movement in the Church of England.

I call to mind yet another important paragonal meeting, which the circumstances of our day both justified and made a bounden duty. I refer to our Protestant meeting of last spring, when as a congregation you met and adopted memorials, both to our Bishop and to the Legislature, against the use of vestments and Popish practices which have been introduced into too many of our churches.

Has it indeed come to this—that our Church has lost her doctrinal creed? that Holy Scripture has lost its authority? Have we now no standard of right and wrong? No test of truth and error?

Shall the substance of the bread and wine be said to be "changed," and then reverenced, lifted up, and worshipped? My dear brethren—and I speak now to the faithful laity of the Church—there is need that we utter no uncertain sound upon these points; it is needful that we exert our voice to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints.

Will you suffer a captious scepticism on one hand, and barefaced Popery on the other, so to undermine the very foundations of our Zion, that when destroyed the enemy shall taunt you, and your own conscience shall too late reproach you.

A Dissenting minister of some celebrity, the Rev. Henry Christopherson, late Professor of Theology in New College, St. John's-wood, was ordained deacon by the Bishop of London.

The editor of the *Directorium* gives his full sanction to the Commission thus:—"Of its composition, now finally settled, we can only say that it is honestly impartial, and though we tender no thanks to the Government for having appointed it we are most heartily glad that being appointed it is neither one-sided nor unjust in its composition."

—We are very sorry to find that although the Bishop of Exeter has reached the age of St. John, he is by no means exhibiting the spirit of the beloved Apostle. For no assignable reason, excepting that the Rev. W. Acworth had been causelessly inhibited by the Bishop of Oxford, the aged Prelate has allowed his Chaplain to use his Lordship's name for the purpose of extending Bishop Wilberforce's inhibition to the diocese of Exeter.

DEFEAT OF THE VESTMENTS BILL.—The Government sent out a circular to obtain as much support as possible in resistance to Lord Shaftesbury's Bill.

Lord Derby has agreed to have a Royal Commission appointed on the Ritual question, but it is to have a wider aim than the examination of the Rubric ornaments.

—The Bishop of Worcester, Durham, and Carlisle, have declined to attend the Pan-Anglican Synod. It is said that upwards of sixty Bishops have accepted the Archbishop's invitation.

—The Bishop of Salisbury, in his late Charge, has asserted high pretensions. It does not appear to have ever occurred to his Lordship that the great majority of the whole number of bishops in Christendom consider him a heretic.

Colonial.

COADJUTOR BISHOP OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR.—The *Telegraph* says:—"The Venerable Archdeacon Kelly and