

*To the Laity of the Church of England in Canada.*

The foregoing letters have been published in the press of this city and universally warmly approved of by the Protestant Community, excepting, as a matter of course, the High Church or Ritualistic members of the church, to whom they are gall and wormwood.

They are now published in the present form for more general circulation, under the hope that they will be read by many who have not had the opportunity of seeing the Ottawa papers.

We, of the Reformed Episcopal Church, are not ashamed of our colors, and are quite prepared to defend them in every respect. They are published at this particular time, more especially for the perusal of the Lay Delegates to the Episcopal Synods now about to meet, under the hope that they will carefully study them and take such a stand as will show their brother Churchmen that they are not ashamed of being called Protestants, but proud of it, and that they are determined to root out from the much loved church of our fathers, all Romanizing tendencies, teaching, and practises, and hail her as the Protestant Church of England.

As will be seen by one of the letters, a correspondent from here to the "London (England) *Church Times*," (and believed to be a clergyman of this city) writes of the Church of England here as being afflicted with the "Leprosy of Protestantism." Surely there must be something wrong in the church, when in the 19th century we find a member of the Protestant Church of England using such language and publishing it to the world.

The letters herewith speak for themselves, and cover almost every point in dispute in the church, and refer particularly to the doctrine now taught openly by many of the clergy, viz., *Auricular Confession, absolution by the Priest, the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in the Holy Communion, regeneration by baptism, and the Apostolic Succession*, or the Clergy of the Church assuming that they are the *divinely inspired* successors of the Apostles in a direct line, all of which we of the Reformed Episcopal Church repudiate as unprotestant, being little short of blasphemy, and tending to lead the laity, with railroad speed, to the Church of Rome (where one of the clergy in this city has so lately gone), and we feel that the clergy who advocate such doctrine as the power of absolving or retaining sin are usurping one of the highest attributes of Almighty God, viz., Mercy and forgiveness, for we believe no one can forgive sin but God, and we do not believe He has delegated that power to frail mortal man.

There is not one of the clergy who would dare to promulgate such doctrine from his pulpit, but they teach it, and much worse in our Sunday Schools, and among the weak-minded members of the church *privately*, their whole aim is "Priestcraft!" or to get power over the laity whom they desire to lead or rule, not only in things spiritual, but temporal also.

There are one or two points not referred to in these letters which we wish especially to draw attention to. In the first place,

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