

tions rests with the Metropolitan and Bishops of a Province, and that it has, on the rare occasions when circumstances have called for it, been exercised by them in the Church of England. In this case the Bishops of the Province were unanimous in their judgment,—that their brother had departed widely from the faith of Christ, and ought to be deprived of his spiritual functions; and their conclusions have had the hearty approbation of the Church at home, and, I may now add, of the Churches with which we are in communion throughout the world. His commission therefore, to minister to your souls, and to govern the flock of Christ, given by the Great Head, through his Church, has been withdrawn; and it is impossible that it should be restored, unless, by the grace of God, he be led to see the depth of that error into which he has fallen, and turn and repent.

But is he bound, it may be asked, to recognise and obey this spiritual act of the Church? I cannot myself see how any can doubt it. The moral obligation to yield obedience to an authority which one has sworn to obey, is not effaced by any inability to enforce that obedience by law. Dr. Colenso took his oath of canonical obedience, both at his consecration, when the Metropolitan, having no Letters Patent, laid hands upon him, and joined in giving him his commission; and again, after the issue of the Letters Patent. Be it, that at the time he thought there was legal power to enforce the spiritual authority which he recognised, does the obligation to obey that authority cease when it is discovered that it cannot be enforced by human law?

Dr. Colenso thinks so, and in defiance of it, now proceeds to harass the Church, and disturb its peace, not only