

ENGLAND.

REVISION OF THE PRAYER BOOK.

We cannot say that we are at all satisfied that the conspiracy against the Prayer Book either never existed, or has been altogether abandoned. Lord Ashley, after the letter which he has written, cannot, as a man of honour, take part in such a design. But in a conspiracy there are more parties than one; others may contemplate a change, though Lord Ashley affirms that he does not. Among the flying rumours of the day, the "John Bull" says that the Queen's Printer has received orders to print no more Prayer Books! That is a strong measure—too strong even for such an arbitrary Minister as Lord John Russell to adopt. We can scarcely believe that this rumour can be true; for, in the first place, every one must be aware that essential changes in the Prayer Book could not be made without a despatch and protracted struggle, in which we suspect that more than the Church would be involved; and, in the next place, even if a change were made, without the sanction of Convocation, the large majority of Clergy and Congregations would continue to use the old form, so that there would be no lack of customers for the Prayer Books which may be printed. Such rumours, however, though not to be relied on, are important, as showing the intense anxiety with which Churchmen are watching for the slightest indication of any attempt upon the integrity of their Church, and the alacrity with which they would rise to resist any such scheme.

We believe that the enemies of the Church have become aware of the hopelessness of any direct attack upon the Formularies of the Church, and whatever they do will be done surreptitiously and quietly; but not with less mischievous purpose. The avowed intention of Lord Ashley and his clique is to get the Queen—or, rather, to get Lord John Russell by the Queen's prerogative—to issue a Commission to put a stop to "Romanising" practices and doctrines.

Now, in the first place, what Lord Ashley terms "Romanizing," is, in truth in many instances, the plain doctrine of our own Church. Baptismal Regeneration is, in their eyes, a Romanizing doctrine, so also is the doctrine that "the Body and Blood of Christ are verily and indeed taken and received by the faithful in the Lord's Supper." They do not know, or affect not to know, the difference between this doctrine and Transubstantiation. Adherence to the Rubric, observing Fasts and Festivals, and various other things strictly enjoined by the Church, are looked upon by the Puritan faction as Romanizing customs, and have been so regarded by them ever since the Reformers of the English Church issued their Reformed Prayer Book. Therefore a Commission to remove "Romanizing," or "Tractarian" doctrines and practices is in effect a Commission some how or other to alter the Formularies of the Church, and the Doctrine and Practice of the Reformers. Every one must be well aware, by this time, that the Puritan outcry against "Romanizers" and "Tractarians" is but an excuse to get rid of those Rubrics and Doctrines from our Prayer Book which the Puritans cannot, with a clear conscience, join in, while they are not conscientious enough to avow it.

It is most important, also, to observe the means by which Lord Ashley's party intend to effect their object. A Royal Visitation! We are not aware that any such Visitation has taken place since the time of the Tudors, when the Star Chamber and High Commission Court were in vogue. So Lord Ashley wants the liberal Lord John Russell to revive a practice of the time of Henry VIII., Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth!—to do what? Why, to effect something which the present law cannot effect—to do something beyond the present law of the land. The Bishops and the Court of Arches have ample powers to oblige every Clergyman to conform to the law of the Church. Any Clergyman doing what is contrary to the law, may be called to order, and punished, and obliged to conform in future. What, then, is the object of the proposed Royal Visitation? Simply to exercise an arbitrary power, beyond the law, to oblige Clergymen to do, or abstain from doing, what the present law does not require him to do, or abstain from doing.

It is a very remarkable fact, and one not easily accounted for, how the constitutional law of England has been stretched or superseded when brought into exertion against the Church. Our whole system of Government Education is based on a grant of money by the Lower House of Parliament, in opposition to a protest of the House of Lords. Dr. Hampden's Confirmation was sanctioned by a legal manoeuvre. The Gorham case was finally decided by an acknowledged concession to mere expediency, differently from what the same Court would have decided in an ordinary civil case; and now an obsolete power, a power exercised only by the Tudors, and supposed to have become defunct with the Star Chamber and the High Commission Court, or at least to have been done away with by the "Bill of Rights"—this power is again called for to coerce the Church by straighter bonds than those with which the law itself binds her.

We believe that any such visitation will be found to be entirely illegal; and at any rate we hope that the Parliament will not allow a Minister to evoke so dangerous a power. Once let the Whig Minister, under shelter of the Queen's Prerogative, begin to make alterations in the Church—once let him get in the small end of the wedge, under the pretence of removing a chancel screen, or interpreting a rubric, and a power will be set in motion able by degrees to effect any amount of change in our Prayer Book and our whole Church system. The same power which could change a single rubric, might, with equal legality, substitute the "Directory" for the Book of Common Prayer.

We do therefore seriously warn all our friends to be on the alert to answer the first summons to resist any such attempt. We are happy to hear that a Committee of Churchmen—not of one particular section, but of sound men of all parties—has formed itself for the special purpose of resisting any attempt to alter the Formularies of the Church. Their first care should be to prepare for signature a declaration, to be signed by Churchmen, of their firm determination to resist any alterations not made by Church authority, and their resolution to abide by that sacred form of worship in which they have been nurtured, and to which they have solemnly vowed their allegiance. Such a declaration, unanimously, or all but unanimously signed might be of the greatest possible use; because from the noisy clamour made under pretext of this popular aggression, the Puritans seem to have persuaded themselves that the country is ripe for any change they may please to propose.

We, for our part, feel sure that they have greatly mis-calculated their strength. We have little misgiving as to the result of any attempt which they may make. The great evil will be that it will serve to

keep alive those "unhappy divisions" which rend our Church, and add fuel to the flame of polemical strife. —English Churchman.

MR. BENNETT'S RESIGNATION.

We presume that the question of Mr. Bennett's resignation must be considered as settled, by the short letter on the part of the Bishop of London, which concludes the correspondence printed in another part of our paper. It is needless to say that we most deeply regret the mode in which it is terminated; but if the matter was to finish thus, it is better that it should be finished at once. The only result of ineffectual struggles, however kindly intended, must be to protract and increase the anxieties of him whom they are intended to serve, and possibly to do what he, of all men, would most deeply lament, by exciting a spirit of bitterness and discontent towards his successor. Few sacrifices would be too great to retain for a person of Mr. Bennett's remarkable qualifications a position in which he has so greatly served the cause of his Master and promised to serve it more. But if this is not to be, a lengthened period of doubt and controversy is injurious both to him and his congregation.

It is a satisfaction to find that at no period did Mr. Bennett entertain any intention of averting from the pledge which he had given to the Bishop. To us that pledge appears to have been the result of an overstrained sense of duty; but, once given, he could not, we think, have receded from it with credit. This is his own clear opinion. He repudiates, even severely, the course which his friends desire him to adopt; and if we did not know how frequently honourable and generous men, irritated by what they consider the ill-treatment of those they love and revere, will recommend and justify in the case of others a course of which they would immediately see the impropriety in their own case, we should be surprised that they ever could have expected Mr. Bennett to accede to their wishes.

Nor, we think, could they reasonably expect the assistance of the Bishop in carrying the question before the Ecclesiastical Court. Perfectly agreeing with them that it is most desirable to ascertain the limits of that canonical obedience which is morally and legally due from clergymen to their Bishops; it seems to us that, in this particular case, Mr. Bennett had distinctly waived these rights which they claimed on his behalf, by throwing himself, frankly and unreservedly, on the judgment of his Diocesan. The question, therefore, became one on which the Bishop was entitled to pronounce without appeal—especially without appeal to any Court of Law. And this right he has exercised.

One word more on the position which Mr. Bennett now occupies. We think we have seen his proceedings characterised as disobedient, insubordinate, and self-willed. What have they been? Six months ago he was secured, by law, in the undisputed possession (we dislike the words but to some minds shall not be completely intelligible without using them) of a lucrative benefice, on which he himself and his family were dependent for their subsistence. He was in possession of remarkable influence over an intelligent and wealthy congregation, which enabled him to command pecuniary and personal assistance to an extraordinary amount in any good work to which he might devote himself. He had devoted himself to the task of creating, in a miserable and corrupt district, a centre from which assistance and comfort might flow forth to the sick and afflicted, teaching to the corrupt and miserable, and to which might be drawn those whose hearts were beginning to be touched by the love of God. A church, a school, a dispensary, an organised body of assistants, an affectionate and improving congregation, had grown and were growing under his hand. The labours of years were bearing their fruit; the aspirations of years were being realized.

All this he at once abandons, and why? Not from fear; not from disappointment; not from any legal compulsion; but simply because his Bishop bids him. Practices, which he considers himself (mistakenly we think) unable to discontinue, and which, of course, he does not think to be contrary to any ecclesiastical law of the English Church, are disapproved by the Bishop; and, rather than persevere in them, he relinquishes all that he has created, all that he has hoped, his ministerial labours, his worldly competence, and retires—to what? A worse than uncertain future—the future of a marked man; not, indeed, as the committee of parishioners say, "necessarily shut out from officiating 'any more in the Church of England,'" for we cannot, for an instant, allow that such a consequence can be drawn from the indirect expression of a private opinion by a single Bishop; yet, as far as human eyes can see, practically cut off from all prospect of re-employment in that sphere for which he has shown himself so eminently fitted, on which all his hopes and interests are centered, to which the law of the land confines him, and from which alone he can hope for subsistence.

And now we must ask those who fail to discern in Mr. Bennett's conduct a determined sacrifice of self to the principal of ecclesiastical obedience, to think how many there are of their own friends who would thus leave the interests, worldly and unworthy, which they have been in the habit of considering their own, because, on a point on which they considered themselves to have law on their side they differed from their Bishop. We do not ask them to agree in the wisdom of all that Mr. Bennett has said or done, or may say and do; but we may fairly now ask them, not to look at practices adopted during a period of enthusiasm, or expressions used during periods of anxiety and excitement, but at the larger act to which we have drawn attention, and to judge that act in him as they would judge it in their neighbours.

THE SUCCESSOR TO THE REV. MR. BENNETT.—The Bishop of London has appointed the Hon. and Rev. Robert Liddell, the vicar of Barking, to be the successor of Mr. Bennett at St. Barnabas. An interval is to elapse before Mr. Bennett legally resigns, and Mr. Liddell is legally appointed.

ENDOWMENT OF A CHAIR OF PASTORAL THEOLOGY IN QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM, BY THE REV. DR. S. W. WARNEFORD.—We learn that the Rev. Dr. S. Wilson Warneford has intimated to the trustees of his former benefactions, the Rev. Chancellor Low, the Rev. Vaughan Thomas, and William Sands Cox, Esq., his intention to place in their hands the sum of £1,400, in addition to the munificent sum of £2,000 already paid over by him, as an endowment of a Chair of Pastoral Theology. The Professor to be a clergyman of the Church of England, in priest's orders, and a graduate of Oxford and Cambridge. The hopes and wishes of the founder have been thus shortly explained by Mr. Vaughan Thomas:—"The Rev. Dr. Samuel W. Warneford, in exact conformity with all he has thought, and said and done in the great cause of education, was anxious to provide for what he deemed of the utmost importance in the enlarged and extended plan of education now adopted at the Queen's College,

Birmingham. He was anxious of training up young men intended for holy orders in our Church, by means of a course of practical instruction upon the ministerial duties of the pastor of a parish. He did not mean by this provision to do anything in derogation of Biblical literature in any one of its branches, but he thought he saw a want which should be supplied in clerical education, and that was instruction in the pastoral duties, for he feared they were sometimes undertaken before they were thoroughly understood. Again, he felt it to be a duty to help parents in straitened circumstances, in their endeavours to educate their children for our Church. Queen's College in Birmingham, in its present enlarged and extended relations, seemed to furnish in this, as well as all other departments of teaching, not only the means of imparting a knowledge of pastoral duties, but of doing it economically and without such an outlay of money as was incompatible with parental prudence to advance. But in the offer Dr. Warneford was not unmindful of the Royal example. Her Majesty the Queen by Royal grant to the University of Oxford, dated May 3rd, 1843, assigned out of the Church revenues a large annual income to a Professor of Pastoral Theology. The very course of his lectures is set forth in the grant; they are to comprehend "instruction in the ministerial duties—in the composition and delivery of his sermons, in reading the services of the Church, in the history of the Liturgies; in the reason and use of the rubrics, and the like; he is, moreover, to give professional instruction, and to make examinations of the pulpits according to such scheme or schemes as may from time to time be formed or altered by the authorities of the University." In these words and acts of Royal care and concern for a due discharge of the pastoral duties, Dr. Warneford beheld not only the brightness of the Queen's example, but the power of authority. Having long entertained the pious wish of making the senior department of Queen's College available for the purposes of training good and sober-minded young men with scanty pecuniary resources for holy orders, could Dr. Warneford have done better than tread, at whatever distance, in the footsteps of his Sovereign? Could he, in making provision for pastoral instruction in Queen's College, do better than follow the light of the Queen's example, and show respect to the wisdom of the Royal ordinance? There can be but one answer to these questions in a college and council created by the Queen's grace and favour. Dr. Warneford, then, has endowed a Professorship of Pastoral Theology in the Queen's College at Birmingham, in order that students who intend to be candidates for holy orders in our Church "may be taught the ministerial duties in their various branches, as also the composition and delivery of sermons, the reading of the Church services, the history of the Liturgies, the reason and use of the rubrics, and all other matters connected with and subservient to a faithful and efficient performance of what the Church requires of her pastors and ministers for the edification of their flocks." The College now owes to this enlightened philanthropist the following munificent endowments: For the Professor of Pastoral Theology, £3,400; for the warden, £1,000; for the resident chaplain, £1,000; for the chaplain at the Queen's Hospital, £1,000; for divinity lectures to the medical students, £1,000; for medical scholarships, £1,000; for medical prizes, £1,000; and for a resident medical tutor, £1,000.

The Bishop of London has intimated to Mr. Bagshaw, who was building a proprietary chapel in Paddington, that he cannot licence any unconsecrated proprietary chapel. A long correspondence ensued which Mr. Bagshaw published in the *Daily News*.

From our English Files.

ALARMING FIRE IN THE NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—About two o'clock on Monday a fire of a very alarming character broke out in that portion of the New Palace at Westminster which occupies the north-east corner of the building, and which is called the Clock Tower. This tower will consist, when completed, in part of a shaft for supplying cold air to the rest of the building, and in part of rooms adjoining the residence of the Sergeant-at-Arms, to be used, if required, for the confinement of refractory members. At present it is in an unfinished state, and a considerable quantity of timber has for some time past been stored in it. The fire was fed from this source, and during the short time for which it lasted it blazed away with great fury. It was nearly an hour before the fire could be subdued, with the help of seven or eight engines; and though fortunately the mischief caused has, from the unfinished state of the tower, been comparatively trifling, it is startling to think that with all the precautions which have been taken in the details of construction to prevent an accident of the kind, it should not only have occurred, but assumed so serious an aspect and been so difficult to extinguish. The plan of the architect, Mr. Barry, embraces the formation of tanks in different parts of the building, the laying down of mains along all the principal corridors, and a high pressure service of water, which could at a moment's notice be brought to bear upon a fire within the premises. Repeated representations have, we hear, been made in vain to the Commissioner of Woods and Forests for a water supply commensurate with these arrangements, and had this supply been at hand at the time of the fire it could have been put out at once. For want of it the Clock Tower at least ran a great risk of being destroyed, and the same accident occurred in other parts of the building might have done irreparable injury. Captain Hay, the Commissioner of Police, and Mr. Barry, the architect, were both on the spot without a moment's delay, and having first taken all necessary steps to extinguish the flame, proceeded to examine into the cause of so alarming an occurrence. The investigation instituted by Mr. Barry and Captain Hay, in which we understand Mr. Goldard assisted, was of the most searching character, and lasted a considerable time. All the workmen in any manner connected with that part of the building were minutely examined, and it is satisfactory to state, that the flames were not wilfully caused. The firemen found that a pipe, formed of iron, used for carrying off the smoke from the plumbers' workshops adjoining, ran into the wall of the tower, and owing to the great heat applied for melting the lead, had fired the root in the pipe, which fell amongst the building material, on the ground floor, and hence the fire. This is fully confirmed by Wing, one of the firemen, who was on duty within the buildings at the time of the discovery. The timber consumed consisted merely of some old materials which had been used during the recent alterations in Westminster Hall, and which would have been chopped up for firewood if it had not been burnt in the manner above detailed. A little of the carved stone work has been injured, but not above 10 or 12 stones are cracked, so that the value of the firewood and the repair of the portion of the stone work will, it is understood, constitute the whole of the loss.

Perhaps this trifling casualty may in the end prevent a much greater injury than has just occurred, since it is now to be hoped that the whole of the vast pile will be furnished with a full supply of water laid on in the most approved manner. If the fire on Monday had burst forth in the House of Lords, the damage, instead of probably being covered by £100, might easily have amounted to £100,000.

Lord John Russell has addressed a letter to the President of the Royal Society, announcing the intention of Government to place £1,000 at the disposal of the society this year for scientific purposes.—*Scotsman*.

The *Times* and *Morning Chronicle* are the only English daily papers admitted into Rome.

THE BREVET.—We believe we may announce with some certainty that a brevet will be issued on the 9th of November next, the birthday of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.—*United Service Gazette*.

PIRACY IN THE DOWNS.—A few days since, the crew of a Swedish brig, lying in the Downs, consisting of eight men, having secured the captain and mate in the cabin, proceeded to rifle the vessel of every article of value; and, among other property of a portable description, carried off the captain's watch. Having taken to the boat, they deserted her on landing near the second battery, where the boat was found and secured by the coast guard on duty. No trace of the delinquents has yet been discovered.

HER MAJESTY AND THE DISSENTERS.—A fact came to our knowledge, the other day, in reference to her Majesty, which deserves to be known, but has not yet, that we are aware, been published. It shows that amidst all the strife and party warfare of the times, our beloved Queen has sound views of her duty to all her subjects, irrespective of religious opinions. A domestic of the Palace was observed to have been crying, and her Majesty sympathisingly inquiring the cause of her sorrow, learned that Lady Mary Fox had given the girl notice to quit her Majesty's service for having attended a dissenting place of worship—an act which Lady Mary was "sure her Majesty would not sanction." The officious lady was immediately sent for by her Royal mistress, and severely censured for her conduct, the Queen observing, that she desired the girl to be retained, and that, for the future, it should be distinctly understood that her desire was for all the domestics of the Palace to have full liberty to worship God according to the dictates of their consciences; ruling over subjects of all opinions, she was resolved not to allow any species of persecution whatever.—*Christian Journal*.—[*Observer*, Jan. 26.]

"Sir,—The *Observer*, Sunday paper, having inserted the above without comment, I request you will have the goodness to publish these few lines:—

"Lady Mary Fox is staying abroad for her health; but I can from my own knowledge state that Lady Mary has not, and never has had, any control over, or anything whatever to do with, her Majesty's servants, and, consequently, can never have given any of them 'Notice to quit.'"

"The whole statement from the (un!) *Christian Journal* is entirely untrue.

"I am, Sir your obedient servant.

"C. Fox, Major-General."

Colonial.

MILITIA MEDALS.—When it was known that her Majesty had been advised to bestow medals on such of the Canadian Militia as had borne a part at the three actions selected as most entitled to distinction. I need scarcely say there was a very general feeling of disappointment, because the time had so long gone past that many of the bravest of those who deserved the honour at the hands of their Sovereign, and whose hearts would have throbbed with joy, were mouldering in the dust. And also because the favoured actions of "Detroit," "Chrysler's Farm" and "Chateauguay," had the effect of passing over the militia who saw the most service, and who suffered the greatest privations; in illustration let me remark that the young militiamen who volunteered to go to Detroit with General Brock, and who would have done everything that men could do, had the service required of it of them, cannot be considered as having undergone the hardships and danger of those who were employed on the Niagara frontier, and who bore the brunt of the War. You cannot convince one of these poor fellows that great injustice has not been done him. He will tell you there was no fighting at Detroit; the affair came off in fine summer weather; but that he and his comrades were exposed to every hardship during the two long and severe winters, huddled up in cold and miserable barracks, without any of the comforts provided for soldiers of the line, and that he and others he will name, were not only wounded at "Queenston Heights," or in some other affair in that neighbourhood, but were afterwards made prisoners at "Lundy's Lane," and carried off to the enemy's country, and confined in prison till the close of the war.—This is no imaginary picture, as many of the lingering survivors can still testify. But yet the brave men who did so much on the Niagara frontier are all passed by, for what reason I think it would perplex a wiser head than mine to discover. I envy not the volunteers to Detroit the medals they have received; on the contrary, I am glad of it, and wish them long life to wear their honours. So also with respect to Chrysler's Farm, few of the Militia were there, just because the Flank Companies and Incorporated Militia of the Johnstown and Eastern Districts were stationed at Prescott, past which the enemy went in at night, and although they had the most fatiguing duty during two campaigns, twice having attacked the enemy in his stronghold at Ogdensburg, taking eleven pieces of cannon, together with a large quantity of small arms and military stores. Yet their services are regarded as of no moment.—*Correspondent of the Colonial*.

A melancholy accident occurred on the ice, near Fairfield's tavern, on last Saturday evening. A sleigh containing seven persons was crossing over to Amherst Island, from the Lake shore, when the ice broke in, plunging the whole into the water. Two of the party, a sister, a young woman, named Margaret Anne Gardiner and Margaret Martin, were drowned. Their bodies were brought to this city on Sunday, and a coroner's inquest held on Monday.—*Kingston Herald*.

On Sunday morning last, three men, whose destination was the Great Western Railroad, in quest of work, were crossing the river Jordan, in the township of Louth. At the point where they stood, all the bridge had been carried away, except two string pieces. Upon these two of the men passed over with safety; the third hesitated for some time, but finally made the attempt; on reaching the centre of the river, he was observed to pause and look down upon the rushing waters beneath him. The conse-