

SISTERHOOD OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

His Lordship next takes up the "Sisterhood of St. John the Baptist" as one of "the assumed delinquencies of the Church of the Holy Trinity," and thus proceeds:—

"In reference to what you have cited as to the employment of certain of the Sisters in preparations for the Holy Communion, Mr. Darling, at my request, has furnished me with the following explanations:—'It is sad, indeed, that out of a multitude of good works enumerated in the Report (for last year), under no less than sixteen heads, the Church Association can find nothing to commend; and should fix upon the fact that the altar linen is taken care of, and the elements for the Holy Communion prepared by Sister Sarah, as a ground of offence and accusation.'"

The remark of Mr. Darling is calculated to mislead. So far from ignoring the good works enumerated in the Report, the words used were these:—"While, as in many Romish sisterhoods, this 'Sisterhood of S. John the Baptist' aims at works of piety and 'charity,' we read in its report for the past year that 'The Altar linen 'used in the Church of the Holy Trinity is washed and ironed at 'the House; the bread for the celebration of the Holy Communion 'provided; and Sister Sarah has the care of the Altar, which occupies 'one afternoon each week.'"

We once more press on the attention of the Lord Bishop, and of all the members of our Church, that practices are here avowed and defended, which, so far from pertaining to "an ordinary choral service simply conducted," may best be characterized in the Bishop's own words, as "unauthorized novelties foisted upon the services of the Church."

1st. There is not only the misapplication of the word "Altar" to the Communion Table,—the reversal of a change of the most significant character, made at the Reformation as one of the distinctive marks of the Protestant Church of England;—but this word "Altar" is here the accompaniment of other changes, giving a most ominous significance to the revival of this term borrowed from the services of the Church of Rome.

2nd. There is the novelty—unheard of till now in Canada at least,—of a "Sister," the member of a "Church Sisterhood," having the so-called "Altar" of a Protestant Church committed to her care. The very need of such novel services is suggestive of something more than the ordinary Communion Table, with its fair white linen cloth.

3rd. There is the still more significant novelty of this Sisterhood making bread specially "for the celebration of the Holy Com-