

THE CHURCH.

IT is now sometime since the Dean of the Arches pronounced his very careful and learned sentence on the great question of the Law of Ritualism of the English Church, which, it was hoped, would for a time, at least, set the question aside, and permit members of that Church to unite in meeting the terrible attacks which are being made against her, both from within and without. The questions brought before Sir R. Phillimore were, first: "The Elevation of the Blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, accompanied in Mr. Mackonochie's case by kneeling or 'excessive kneeling,' at times not prescribed in the rubrics;" secondly, "The use of incense during the Elevation of the Eucharist;" thirdly, "The mixing of water with wine at the time of the administration of the Lord's Supper;" fourthly, "The use of lighted candles upon the holy table." It would be impossible within our brief limits to attempt even a sketch of the document, the reading of which occupied four hours, wherein the learned judge detailed, first, the premises from which it was his office to draw a conclusion with regard to the special charges, and the construction, history and precise force of the rubrics, which Mr. Mackonochie was charged with contravening, and, secondly, the exact relation to those rubrics of the acts of Mr. Mackonochie, which by the promoter of the suit were presented to him as being illegal; we can but refer those who are interested in the Church, and in the ceremonies of our branch of the Catholic Church, to the judgment itself, which enters fully, not only into the ceremonies themselves, but also into the exact position held by our Church in relation to the whole Church of Christ, and into its true catholicity, as expressed by a catena of writers and learned men from the earliest times down to the Synod at Lambeth, which spoke the firm and noble words, that are yet ringing in our ears and cheering the hearts of true Churchmen throughout the whole world. As regards the special charges made by the promoter, the Dean decided, first: that the elevation of the Blessed Sacrament, which Mr. Mackonochie had previously under the direction of the Bishop of London discontinued, was not to be resumed; secondly, that the censuring of persons and things, likewise previously discontinued, must be discontinued still; thirdly, that the mixing water with the wine was not a legal rite, if made a part of the service and done at the time when the elements are brought on to the altar from the credence table; and, fourthly, that "it is lawful to place two lighted candles on the Holy Table during the time of Holy Communion 'for the signification that Christ is the very true light of the world.'"

We learn with the greatest regret that the promoter of the suit is de-

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