

So with regard to Ritualism. That particular ceremonies, dresses or ornaments were not used in the primitive Churches, is no bar to the adoption of them in the present condition of society and the present frame of men's minds, if the effect is found to be good. It is certain that the primitive Churches had no instrumental music; yet the number of those who object to the use of the organ is evidently growing small, as is that of the rigorists who, like the "Square-window" Baptists, denounce the introduction of pointed architecture or of any other architectural beauty. But the plea of æsthetic influence, as a useful aid to devotion, is the only one which is sound. All attempts to put Ritualism on higher ground, to represent it as Apostolic, as part of Revelation, as the accessories of a miracle performed by Priests, will collapse under the touch of History. It will last, no doubt, in spite of the Ecclesiastical Courts, so long as the tastes which have given birth to it endure: if they should pass away again, this, like any other fashion, will subside.

— "Differences," we are told, "have arisen among the Positivists of London. Mr. Frederic Harrison and Professor Beesley have seceded from Dr. Congreve, and will hereafter hold separate services; Mr. Henry Compton maintains." The late departed Cynic used to describe the Positivist Church as "Three Persons and No God." The number of persons, we see, is now at least four. There are, in fact, we believe, a good many more. One school of Positivists, led by M. Littré, embraces of Comte's system the philosophy only—the philosophy of which we can never speak without protesting that its three Successive States, the Theological, the Metaphysical and the Positive are not mutually exclusive but may well meet and be reconciled in the Final Science. Another School embraces not only the philosophy of Comte but the Religion which he invented, and which is simply a reproduction of Roman Catholicism, with Humanity instead of God and with the Papacy, Priesthood, Sacraments, Ritual and Calendar modified so as to