

In an address presented to Mr. Blackman, (vide Appendix, No 6), whilst—

"Acknowledging the services of the Rev. Gentlemen, who, during his illness, from time to time officiated for him," they "at the same time begged leave to express their deep regret that some of them should have introduced changes in the mode of conducting Divine service at St. Thomas's, to which they had been long accustomed." In a more emphatic manner they proceed to say:—"These innovations we view with feelings of dissatisfaction, more especially the practice of preaching in the Surplice, to which we entertain an aversion, from its association with a party which has done, and is doing, incalculable mischief in the Church, and with feelings of pain, in as much as it must have been well known that such a departure from the customary mode of conducting Divine service, would be generally offensive to the congregation."

Notwithstanding this plain and decided statement of their views, signed by 63 of the principal members of the congregation, and the declaration of Mr. Blackman (the Incumbent), that these "views entirely coincided with his own," Archdeacon Bridge, with an effrontery little becoming a minister of the Gospel, ventured soon afterwards into the pulpit with his Surplice. Still more recently he has repeated the offence, but received such intimation that, notwithstanding all the temerity of his disposition, he has at length felt obliged to succumb and preach in the gown.

The month of October, 1845, is memorable as the period when the Lord Bishop published those directions regarding collections for the Church Society, which have produced the most baneful results. In a Circular, dated the 28th of the same month, his Lordship addressed himself upon this subject, in most peremptory language, to the Clergy, leaving them no other alternative than to enforce the proposed system upon their congregations, or be regarded as disobedient to their Bishop. And it is deserving of notice, as indicating the arbitrary and absolute manner in which the "Plan" was thrust upon the whole body of Churchmen, that the Clergy were not consulted on its expediency, or their willingness to undertake the duty imposed upon them, nor the Laity on their ability, or their disposition, to contribute the required

* The matter was referred to the Bishop, who replied, by Letter, to the Attorney General, whose answer his Lordship will have cause long to remember.