

bishops themselves perfectly obey, and notoriously, those bishops who put the law in operation obey it the least. It has been the wisdom and the glory of the Church of England, that it is a tolerant church. This spirit has been deemed unfaithful by those who would bind men to a hard and fast line, and, by the severest penalties, prohibit any man from passing it. But the same tolerant spirit has attracted far more than it repelled. In matters of faith the church is more stringent, knowing, from history, the subtlety of unbelief; in matters of ritual, she allows for diversities of feeling and expression. This liberty is accorded to Every Body in the church save one. Men of every shade of opinion, and of practice, are tolerated, are welcomed, are rewarded, but this one Body which numbers in its ranks some of the most holy and self-denying of our priests, some of the most learned of our liturgists, some of the most liberal, loyal and spiritual of our laymen, is denounced. The law "with lime twigs set to catch their winged souls," only seems framed to crush them, or to drive them (if possible) into the arms of another Communion to which they most properly refuse to go. May not they, without any breach of charity, exclaim to their prosecutors, "Yet none of you keepeth the law." I have a strong conviction that if a wholly different course had been pursued, if the trusted leaders of the Ritualists, priests and laymen, had been summoned to meet the Bishops in friendly conference, after solemn prayer for the gentle wisdom of the Holy Ghost, with Holy Communion, and these men had been asked to state their reasons, and their difficulties, and their wishes, and the Bishops had patiently heard all, and as patiently replied, and that then both parties had considered how practically to meet the difficulty, and to keep on friendly terms, I feel very hopeful that "God would have revealed even this unto us," and a way would have been found for the