

prelates of the Established Church of England. The subject was lately brought to a settlement by the indiscretion of certain persons, who, acting, it would appear, on the initiative of Cardinal Vaughan who is understood to hold very strong views on the question, desired to give the Cardinal as a Prince of the Roman Church, a place above our own Bishops. But it has now been ruled by the highest authority in England, that Roman Catholic prelates, whether Cardinals or not, shall only rank after all English Bishops, Suffragans included. The decision seems to us right and proper, and Romanists are now called upon to remember that in England they are merely a dissenting community from the Established Church of the Realm. We welcome the decision at this moment particularly because, since Romanists have themselves declared through their official head that all English Orders are null and utterly void, it would have been the height of folly to lend any countenance to the utterly ridiculous assertions and pretensions they have seen fit to indulge in of late.—Church Evangelist.

Dr Benson and the Papal Bull.

The following paragraph on the recent Bull "Apostolicæ curæ" were, we are informed by Mr. Arthur Benson, written by his father in the train on Saturday, the 10th of October, 1896, and revised by him next day, the day on which he died, after returning from the Early Communion at Hawarden Parish Church, and before starting to walk to church again for the Matins Office during the course of which his soul passed away. But quite

apart from the exceptional circumstances under which these words of Archbishop Benson come to us, as his last public utterance before leaving us, the words are in themselves of the greatest value as a declaration of the facts of the case relating to the ministrations of the Sacrament of Order in the English Church.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE.

"Some letters which I receive expect (I believe mistakenly) that positiveness of assertion may still have an effect on some who mistook the kindness of a personage for the thawing of the frozen Church-policy to which he is committed. If there remain any such, after the strong disavowals that have been made, they ought not to be thrown over, they are the very persons to be treated with tenderness.

"I write these to say that a statement will shortly appear which may, I hope, comfort any who think it is required. Infallibility has, happily, this time ventured on reasons. But the subject of Orders, as needful to a perfectly constituted Church, has been as jealously scrutinized in England as by Rome, and with much more knowledge of facts. Authorities of theirs have, till lately at any rate, taught mere ludicrous fables about English Orders, and the late Papal document exhibits ignorances of which their own scholars and critics are as well aware as we. The result of scrutiny with that fuller knowledge was, and is, to establish that our Holy Orders are identical with those of the whole Catholic Church. They are in origin, continuity, matter, form, intention, and all that belongs to them,