

tended Apostolic succession and Bishops assuming to confer the Holy Ghost by the imposition of hands is a frivolous and fond thing vainly invented and grounded upon no warranty of scripture, but rather repugnant to the word of God." The Bishop of Oxford asserted "All this is the most blasphemous frivolity, if it be not the deeper truth." Who, Mr. President, has the hardihood to assert that its truth has a *little of foundation in Scripture*? If it has, why did not the Bishop say so?

Fisher writes "There is an assumption of spiritual power amply sufficient, not only to countenance, but even to justify the most extravagant claims that any priesthood, whether Roman or Anglican has ever hitherto advanced."

At one of the meetings of your Association, it was said by a beloved minister, now deceased, "I am not going to quit the ship because there are monkeys in the rigging," but, Mr. President, it is well known, the monkeys are not merely in the *rigging*, they are all over, in every part, they have hold of the helm, they steer and they engineer the whole movements of the ship, and they would effectually block all attempts at a Revision; if you wish to have things tant and safe you must throw them overboard, never mind drowning them, they are only monkeys, the emissaries of Rome can easily pick them up, for they are already in league with, and will be on the lookout for them.

It was a proverb of the Reformation "If you want to get rid of the rooks, cut down the trees," and I am prepared now to propose a similar remedy. I say, "Revise the Prayer Book," for the

popish germs of that compendium are the rookery in which those black crows are sheltered, they are the rigging which the monkeys cling to. Exaggerate all things on which doubts are hung, erase all frivolities and unscriptural pretensions which impose upon that credulity and ignorance of the people which are only equalled by the wickedness and impostures of the clergy. Most of the Laymen who remain in the church do not know of, and do not care for the existence of Romish germs. Some of those who do care, bear the evil with impatience, and stay unhappily where they are, or leave the fold like stray sheep having no shepherd, to unite themselves with Evangelical and more scriptural churches, whose shepherds feed instead of devour their flocks, and this accounts for the non-growth of the Protestant Episcopal, and for the great increase of other churches in our land, and for our own corresponding diminuent numbers.

Truly, Sir, in this land when we look at the growth of the denominations, of other religious bodies around us, when we see the influence they wield in the community, their missions at home and abroad, and look at our own poor stunted vine, when we see their prosperous and increasing mission funds and their unity of purpose and action, and the waning influence of the Church of England in Canada, and the P. E. Church in the U. S. amongst the masses; the falling mission fund and unsupplied mission fields, wanting missionaries, the monies subscribed for missionary purposes diverted by a *pious fraud* from the prosecuting of missions to the support