

NOTES.

NOTE (A), PAGE 9.

The quotations made in the text are taken from Dr. Vaughan's "Memoirs of Harrow Sundays;" the whole passage is so striking and painfully important, that it is here given in full:—

"I fear it cannot be denied that there is a great and extensive shaking of men's minds at this time as to the truth and authority of the Christian doctrine. We see it with great sorrow. It is indicated in many ways. To think only of our own class of society, it is intimated not obscurely by a great and growing indisposition, on the part of young men otherwise admirably qualified for it, to the profession of a clergyman. How many of those whose character, whose gifts, whose education, and we are sure also (in some cases) whose inclination, destined them for that useful and honourable service, are seen to turn away from it when the time comes! Any thing rather than that; no obscurity, no drudgery, no want of attractiveness and no want of direct usefulness, is enough to deter them from any other calling, so they may escape the necessity of declaring themselves to believe all the articles of the Christian faith, or to assent with all their hearts to the prescribed order of our Church's worship. We do not blame them for this scrupulosity: we can even admire that candour which forbids the concealment of such a hesitation, if it exists. But we deeply lament its existence; we deeply lament its cause. We see how perilous it is to the stability, or at least to the influence, the just and salutary influence, of Christ's Church and of Christ's religion in this country. When once the highest gifts of intellect and of character are refused to the ministry of the Gospel amongst us, the ministry itself will lose much of its real, and all its superficial, influence upon the higher classes of the people of England. The common people may and will, as they always have done in every land and age, hear Christ gladly, even when He speaks to them through the half-educated and the unrefined. But this, though it be a great matter, is far less than might have been or (with many deductions) than is. We want to see the teaching of the true faith powerful with all classes; with the very highest, who perhaps, of all, need it most. And therefore we desire that men of that highest class in every sense, in social position, in intellectual attainments, as well as in purity and nobleness of character, should be found largely sprinkled amongst the very teachers and ministers of our national Church. And the fear that in this coming generation it may not be so, that even in the present generation it is far less so in proportion than once it was, saddens the heart and weakens the hands of many who deeply love the work to which their own lives have been dedicated."

"The immediate cause of this defalcation is that to which the text refers. Some of our best and noblest minds have made shipwreck concerning the faith; they have wrecked themselves on the faith. It is said that there are few, amongst the men of real ability and of high attainment in our great seats of learning, who have not known what it was to doubt more or less seriously, or more or less extensively, or more or less permanently, the truth of what St. Paul here calls the faith. It is of no practical importance to settle the question what proportion the numbers of these may bear to that of those who have not thus doubted. But that there is ground for the apprehension, that there is truth in the statement, none, I fear, can gainsay. And the result too often is, even in cases which end less