

petitions,—while your Committee are of opinion that any introduction of extreme ritualistic practices, especially such as symbolize doctrines contrary to those held and professed by our reformed branch of the Church Catholic, would justly call for the interposition of the Synod, with the view of considering how, (in the words of the report of the Commissioners appointed by the Crown, on the subject of ritual,) the same might “be restrained,”—your Committee, after considering the whole subject, have come to the conclusion that it is not expedient that the Synod should, at its present session, further deal with the questions referred to, for the following reasons :

1. Because no instance has been brought before your Committee in which any of the practices specified and complained of has been introduced into any church within this Province.

2. Because, in the absence of any such introduction, legislation on the subject might justly be regarded as premature.

3. Because the whole subject is now before the legal tribunals in England, and it is desirable to ascertain the course adopted in the mother country, and in our mother church, before we initiate measures that might have the effect of separating us from her,—especially at a time when so noble an effort is being made to bind together the whole of the scattered branches of our communion in the unity, not only of the faith, but also of a common order and worship, so that, although free from any legal bonds, they may ever remain united by spiritual ties, and by intercommunion with each other.

Your Committee, therefore, recommend that the House content itself for the present with dealing with the measure already adverted to, in the manner above mentioned, if they see fit, and will approach the House of Bishops with their respectful request, that their Lordships would put forth a pastoral letter exhorting all the members of our Communion to a faithful adherence to the doctrine and discipline of our Church, as set forth in our Book of Common Prayer, and to maintain that Protest against the distinctive doctrines of the Church of Rome, which is as necessary at this day as when the Church of England first cast off Romish errors and superstitions.

Your Committee feel persuaded that such an appeal from the