

degree. Those who witnessed the Tractarian movement, at all events, can have no difficulty in understanding the attraction of a sacerdotal Church for the clerical mind, of an "august and fascinating superstition," as Macaulay calls Roman Catholicism, for the emotional mind, or of infallibility for the mind which is a prey to religious doubt and has not satisfied itself that there can be no real safety outside allegiance to the God of Truth, nor any real danger within it.

We seem to have made some clergyman angry by saying that the Mass must either be a miracle or an imposture. Yet surely this is the fact, and if it is a fact it is a serious consideration for anyone who is inclined to dally with the question. Against serious belief in the miracle we have not a word to say. The distinction between the most solemn celebration of the Communion and the Mass seems plain. Wherever there is adoration of the elements, by genuflection before them, by elevation of them, or in any other way, apparently the rite celebrated is not the Communion but the Mass.

Archdeacon Farrar's proposal to restore monasticism in the Anglican Church seems to have fallen to the ground. He perhaps intended it as a counter-charm to the charm of Roman Catholicism which he saw working again around him with renewed power. There is no reason why we should not use anything good however it may have been abused. A brotherhood may be a good thing, still more may be a sisterhood, provided always that there is no vow, no asceticism, no superstition. For women who do not marry and have no strong domestic or social ties, a sisterhood with a share in some useful work can hardly fail to be better than a lonely and aimless life. But monasticism of the Roman Catholic type has surely been condemned by decisive experience. It has just been attempted by a laborious and we must say fairly judicial writer to whitewash English monasticism and reverse the verdict of the Commissioners of Henry VIII. To show that the Commissioners were the agents of a rapacious government and that their verdict was very far from