

I need scarcely add the remark that the circumstance of our several Choirs providing their own apparel does not relieve me from the duty of seeing that the customs in regard to such matters ordinarily observed in the community at large to which we belong, are, as nearly as practicable, adhered to.

The Church of England, of which we are members, in common with the whole of the ancient historic Church, has from very early times recognized the seemliness and utility of a distinction in costume for those who aid her congregations in public worship. The use of raiment, pure and white, by ministrants in her chancels, has been authorized by her. Her custom in this regard has been derived from St. John's vision of heaven wherein, round the central object of all worship, four and twenty ancients, co-equal heads of the old and new Israel, were beheld in such array sitting. I, as you know, very cordially, accept the tradition of the Church on this point, and desire to hand it on unadulterated.

The philosophy of official dress is obvious. The policeman derives moral strength from his uniform; and so does the soldier; and so may the chorister or district visitor. But the policeman who, on his own account, assumed the tunic, helmet, or truncheon, peculiar to another city or distinctive of a rival, hostile force, would discharge the public from the necessity of paying attention to his directions and make himself an object of ridicule.

In addressing these words to you, my sole aim is to prevent, as far as possible, any thing being seen or done amongst us, having a tendency to mar the real respect and kindly feeling which, even with those who through prejudice are at first inclined to be adverse, choirs, powerful and effective like ours, invariably secure to themselves, when affectations and irregularities are avoided.

My simple desire is that whatever is done among us should continue to be done *kata taxin*, as St. Paul would speak—according to a regulation, adopted after due consideration and adhered to dutifully and modestly.

The time is most ill-chosen for members of the English Church anywhere within the world-wide area of its jurisdiction or com-

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