

entreating the careless and impenitent to consider the death of Christ, this day set before them, and not rashly, madly to refuse the one only means of salvation,—he warmed into energy,—for the pulse quickened as the heart glowed; and of all the parts of his beautiful discourse, this was decidedly the most effective. He finished, as he began, without any distinct allusion to his projected secession, much less any formal statement of his opinions and design.

The matter, however, I am given to understand, is in this state; he has conclusively determined to withdraw from the Establishment, and has communicated his resolution to his warden and others. His reasons are comprehensive, embracing many points of Diocesan Episcopacy, as well as that point which concerns the principle of national religion. He has arrived at these reasons after long, anxious, and prayerful deliberation; and will, in all probability, take an early opportunity of publishing them through the press. Meanwhile, his position is very anomalous, and affords room for much reflection. He is now so opposed in conscience to the system of the Episcopal Church, that he can no longer remain a member of it. Faithfulness to God drives him into secession. But he cannot, while in the Church, open his mouth, or utter one word *against* her. The Church is now what she has always been; there is no dispute here; therefore he is not entitled to make use of his opportunities and influence, as one of her ministers, to alienate from her the affections of her people, or to expose her corruptions to their view. He is thus *gagged* so long as he continues within the pale of this Church; and when he quits, he quits alone. His congregation, totally uninstructed in the causes of his secession, are wholly unprepared to go along with him. They love him,—they mourn, they weep over his departure,—but accompany him they will not. Instead of that, they will make every effort which affection can dictate, to overcome his scruples, and persuade him to forego his unhappy purpose. They meet to-morrow evening for the sake of united prayer in the present solemn emergency, and to subscribe a memorial to their pastor, beseeching him not to leave them.

Since the preceding was written, accounts have come that this popular minister has left the English Church, and has published a book giving the reasons of his secession.

D. O.

SPECIAL NEWS.

Eramosa, 6th February, 1849.

DEAR BROTHER OLIPHANT:—The first article in the *Witness of Truth* which we read, is, very generally, that headed "Special News." Under this caption we expect to find an account of one or more individuals returning to the Lord; and when we have reason to believe the profession of such is sincere and intelligent, we greatly rejoice, and desire all who love the Saviour and his cause to become acquainted with it, so that they also would rejoice with us, and the angels before