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NOTICE.

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Archbishop Temple's "Opinion."

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has apparently given his opinion in the two cases that were referred to him. People have all kinds of mistaken notions as to what is the true state of things in this matter, and an article in the *Vancouver World* a few days ago shews how such a well-informed individual as the Editor of that usually trustworthy daily paper can make mistakes—not one but many.

There is a paragraph in the Preface to the Prayer Book that in speaking of doubts which "may arise in the use and practice" of what is set forth by the Rules of that book, says "the parties that so doubt, or diversly take anything, shall alway resort to the Bishop..... and if the Bishop of the Diocese be in doubt, then he may send for the resolution thereof to the Archbishop."

Acting upon the principle here put forth, the Archbishops stated that they were prepared to hear the arguments in favour of disputed

ceremonies, and two such cases have been heard before the Archbishop of Canterbury. They concern the *ceremonial* use of incense and the *ceremonial* use of candles. The question of the legality of lighted candles has already been settled finally in the case of the Bishop of Lincoln, in which case it was decided that lights on or about the altar during divine service are lawful.

The question dealt with now had reference to lights carried in procession or lighted and extinguished in the course of any Service, as is customary in some churches; and, in the matter of incense also, its use was not called in question, but its *ceremonial* use—the censuring of things and persons during the course of Divine Service.

The arguments for and against these ceremonies were laid before the Archbishop of Canterbury, but he himself distinctly said it was no "Court," but only a "hearing."

His decision then according to his own statement cannot be taken as final. We must wait till we have a true ecclesiastical court before we can have a binding decision.

But his opinion will of course carry great weight, and we may be sure that the two Vicars who had brought their matters thus before the Archbishop will submit to his opinion promptly and entirely, and thus demonstrate how untrue is the charge of "lawlessness."

But no one else *need* make any change in the ceremonies in use in