

æsthetic modes of worship, or their excessive zeal for ceremonial, have far exceeded this rule of simplicity, and by their introduction of excessive decorations, floral and symbolic, continual bowings and genuflections, candles lighted in broad day, peculiar shaped vestments and many-coloured stoles, and otherwise what has been called 'the mimicry of the outside of Rome,' have given serious offence to the sober common sense of their people and aroused suspicions in them that something dangerous lurks behind. Indeed, while these practices find favour with a few of extreme ecclesiastical tastes, it cannot be concealed that they have been the means of alienating the affections of great numbers of the plain, simple people from the Church, and driving them into schism, to join themselves to dissenting communions. 'Why,' it has been asked, 'should any Clergyman wish to make his church such that a common man placed suddenly within would not be able to say whether he was in a Church of England or a Romish place of worship'?

18.—AVOID INNOVATIONS.

"Our Church has provided in her Rubrics a Ritual which gives ample scope for a solemn, beautiful, chaste and hearty service; the vestments sanctioned by long presumptive usage, the decent white surplice with sleeves, the black stole and hood belonging to the degree, furnish a priestly garment sufficiently expressive of the holiness of the office and of a simple dignity and comeliness to satisfy the purest taste; the music that has been created by the Church of England through three hundred years, and is the exponent of the genius of her service, offers a repertoire extensive and varied enough to supply the demands of the most cultivated and critical taste, and possesses compositions of sacred and solemn beauty that have justly made themselves dear to the hearts as well as the ears of Church-going people; and all these may be legitimately made the most of to render the service a real help to the soul's spiritual emotions. Everything beyond these must be regarded in the light of an innovation; and innovations in Ritual and worship it is my duty to set my face against, and as far as my authority extends, to check and resist."