

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 14TH ANNUAL MEETING

The following is a synopsis of the proceedings of the meetings held upon October 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th, 1897 :

Tuesday, October 5th.

10.30 a.m.—Administration of the Holy Communion, with an inspiring address by the Right Rev. Dr. Sullivan.

He dealt with the primary aim and object of the Christian ministry. He mentioned (1) the loftiness of its origin, as a divine gift, the result of the Pentecostal outpouring of the Spirit ; (2) its duration, to be exercised in some of its aspects only till Christ's coming ; hereafter perhaps there will be a ministry of edification, and (3) its sacredness. Then he stated what the ministry was not. First, its primary object was not the promotion of intellectual culture, although the ripest scholarship should be consecrated to religion. Second, it was not a sacrificial priesthood. This would demand a propitiating priest, an expiatory victim and an altar. To this theory Christ and the Apostles give no sanction whatever ; the Prayer Book, from cover to cover, uses not a sentence in its favor, and the Reformation of the sixteenth century is a standing protest against it. Everywhere in the New Testament the Apostles seem to distinguish themselves from and break off the connection with the priestly system of the Old Testament ; they rather connect themselves with the prophets. It is by word, and not by sacrifice, that they deliver God's message. The New Testament is absolutely silent about the perpetuation of the sacrificial system of the Old Testament. That system is regarded as belonging to the past. The term "sacrificial priest" is never in the New Testament applied to the Christian minister. In the Prayer Book, priest