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### THE MINISTRY OR THE PRIESTHOOD—WHICH ?

[*Inaugural Lecture, Presbyterian College, Halifax, Nov. 3, 1897,*  
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*Exegesis, &c.*]

IT is with no desire of exhibiting a controversial spirit that I have chosen this subject for an introductory lecture. But in view of the great movement that is now stirring the Church of England, as shown by the appeal of certain high churchmen to the Pope for a recognition of their orders, and the reply of the Archbishops of England to the Pope's answer, as well as by the deliverances of the bishops of the Anglican communion assembled in conference in Lambeth palace, it may not be out of place for us to examine the sources of the ritualism that is to-day leavening one of the leading churches of Protestantism, and to reassert our own position.

Our Presbyterian Church, as one of the great historical churches which owes its revival to the Reformation, cannot but regard with more or less concern the gradual dissipation from a sister church of the ideals that inspired her witness, when she stood forth as a Protestant communion in the sixteenth century. To such a degree has she enriched our English civilization with her men of saintly character, her missionary heroism, and her chaste and profound scholarship, exerting by her great numbers, vast wealth, and social distinction, an influence wider, perhaps, than any other branch of Protestantism, that out of mere gratitude we must see with regret any retrogression from principles which have been at once her essence and her glory.

But it is impossible not to believe that what seems to us a great infatuation has seized upon a large number of her clergy, who with a