

Monday, there was a row about matters and things in general, and especially concerning the sacramental wine. The Vicar declared that not enough had been provided for the celebration of the Eucharist. The church-warden pointedly responded that as only two persons had communicated the past year, and he had sent a whole bottle to the vestry, he thought there must have been quite enough and to spare. The response of the Vicar is not reported, but he must have been in a most unclerical passion.—*Canadian Paper.*

## NOTE XVII.

## ATTACK UPON THE ARISTOCRACY.

(From *The London Beehive.*)

This monstrous evil—which caps all other social and political evils that afflict our country—has grown up and become hoary in its iniquities; plethoric with the wealth it has unjustly accumulated; and swollen out and overgrown with pride and insolent importance, and no wonder, when we consider that it has fattened and batted, and ground down and oppressed the people of these realms for eight hundred years and upward. It had its origin—as most people know—in that great buccaneering raid, which William of Normandy made upon this country in 1066, aided by soldiers and priests, and a host of dissipated adventurers, which he gathered from all parts of Europe by his offers of plunder; and who were filled with fiery zeal for the conquest of our unhappy country by a bull from the Pope, a consecrated banner, and a ring, said to contain a hair of St. Peter. With this united band of fighting adventurers, priests, and monks, William succeeded in overcoming our Saxon ancestors; and, after having established and consolidated his power by confiscating, pillaging, burning, and destroying in all directions, he finally parcelled out the land of the country among his rapacious followers, the noble-blooded ancestors of our hereditary aristocracy. Not that the line of this noble blood has been preserved unbroken; for very many families of them have risen, and fallen, and sunk into oblivion; so that the most of our present nobility have been very recent creations: yet, from this plundering origin, our hereditary aristocracy sprang. The Conqueror, however, wanted power and means to sustain him in possession of his throne and his spoils; and hence, in parcelling out the estates of the country, he granted them on feudal tenure; that is, he granted them conditionally, that the holders should pay him service, and tribute of various kinds, such as military service, or being compelled to arm themselves and their tenantry in support of the government, when requested by the king; as also to pay certain fines or sums of money, under the names of aids, reliefs, wardships, etc., which were, as Blackstone says, "in the nature of a modern land-tax." The money raised from this source, and from the crown lands, or the estates, the king kept for himself, constituted at that time the only revenue of the kingdom; for the people then paid no taxes, they being serfs or laborers.

This, then, was the origin of our landed aristocracy; men who are bound by their tenures to defend the country, and to meet the expenses of the nation, in return for the vast benefits they enjoyed: that of sharing among them the greater portion of the land of the