

Later one of the oldest clergymen of the Diocese gave offence to a few influential members of his Congregation, in what respect does not appear, and the Bishop at once attempted to deprive him of his living, and only desisted from fear of consequences. The clergyman refused to admit the doctrine that he held his living *ad vitam*.

A third case was that of Mr. Prime. His licence was withdrawn on the complaint that he had circulated a document called the "Rule of Life." It turned out that he had made use of two copies to the extent of recommending some of the prayers it contained to be used in private devotional exercises. It could not for a moment be maintained, by any one having a pretence to reason, that the use of a formulary of prayers, which had been condemned by no ecclesiastical authority, could be a valid ground of suspension, and to do the Bishop's intelligence full justice he did not so nakedly pretend. He bolstered up his decision by the considerations that Mr. Prime's licence was (1) *granted under peculiar circumstances* and (2) *that, only two months ago*; and perhaps by a third consideration, not avowed to Mr. Prime, that St. John the Evangelist's, where he officiated as curate, was "a suspected and isolated Church apart from the rest of the Diocese." It would be unwise, however, to allow oneself to be confused by the Bishop's bad logic. Mr. Prime was suspended either because he recommended the prayers in the "Rule of Life" to two people, or because the Bishop did not like him and *suspected* St. John the Evangelist's. In either case the decision is without precedent, and as contrary to the practice of the Church, as it is to every principle of justice.

Even in the Church of Rome, the arbitrariness of whose rule is so often insisted on, no one incurs a penalty for a writing which is not condemned. In the Privy Council, after a regular trial for heresy, the party accused is always allowed to recant before final sentence is pronounced. Only a few months ago Mr. Voysey was allowed a week to recant. Mr. Prime offered at once to desist from circulating the "Rule of Life" if the Bishop should desire it, and after that tender of submission he was suspended.

To these three cases a fourth may be added. A most exemplary and over-worked country clergyman, in delicate health, was obliged to resign the two charges he held, asking for work of a less fatiguing kind. His resignation was accepted; but his other employment was refused to him in the Diocese, and the Revd. Mr. Early was compelled