

Mr. Cheney, and many other so-called clergy of their sect, having been deposed from their ministry, are no longer clergymen or ministers of Christ's Church. Mr. Gallagher talks glibly of believing with the Church of Rome and Church of England in "the indelible character of the clergy," or "once a clergyman always a clergyman." But the truth is, that neither Romanists nor Protestants, worthy the name, believe that when a man is deposed by lawful authority in the church he has any longer any power or authority to act as a minister. Bingham (b. xvii.) and all others who have written on the discipline of the historic Church of Christ, prove that such deposed men, as Messrs. Cummins, Gallagher, and Cheney, are degraded to the rank of mere laymen; and that having left the church they have not even the rank of church laymen, but are by their own act strangers and aliens to the commonwealth of Israel. Dr. Cummins, the founder of the new sect, was an assistant bishop, but is now neither bishop, presbyter, nor deacon. He was a steward of the mysteries of God (Titus i. 7), but was found to be an unfaithful steward (1 Cor. iv. 2), and therefore by divine authority has been put out of the stewardship, so that he is no longer steward (Luke xvi). The same divine authority which put him into the ministry, has seen fit to deprive him of the ministry, so that he is now not even in the same position as he was before being ordained to the office of deacon. He

has neither part nor lot, even as a layman, in the kingdom or Church of Christ. And yet this deposed steward is going about among his Lord's debtors pretending that he has still authority to act officially in the church, and claims to be received into their houses as though he were yet one of our Lord's true and faithful stewards? Is he sincere in thinking himself to be yet a bishop? Then he is given up to a strong delusion to believe a lie, and so are all who believe and follow him. Let nobody suppose that I am singular in holding these views concerning the deposition or degradation of ministers, for these views are held substantially by Presbyterians, Baptists, Congregationalists, and Methodists. If the doctrine here set forth be not the truth, then ordination is a farce, and the most solemn deposition is a farce equally contemptible, and is without effect.

The Cumminsite preachers profess to have a great horror of sacerdotalism or priesthood, and have, therefore, I understand, taken the words *priest* and *sacrifice* out of their prayer-book. They may well, indeed, leave out the word *priest*, inasmuch as they are not even *lay priests*, as all members of the church are (1 Pet. ii. 5, 9); but Messrs. Cummins & Co., to be consistent, should cease to do officially those priestly acts which, in a previous lecture, we shewed were performed by the ministers of those various religious bodies, that are forever crying out against sacerdotalism. These pretended reformers forcibly

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