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WHAT DO THEY MEAN BY RITUALISM?

The Church Association of Toronto and sectarians generally, while directing their shafts against the Anglican branch of the Catholic church under the name of "Ritualism," seem to have forgotten that in doing so, they unintentionally wound very many of their brethren of the school of Calvin. Democratic and sectarian, as we must consider many of their opinions, we do not find them relinquishing their claims to a full share of ecclesiastical authority, and, perhaps, what is more to the purpose, when occasion served, they did not fail to act on the power, which they supposed they possessed.

In the confession of faith drawn up by the Westminster Divines during the period of the great Rebellion, and which is still the standard doctrine of the Scottish Kirk, we have the power of the Church thus laid down, in terms which are by no means ambiguous: "The Lord Jesus Christ, as king and head of his Church, hath therein appointed a government in the hand of Church officers, distinct from the Civil Magistrate. To these officers the keys of the kingdom of heaven are committed, by virtue whereof they have power

respectively to retain and remit sins, to shut that kingdom against the impenitent, both by the word and censures, and to open it unto penitent sinners, by the ministry of the gospel, and by absolution from censures as occasion shall require." *Confession*, Chap. xxx.

Again, as it repeats the power of Synods, we have these positions assumed by this Calvinistic Assembly: "It belongeth to Synods and Councils ministerially to determine controversies of faith, and cases of conscience; to set down rules and directions for the better ordering of the public worship of God, and government of his Church; to receive complaints in cases of maladministration, and authoritatively to determine the same; which decrees and determinations, if consonant to the word of God, are to be received with reverence and submission, not only for their agreement with the word, but also for the power whereby they are made, as being an ordinance of God, appointed thereto in his word, (*Confession*, Chap. xxxi. 3.)

Were a clergyman of the Church of England in the present day to advance the sentiments entertained in these arti-