

## PERSONAL INFLUENCE.

PERSONAL INFLUENCE has more power than anything on the propagation of principles. The man you admire most you will be inclined to follow most. The more the spiritual character of the ministry is respected, the more the life of the minister is honoured, the more influence will his views be sure to possess. We need scarcely say that the cultivation of the inner life by all helps which God has provided in His Church is the first requisite. Let the ministry be holy, harmless, undefiled by ambition, self-seeking, sloth, contentiousness, little-mindedness, partisanship, and let the spirit of prayerfulness, and the love of meditation and study characterise the minister, and he is sure to win that best sort of admiration, which passes by the personality and fixes itself on the motive which urges him and the truth which he believes. Beyond anything else this must be felt to be the power of the Church, a consecrated ministry, a life of self-sacrifice, a love of all mankind, a readiness to give up anything, so that the bodies and souls of men be helped and comforted and raised God-wards.

## BAPTISMS IN THE CHURCH.

FOR most obvious reasons, it is required by the law of the Church, that except for great cause and necessity, the people shall not procure their children to be baptized *at home*, in their *houses*, but in the Church in the presence of the congregation. I do most thankfully acknowledge that this rule of the

Church is now much more generally observed than it was in former times. Still there are yet a few cases in which the minister is subjected to painful embarrassments, from earnest solicitation to do what he cannot refuse without seeming to disoblige kind friends, perhaps communicants, and which he cannot assent to, without consenting to *do* what involves a violation of his duty to the order and discipline of the Church. Baptisms in private houses, at festive family gatherings, or under any circumstances, except from necessity are liable to abuse, and are grossly at variance with the whole principle and spirit of ministration. Sure I am that the general feeling of reverence prevailing in the Church, together with a respect for order and just conceptions of the nature of the Sacrament of Baptism, will in due time bring all to one common conclusion—that the proper place in which to receive a young immortal into the Church and family of God, is the *house of God*.—*Bishop Potter.*

PRAYER is so mighty an instrument that no one ever thoroughly mastered all its keys. They sweep along the infinite scale of man's wants and of God's goodness.—*Hugh Miller.*

THERE is no more of personal merit in a great intellect than in a great estate. It is the use which is made of the one and of the other which should found the claim to respect; and the man who has it at heart to make the best use he can of either, will not be much occupied with them as a means of commanding respect.