

cause they are not necessary, this abstinence is not evil, and to restrain the use of meats when time and necessity shall require, this doth properly pertain to Christian men."

But the author and re-publisher of the Tract under consideration, have made a solemn declaration, subscribed with their Christian and surname, that "the Book of Common Prayer containeth in it nothing contrary to the word of God," and that they themselves "will use the form in the said Book prescribed"—and yet they declare, that the observance of such days and seasons of fasting or abstinence, as are prescribed in that same Book of Common Prayer, does not accord with Scripture, "but is rather in direct opposition to it." The like observation applies with equal force with reference to their "subscription" to the 35th Article. I leave it to them to reconcile such a declaration to their own conscience—as they can; but it appears to my simple judgment, that they who impugn that discipline of the Church, which they have solemnly promised to maintain, subject themselves to the penalty imposed on such persons, by the 38th Canon of the Church:—"If any Minister, after having subscribed the three Articles of the 36th Canon, shall omit to use any of the *orders* and ceremonies prescribed in the Communion Book, he shall be suspended," &c., &c. "I do not see (says Archdeacon Sharp) how any man can, with a good conscience, continue acting as a Minister of our Church, who can allow himself either to depart from her doctrine, as expressed in her Articles, or from her rites and ceremonies, as prescribed in the Service Book."