

Catholic, Yet Protestant.

The Coronation Proclamation.

At the services held throughout England simultaneously with the coronation at Westminster the following proclamation is appointed to be read to the people:

"First I proclaim unto you EDWARD, the Son of Her Majesty the late most gracious Queen Victoria as our undoubted King.

"This day the King and Queen are Anointed and Crowned in manner following:

"First His Majesty takes the Oath pertaining to his high Office, to govern the people of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Dominions thereto belonging, according to the Statutes in Parliament agreed on and to the respective Laws and Customs of the same; to cause Laws and Justice, in Mercy, to be executed in all his Judgments; to the utmost of his power to maintain the Laws of God, the true profession of the Gospel, and the Protestant Reformed Religion established by Law; and to preserve inviolably the Settlement of the Church of England, and the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government thereof as by Law established in England.

"Then His Majesty is solemnly Anointed, as Kings, Priests, and Prophets of old were made and consecrated to teach and govern the people of Israel.

"He then is girded with the Sword of Justice; invested with the Imperial Robes; presented with the Orb, the Ring, the Sceptre of the Cross, the Sceptre of the Dove, the Ensigns of Kingly Power and Justice.

"Then His Majesty is Crowned in the ancient Chair of St. Edward.

"And being Crowned, he is presented with the Holy Bible, the most valuable thing this world affords, wherein is Wisdom, wherein is the Royal Law, wherein are the lively Oracles of God."

"After the Coronation of the King

the Queen also is Anointed and Crowned.

"And finally the King receives the Homage of the Peers and Bishops, who have been summoned for that purpose."

It is usual to point out, in connection with this subject, that the term "Protestant" is not to be met with in any formulary of the Church of England, and in particular, that it does not occur anywhere in the pages of the Prayer Book. Some persons may very likely be astonished at this statement; but it is strictly true, and anyone who cares to do so may verify it for himself. The word "Catholic" occurs over and over again in the Prayer Book, but the word "Protestant" not even once. And yet there is a certain reservation which it is only right to make at the present time. There are certain editions of the Prayer Book, just lately published, called "Coronation Prayer Books," in which the service appointed for the Coronation of our King and Queen is bound up with the services of the Book of Common Prayer. Now, in the Coronation Service there occurs—as you will all be aware—the King's Coronation Oath. It occurs in Section VII. And in that Oath the King solemnly pledges himself to maintain "the true profession of the Gospel, and the Protestant Reformed Religion established by Law." It is only natural then, for people to ask—in view of the facts that have already been stated—how it came to pass that this expression, "Protestant Religion," found its way into the Coronation Service, and in what sense it is there used. And the explanation is really a very simple one. The present form of Coronation oath is not that which was administered to Edward VI., nor to Queen Elizabeth, nor to any of the Stuarts—nor to James I., nor Charles I., nor to Charles II., nor James II. Up to the Coronation of William and Mary, the King had promised simply to uphold "the true profession of the Gospel established in this Kingdom," without any reference at all to the Reformed or Protestant char-