

**16.—THE RULE IN "RITUAL" IS "THAT WHICH IS
GOOD FOR THE USE OF EDIFYING."**

"I could have wished, had space permitted, to address you fully on the subject of Ritualism. For the present but a few words will suffice. Our Church is distinguished above other Reformed Churches in possessing a Ritual which is essentially grand, decorous and beautiful, and has throughout her history not thought it unworthy to call into her aid the hand-made arts of music, architecture and decoration, to render her services of prayer and praise, at once promotive of devotional feeling in the worshipper and becoming the glory and majesty of Him worshipped. For my part, I should grieve to see our beautiful Liturgy robbed of all that makes it impressive as the service of the sanctuary, and reduced to the barren coldness of a cheerless, Puritan worship. A comely, well-appointed house of prayer, with all the furniture and vessels for the use of God's service, designed with taste and kept in scrupulous cleanliness and order, good music of a church character, and a hearty, responsive service, I believe to be not only calculated to attract worshippers, but profitable to interest their hearts in the worship. In all these matters the rule should be, 'that which is good for the use of edifying.'"

**17.—THE DIGNITY AND BEAUTY OF SIMPLICITY AS
OPPOSED TO THE TAWDRY TINSEL AND
MIMICRY OF ROME, WHICH DRIVES SO
MANY OUT OF OUR CHURCH.**

"The one only plea for the improving of Ritual must be the promoting of reality, earnestness and spirituality, in worship. And of our Reformed Church, as contrasted with idolatrous Rome, the character of her Ritual should be the dignity, genuineness and beauty of simplicity, as opposed to the frivolous, tawdry tinsel of outward pomp and pageant. Simplicity should be the glory of all our services, simplicity that is the natural expression of sincerity—not that bald and dull simplicity which is begotten of indifference and slovenliness. But unhappily some, in their fondness for the externals of religion, or their leanings to symbolism and