

strict definition of Ritualism ; it might have distinguished between the Ritualism, which, as we have pointed out in a previous number of this Magazine, merely seeks to invest the Ceremonial of the Church with due order and reverence, and the Ritualism which adds other and confessedly unused ceremonies, as being likely to conduce to the glory of God and the Salvation of souls. It is very difficult for us to sympathise with the views put forward by many, who are yet undoubtedly the sincerest servants of God. It would take some time to reconcile us to the use of incense, to the vestments and to many other details of Church Ceremonial ; while many of the doctrines advanced, perhaps, partly, in the heat of controversy, are, at the very best, dangerous and productive of error, if not absolutely erroneous. These doctrines which have only been as yet hinted at by some of the very extremest of the extreme High Church party, are being rapidly spread, and brought into very dangerous importance by the efforts of the Protestant faction, who in their blind ignorance distinguish nothing. No one deplores the prevalence of such extreme doctrines more than High Churchmen, in fact, the very men who are popularly accused of holding them. But it is not possible to restrain these extreme doctrines on account of these party feuds, and this blind bitterness of faction. The Protestant faction are the best friends of the Romanists, the best friends of the atheist, and the worst enemies of our Church : that they are the former let the Roman Catholic organs, which have lately become their champions, that they may better aim a blow at the Catholic party, bear unimpeachable evidence ; that they are the friends of atheism let the *Pall Mall Gazette*, ever watchful to attack religion, bear its testimony ; and if the *Weekly Register* and the *Pall Mall Gazette* both uphold the power of the Puritan party, both attack with common consent, the Catholic, it is fair to presume that the former are really the enemies of our Holy Church. And so matters go on ; hard working, earnest Parish Priests, whose sole desire is to promote the glory of God and to provide more abundant ministrations to their flocks, who are willing to devote their strength and energies to make their services more worthy of the Almighty, and to induce their congregations to be more reverent, more hearty worshippers, are attacked upon absurd pretences, and their work for Christ is impaired. While, on the other hand, those who are indolent, who are lacking in knowledge of theology, and are at best useless Ministers, have only to throw over themselves the cloak of Protestantism, and they become in the eyes of many, most excellent pastors. They do not hear the Confession of the penitent, they do not rebuke sinners, they do not bind up the brokenhearted, or minister the Gospel to the poor ; but they are not Ritualists, and are therefore on that ground too often acceptable to a prejudiced and lukewarm flock. The English Church has just lost one of her noblest sons, a man who devoted himself to years of labour among the poorest and worst of the London poor. Such men are her boast, her strength and her safeguard ; they are those for whose sake the great city is spared. Yet, in the eyes of this generation this man was stamped a Ritualist, and we know not how much this reproach, perhaps the hardest trial that many a London clergy-