

Church Association of the Diocese of Toronto.

OCCASIONAL PAPER, NO. II.

WHAT IS RITUALISM?

The Address already issued by the Church Association has warmed into active sympathy the feelings of true Protestant Churchmen throughout the province; while the responses it has called forth place beyond question this fact, that Ritualism does exist in our Church; and that it has its passionate, intemperate defenders, as well as its milder apologists,—or, at all events, those who look no further than its externals: and see in it only the gratification of a taste for ornate ceremonial and display in public worship.

In following up that Appeal by additional statements, it will be apparent that its first Address was not only just but well-timed; while the fundamental differences between us and our opponents will be brought out more clearly. For *What is Ritualism?* It consists of outward and visible signs and forms, more or less symbolical of doctrines which not only form no part of, but are absolutely hostile to the teaching of the pure and reformed Church of England. "It is now a question," says the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, "whether usages designed to symbolize serious modifications, if not reversals, of Reformed teaching and doctrine, can any longer be tolerated, be the earnestness and devotion of those who uphold them what they may."

The cardinal error of the Church of Rome, against which the Fathers of the Church of England witnessed an unflinching confession, was the doctrine of the real presence of our Lord in the Sacramental elements of bread and wine, and the consequent adoration of them. Hence its confessional as the indispensable preliminary to communion. Hence also, Rome's other requirement of receiving it fasting, in direct contravention of our Lord's institution of the Sacrament "after supper."

Among the comments which the first Address has elicited, the Pastoral by the Lord Bishop calls for our most respectful consideration; and all the more so that his Lordship has considered it of sufficient importance to merit such unusual attention. While it is impossible to leave it unnoticed, we desire that every reference to it shall be in a spirit of becoming respect