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CHRISTIANITY AND THE LAW.

A learned Law Lord recently declared that the time honoured phrase, adopted by many learned judges of great eminence, that "Christianity is a part of 'the law of the land'" is mere rhetoric.

We trust we may without presumption be permitted to point out that the unrepealed statutes of the Imperial Parliament have hitherto been usually considered, and by most lawyers are still considered to be "part of the law of the land." Among these statutes is to be found a certain Act of Parliament, 14 Car. 2, c. 4, known as the Act of Uniformity, which among other things gives a Parliamentary sanction and approval to a certain book called the Book of Common Prayer, which book among other things is a manual of the Christian religion and contains a large portion of the Gospels and Epistles, and the Catholic creeds of the Christian Church founded thereon, and also a rule of life according to Christian principles. No doubt since that law was passed the Imperial Parliament has by various subsequent statutes done away with some of the penal provisions of the Act of Uniformity, but it has never in any way repealed the formal sanction which that Act gave to the Christian religion. Moreover, the Imperial Parliament by the Lord's Day Act gave a legislative sanction to the observance of that day which the Christian Church has appointed for public worship. It has passed laws against, and imposed penalties for, the violation of the third, seventh, eighth and ninth commandments as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. To say that "Christianity is not part of the law of England" seems to be "mere rhetoric" not founded on fact.

We agree with the Lord Chancellor that the majority of the learned Law Lords in the case referred to were not expounding the law as it existed, but practically legislating, and we may say