

it has now a seriousness of its own and a philosophy of its own which has also grown and is growing. The old order of things might have remained indefinitely had it been left undisturbed; but the controversy has undermined its traditions. Questions have been provoked which now must have a real answer. The clergy magnify their office, but the more they make of themselves the less is their intellectual influence. The great body of the English people, which is Protestant to the heart, will never allow their pretensions; and while they are discussing among themselves the nature of their supernatural commission, they are driving science and criticism to ask if there is anything in the world supernatural at all. The storm will die away, agitation is wearisome, and we may subside into a dull acquiescence even with the travestie of ecclesiasticism which is now in possession of the field. But the active mind of the country will less and less concern itself with a system which it despises. A ritualist English Church will be as powerless over the lives of the people as the Roman augurs over the Rome of Cicero and Cæsar; and centuries will pass before religion and common sense will again work together with the practical harmony which existed between them in the days of Whately and Arnold, and Hare and Sedgwick.