

L2397

VIAMONVILLE 1899

Whatcombe
July 11. 1899

My dear and kind General

We are indeed sorry to hear from you of your attack, that it was so slight fills with hope that you may soon recover, and that I and my son of Sturminster may have the pleasure of seeing you at the Lamer festivities on Whit Monday, and your kind heart refreshed with the sight of a large and grateful company. We had a successful Field-Club Meeting yesterday. My Address was exceedingly received, and after a close conflict with the Treasurer on the two Rules affecting the election of Members by ballot, and that of Honorary members residing in the county. The Treasurer opposed these with much acerbity and antiquarian arguments. I convinced the majority of the members that our present mode is a perfect farce, and that election by ballot is adopted by every scientific Society. The Treasurer rambled about for more than half-an-hour without sense or rhetoric, and in spite of a few packed friends he was defeated by a good majority. His opposition to the admission of any one living in the county ^{eligible for} ~~as~~ as an Honorary Member was ~~also~~ equally unsuccessful. At the early period of the Meeting I proposed the election of A. Russell Wallace as an Honorary Member in the place of Professor Allman recently dead. As this would be discussed when the Rules came on for discussion, at the wish of the Treasurer I postponed ~~his~~ election until our next Meeting. I am sending up to the Bishop the Lay Memorial signed by 102 men, and one lady, Mrs Erle Drax, The Bishop is very unpopular with the laity of the County, and not much less so ~~with~~ the clergy.

I remain

Ever yours affectionally

J. C. Maudslayi

22322

To the Rt. Revd. the Lord Bishop of Sarum.

We earnestly commend to your consideration the following memorial from Laymen of your Diocese, members of the National Protestant Catholic Church of England, founded on Evangelical Truth and Apostolic Order—Catholic because she stands in antagonism, not to Catholicism, but to Romanism, not a mere negation, as is wrongly represented, and because she maintains the supreme authority of the Word of God, and the ancient and undefiled doctrine of the Catholic Church against the more recently-introduced corrupt tenets of the Church of Rome.

We give our unqualified adherence to the doctrines and rites of the Church of England, as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.

We disapprove of the inculcation and practice of Auricular Confession, as tending to revive some of the most dangerous abuses of the Mediæval Church, which was "first imposed as an Article of Faith in the year 1215, at the fourth Council of Lateran," quoted from a charge of your late father's, the Bishop of Lincoln. The late Archbishops of Canterbury and York, in a joint reply to an address in the year 1873, said:—"We believe through the system of the Confessional great evil has been wrought to the Church of England, and that our Reformers acted wisely in allowing it no place in our Reformed Church, and we take this opportunity of expressing our entire disapproval of any such innovation, and our firm determination to do all in our power to discourage it."

We are also opposed to the revival of Sacerdotalism, which Bishop Lightfoot, in his treatise on the Christian Ministry, shows to have no place in the Kingdom of Christ nor in the Prayer Book. "The Kingdom of Christ," he says, "has no sacerdotal system. It interposes no sacrificial tribe or class between God and man, by whose intervention alone God is reconciled and man forgiven." Behind Confession is the priest in absolution. In Masses for the Dead he alone is conspicuous. The main question is not as to excess or defect of ritual, but does the Church of England recognise a sacrificing priest? At this crisis, which causes us much anxiety, when many of the clergy of the Church of England seem to be disregarding the teaching of the Prayer Book and introducing services alien to the principles of the Reformation as enunciated there, we desire to strengthen your hands, and to help you in your endeavours "with all faithful diligence to drive away all erroneous and strange doctrine contrary to God's Word," and we offer you our hearty support in carrying out such measures as may tend to accomplish the end, and secure for you all submission to your authority.

McIntosh
Patman
Stalbridge
Wimborn
R. J. Stoph
J. K. Wimbwell Stoph