

such deadly aggressions on their Church might be warded off. They saw her unwieldy bulk lying in a state of syncope before the spoiler; and concluded that the only way to save was to rouse and animate her, by breathing into her some spirit of life. Unless they succeeded in stirring her up to defend herself, they found defence would be impracticable: it was essential to the protection of her goods and chattels that she should become a living soul, too formidable to be despoiled; and, in taking up their line of policy, they seem to have set themselves as coolly to determine respecting the nature and kind of spirit which they should breathe into her, as if they were a conclave of chemists deliberating regarding the sort of gas with which a balloon was to be inflated. They saw two elements of strength in the contemporary Churches, and but two only,—the Puritanic and the Popish element; and making their choice between them, they selected the Popish one as that with which the Church of England should be animated.* On some such principle, it would seem, as that through which the human body is enabled to resist, by means of the portion of the atmospheric air within, the enormous pressure of the atmospheric air without, strength was sought in an internal Popery, from the pressure of the aggressive Popery outside. An extensive and multifarious machinery was set in motion, in consequence of the determination, with the scarce concealed design, of “unprotestantizing the English Church.” Ceremonies less imposing than idle were introduced into her services; altars displaced at

* I am far from asserting here that they had it as much in their power to avail themselves of the Puritanic as of the Popish element; or yet that if they had, any mere considerations of policy would have led them to adopt it. As shown by such publications as “Keble’s Sacred Year,” and “Froud’s Remains,” the current of tendency in the English Church had begun to flow for several years previous in the mediæval channel, and the members of this meeting had already got afloat on the stream.