

THE Church has always claimed and received in the person of its dignitaries what laymen think an unfair proportion of sympathy and affection from society and the ladies, and the envious are often apt to complain of the influence exercised in all countries by the mysterious attributes of the clergy in making life disproportionately smooth and easy for them. The Bishop of Oxford, however, would be allowed by the most envious to have fairly won by personal qualities which are not only distinct from his cloth, but, as some men pretend to think, inconsistent with it, the great popularity of which he is the object. It is not for nothing that he is descended from the philanthropic Wilberforce, for he shows in all he does and says that he loves his fellow men and women in a much more attractive and less impracticable way than is usual among bishops. He is, of course, from the nature of his office, not a brawler, but he goes beyond this, and is an adept in the graceful social arts which are even more efficacious than sermons in making life pleasant ; so that if the English Church was disestablished to-morrow he assuredly would be provided for by a grateful country as the most amusing diner-out of his time.

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