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CORRESPONDANCES.

The effect of the Archbishops' Judgement on the Ritual Question in England.

Sir, you have permitted me, in former numbers of the *Revue Internationale de Théologie*, to explain to your readers that the anarchy under which the English Church has for some time been labouring, is not due to any natural disrespect on the part of English Churchmen for order and law, but to the fact that since the year 1829 a struggle has been going on between Church and State. The Parliamentary action of that year amounted to an actual revolution in the relations of the two bodies, it made further adjustments necessary, if the Church is to retain her place as the Established religion of the country.

Those adjustments have not, as yet, been effected. As “the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light”, the need of political reforms is more easily discerned by the general public than that of ecclesiastical reforms, and the former are more readily carried into effect. The need of the revision of the tribunals which ultimately decide ecclesiastical questions has this year been for the first time acknowledged by the leader of the House of Commons, speaking as a member of the Government. But we are still far from the production of an actual measure of reform; and until it is clear that such a measure will be produced, the *malaise* under which we labour will continue. I am glad to have had the support of so experienced a prelate as the Bishop of Salisbury in the statements which you have more than once permitted me to make on these subjects.

I venture now to predict that the “Ritualistic” clergy, as a body, will submit to the Archbishops’ ruling; and that with

the small minority who will disobey that ruling it will be found very easy to deal. They have been insisting for years that they will acknowledge none but a spiritual tribunal, and they cannot, for very shame, refuse to submit to the spiritual tribunal set up by the Prayer Book itself, which they have sworn to obey. We may therefore hope to see a speedy end to our ritual controversies, and when the heat engendered by them is allayed, we may proceed at our leisure to revise our ecclesiastical system, so as to allow the Church a proper voice in the decision of the questions which arise within her pale.

I remain, dear Sir,
faithfully yours,

J. J. LIAS.
