

**THE RITUALIST'S PROGRESS; OR,
A SKETCH OF THE
REFORMS AND MINISTRATIONS
OF THE REV. SEPTIMIUS ALBAN**

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The Ritualist's Progress; Or, a Sketch of the Reforms and Ministrations of the Rev. Septimius Alban by A. B. Wildered

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A. B. WILDERED

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OF THE

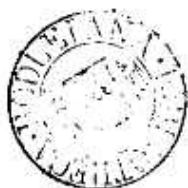
REV. SEPTIMIUS ALBAN,

MEMBER OF THE E. C. O., VICAR OF S. ALICIA, SLOPERTON.

BY

A. B. WILDERED,

PARISHIONER.



"Ridentem dicere verum
Quid vetat?" HORACE

London:

SAMUEL TINSLEY,
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THE RITUALIST'S PROGRESS.



PART I.

OUR NEW VICAR.

OUR new-appointed Vicar
Is a most *devoted* man,
And means to work the parish
On a new and better plan :
He "fears we've been neglected,"
And says, with aspect sage,
That, as regards Church-matters,
We're "quite behind the age!"

The ladies think him handsome—
At all events he's not
Worse-looking than the sort of swain
That hereabouts we've got :
Although his style's peculiar,
One cannot but confess
He's quite *ecclesiastical*
In looks, and speech, and dress.

The Ritualist's Progress.

He shaves off all his whiskers,
 And wears, oh! *such* a hat!
 * Dissenting " folks might ape him
 In everything but *that* :
 His face is long and solemn,
 His hair cropped close all round,
 But lengthy are his coat-tails,
 They almost touch the ground!

The stiffest kind of collar
 That ever was brought out
 Implies inflexibility
 Of principle, no doubt :
 You detect his " churchy " leanings
 In every little thing,
 In the cross upon his watch-chain,
 His Prayer Book, and his ring !

I wonder of what College,
 When a youth, he used to be,
 And whether he took " honours "
 Or only " pass " degree :
 I'm certain, though, of one thing,—
 They say, (no doubt it's true)
 He's a member of a body
 They call the E.C.U.*

* English Church Union.

A great and learned body
Its members are, no doubt,
(Though what's their *specialite*,
I haven't yet found out):
And these letters show the bearer
A learned man to be,
Like the commoner distinctions,
"M.A." or "L.L.D."

Though, by the way, of learning,
(Like alcoholic stuff),
The Vicar thinks that folks should
Know when they've got enough;
He says that *too much* learning
(Whatever some may say)
Is "one of the most subtle
Delusions" of the day!

Last Sunday evening's sermon
Was almost all about
The bugbear called "philosophy,"
That "fruitful source of doubt:"—
So that's a sort of learning
(I'll undertake to say)
From which, when up at College,
He kept himself away.