

II.

THE PROSPECTS OF LIBERAL
THEOLOGY.

THE SUBSTANCE OF A REPLY AT A RECEPTION OF THE CLERGY
OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF MASSACHUSETTS
AND RHODE ISLAND, AT BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 23, 1878.

You have asked me to give a brief account of the prospects of Liberal Theology in England. It is not altogether a view of unmixed rejoicing. During the last thirty years there have been many reverses, on which I will not dwell. Still, there have been successes achieved which justify us in hoping that, if not now, at any rate years or generations hence, Liberal Theology may resume its natural ascendancy over the minds of educated men. By Liberal Theology, I mean a theology which, whilst comprehending all the wholesome elements of thought at work in the world, yet holds that the Christian belief is large enough to contain them; which insists not on the ceremonial, the