

MY REVEREND BRETHREN,

When I met and addressed you for the first time three years ago, I could only counsel and confer with you generally on the duties of your sacred office; and chiefly on that department which (however interesting and important in itself) requires, and allows, the least consideration of circumstances — the public Service of the Church. While, from my very short and imperfect acquaintance with yourselves and your Missionary labours, I felt incompetent to offer you any special instructions or admonitions suited to your peculiar state; I trusted that both study and experience had qualified me to propound to you the way of order and uniformity in the public prayers and administration of the Sacraments, as prescribed and practised in our dear mother Church. Moreover the time of my arrival among you was marked by much and anxious enquiry on the subject of Rubrical conformity; and I professed myself of the number of those who believed that a stricter adherence to the rules and Rubric of our Prayer-Book was the safe, and only sure (I did not say speedy) method to prevent distraction and disputation; and to preserve, or bring back, in our solemn assemblies, a Godly order and discipline. I was unwilling to suffer the first opportunity to pass, without making known to you my sentiments and inviting your concurrence in them; not as being new, or newly formed, but, as I conceived, exhibiting and upholding the way of