

has rendered the reign of our beloved Queen conspicuous above those of her predecessors, were due to his sage counsels, and how much of the virtue which has adorned the English court, and made it illustrious throughout the world, is to be ascribed to the admirable example which he set in every relation of life. How faithfully he discharged the duties of a father has been made apparent to us in the conduct and bearing of his son, the heir apparent to the throne, who, during his late visit to this country, gained the most favorable opinions, and conciliated the most loyal affections of all who beheld him, by the modesty and affability of his manners, and by the entire absence of all those vices which so often sully the characters of the young. The best earthly wish which we can cherish in our hearts and present to God in our prayers for Albert Edward Prince of Wales is, that he may tread in the footsteps of his truly excellent father, and may emulate the virtuous example which he has set. It remains for us and for all members of the church to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, who has inflicted this heavy chastening upon the nation, and continually to pray that such wisdom may be imparted to our beloved Queen, and to those placed in authority under her, "that all things may be so ordered and settled by their endeavors, upon the best and surest foundation, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us throughout all generations."

During the past year questions of the deepest importance have engaged the attention of the Ecclesiastical Courts in England. The judgment which has been delivered in the case of the Bishop of Winchester against the Rev. D. J. Heath, demands our careful attention. In that judgment, we find the position laid down, as the principle by which the learned judge was to be guided in forming his opinion concerning the doctrine taught by Mr. Heath, that "the plain grammatical sense of the article must be taken as the judicial construction" of it; and he refers to the judgment of the Privy Council in the case of Gorham against the Bishop of Exeter, as conclusively and finally establishing the same principle. This, my Rev. Brethren, should ever be kept in mind. There has been, of late years, a habit of regarding the Thirty-nine Articles of our Church as giving no certain sound, but as capable of being loosely interpreted to suit the views of every subscriber; a non-natural sense of them has been advocated in many instances, and they have not unfrequently been drawn aside from their literal and grammatical sense, contrary to the express declaration prefixed to the Articles. This practice has ever been reprobated by the true friends and conscientious adherents of the Church. Their hands will now be strengthened by the decision to which I advert; for we have the judgment of the highest court in the realm, which is legally binding, and from which there is no appeal, that whatever is not in accordance with the Articles, literally and grammatically interpreted, cannot be regarded as the doctrine of the Church of England.

The publication of that infidel work, known as "Essays and Reviews," which, emanating from men who had repeatedly given their assent and consent to all things contained in the formularies of our Church, yet assails