

reconcile his very objectionable and insulting language in the Society with these facts.

After the discussion respecting the books had terminated, the Rev. Mr. Coster was again proposed as Secretary, and requested to continue in office. I moved an amendment to the resolution, viz.: That there be two Secretaries, Clerical and Lay, and I nominated gentlemen accordingly. The proposed amendment excited a long and warm discussion, in which the Lord Bishop took a most decided part, throwing all his influence into the scale with the nomination in favour of the Rev. Mr. Coster; and manifesting a degree of intolerance, equally incompatible with his exalted office as a Bishop, and in direct violation of his duty as a Chairman of the Meeting. The Rev. F. Coster, in the course of the discussion, offered to *resign office*, but the Lord Bishop expressed his unwillingness upon the subject, and advised him not to submit to the opposition of "a packed party," and accordingly the then Secretary consented to remain in office, if elected. Some of the opposers of my amendment argued in favour of the "*good old ways* of the Society," and expressed their disapproval of "*any innovations*." I was really in hopes that the gentleman who spoke thus, intended to anathematize the *innovations* of Tractarianism; but this hope was soon dissipated by his determination to support the motion for one Secretary, and for the Rev. Mr. Coster as that officer. I addressed the Chairman, and asked, "If it was an innovation to conform to the Laws of the Society, which stated, that there might be *one or more Secretaries*?—that, if this Law was objectionable, the framers of it were in fault,—that the proceedings of the evening had proved 'the *good old ways* of the Society' to be very *bad old ways*, inasmuch as books had been placed upon the shelves of the Depository, without the sanction of the Committee, and 'the Secretary had acknowledged the irregularity' (to use no harsher term,) of his conduct,—and furthermore, as those books were very exceptionable in their doctrines.

The discussion upon the amendment continued some time, as it was obvious that the Bishop and his party were a minority: but his Lordship could not conceal his feelings, which were frequently manifested in the most unguarded expressions, equally offensive to the Meeting, and derogatory to his Lordship, as a Bishop, and a Chairman. In the course of his remarks, he said, that it would be an act of injustice to remove Mr. Coster from his office as Secretary,—that he had been a zealous and faithful servant for many years,—that it was poor encouragement for gentlemen to act as Secretaries if they were to be repaid with ingratitude,—and, *for his part, he would advise any gentleman, who might be elected, to give himself*