

Church. It were to be desired that we should see eye to eye in all things; and that there should be no division, even of opinion, but that we should be "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." But as this is not to be expected, and some points, either of ritual or of speculative theology, will probably always remain open to discussion, our best security is that charitable construction of the actions and motives of others which each man unquestionably desires to be practised towards himself. In these respects the Church of England occupies the peculiar position of being more tolerant and comprehensive than any other religious body with which we are acquainted; and while there is a considerable diversity as to the means by which reverence is promoted, the Church inflexibly holds fast to primitive doctrine, primitive order, and practical piety. So that whilst there has been in the last fifty years a peaceful revolution in matters not absolutely fundamental, and in the aspect in which certain theological opinions are presented to the mind, and multitudes see no evil whatever in what they formerly looked upon with distaste, or even with horror, the Church has not departed one iota from the fundamental doctrines of Christianity, and at the same time she has been everywhere stirred up to greater and more earnest efforts in reclaiming the fallen, in searching for the wandering, and in promoting every design which tends to the practice of reverence and love.

It has ever been my earnest desire and prayer to act on such principles; and if in the prosecution of these I have seemed to any of you to exceed the bounds of a sober judgment, I trust that you will understand that I have not acted without much weighing of the subject in all its parts. As Bishop of the Diocese I only claim what seems to me to be an essential part of the Episcopal office: to mediate between conflicting opinions and to give complete toleration and support to all that may fairly be considered as within the limits of the Church in the Province of New Brunswick. A narrower line than this does not commend itself to my judgment; and I am ready to bear patiently whatever amount of censure may be thrown upon me for having adopted it. More than this I need not say; less could hardly be said by one who has the courage of his convictions, and who desires to embrace in the circle of his charity and his prayers schools of thought which differ and methods of action which vary, but which are consistent with the hearty love for the ark which contains us all. Brethren, the grace of God be with your spirit. AMEN.