

manifest more piety and zeal, there never was a period in which they were so soundly informed, and in particular the true principles of our Church were never so well known by her ministers, and never more deeply valued. I believe that this is the case in England. I am sure it is so among ourselves." And in contemplating the state of religion in this Diocese, we have reason to bless God that not only has no defection to Rome taken place among ourselves, but that there is not, as far as I know, the slightest leaning in any quarter towards that corrupt communion, but, on the contrary, a firm determination, by the grace of God, to live and die loyal and devoted members of the Reformed Church of England.

Brethren, upon this occasion, on the language of exhortation I will not venture,—when one of the weakest among you speaks, be that language reserved for him whose office will give it weight. But while I refrain from uttering words of exhortation, I may be permitted to use those of supplication; and therefore I would say, may the great Head of the Church impress upon us all the conviction of our own inherent weakness and insufficiency, and dispose us wholly to rely upon the power and grace of God,—may He cause us ever to remember that we have the treasure of Christ's ministry "in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us," (2 Cor. iv. 7.)—may He imprint upon our hearts still more deeply the great doctrines of Catholic truth, preserved in their purity by the exercise of the Protestant principles of the Church of England,—may He unite the Clergy of this and every other Diocese in affectionate and deferential attachment to their Bishop as the centre of unity therein,—and may He guard them against what is one of the great dangers to the Church at the present day, the temptation to make passing events the occasion of exaggerating those differences of opinion which, in consequence of human infirmity, and different degrees of advancement in religious knowledge, must, in our present imperfect state, exist among the members of the Christian Church. Happy is it for the peace of the Church, that while she requires a strict adhe-