

## A CHARGE,

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WE are permitted, my Reverend Brethren, in the providence of God, again to meet as one body, after the lapse of three years, in conformity with the practice of the Church, to take counsel concerning the important interests committed to our care. Such meetings of the Clergy are eminently calculated to be profitable to all engaged in them. On these occasions we are enabled to advise, exhort, encourage, and cheer each other, and thus to strengthen our hands for the work to which we are called.

When we reflect on the importance of the subjects which are to be brought before us—that it is not the transitory and perishing things of time alone which are to engage our attention, but the vast concerns of an endless eternity, our feelings should be deeply solemnized; and our thoughts elevated above everything low and earthly, and we should lift up our hearts, with our hands, to the Giver of all Grace, that he may be present with us in our deliberations, and may direct all our consultations to the advancement of His glory and the good of His Church through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In addressing you, my Reverend Brethren, I shall first notice some events of a public character which have recently occurred, and in which we, in common with all our fellow-subjects, feel a lively interest. I shall then consider the changes which have taken place in this portion of the Lord's vineyard, in which, by the providence of God, our lot has been cast. I shall also briefly touch upon some subjects of a practical nature, which call for attention; and I shall lastly dwell upon some points of doctrine, which appear to me to be peculiarly important at the present time.

Within the past year our nation and our beloved Queen have been visited by a most severe affliction in the death of the late Prince Consort. This event cannot be regarded in any other light than as a great national calamity. Now, that it has pleased the Great Disposer of all things to remove his Royal Highness from amongst us, our eyes have been opened to his real value and his inestimable worth. With that modesty which is ever a characteristic of true greatness, he was content to devote his great talents and his varied intellectual attainments to promote the prosperity of the country and the good of mankind, without seeking praise of men. There lives but one, who can tell how much of that wisdom and sound discretion in the management of public affairs, which