

love that which is good, and to hate that which is evil. In leaving you I have had to endure the averted eye and the cold look; and to feel the edge of that bitterness which the dissolution of old friendships alone can supply; and above all, to experience that, which is pregnant with danger and calamity at all times, though the new belief be better than the old, and a pure conviction shield one from carelessness and religious doubt—the pulling down of old landmarks, and unsettling of old principles. That cost and sacrifice have been incurred by the force of circumstances and facts, from before which I have been unable to find any avenue of escape.

It is unnecessary that I should here go in detail into the merits of the charges made by your Church against Dr. Pryor, their late Pastor. Whether those charges were true or false is foreign to the purport of this letter, and remotely if in any wise connected with my act of separation. Let me only say here, that from an early stage of the proceedings which led to his exclusion from the Church, I have had the deepest conviction of his innocence and moral rectitude; and therefore hold that the act of exclusion was wrong, unwarranted by the facts, and subversive of that respect and control in a community, which a Church of our Lord should possess. Loudly, however, as I do protest against an act so unwarrantable as this, I feel how tenderly the covering of that charity "that suffereth long and is kind," should be spread