

person ranks higher among Churchmen for wisdom and piety. His testimony will have the greater weight because he was himself a member of that Society, and withdrew from it, not we may be sure lightly, or without a struggle with himself, and prayers for God's blessing and direction. Another reason for using his remarks is that I may avoid all appearance of reflecting personally upon any individuals or classes among us.

LETTER OF THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY,
ON WITHDRAWING FROM THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

" . . . The following are the considerations which were mainly instrumental in leading my mind to the conclusion at which I have arrived.

"1. THE CONSTITUTION AND CHARACTER OF THE PUBLIC MEETINGS BY WHICH THE BUSINESS OF THE SOCIETY IS CARRIED ON. 2. THE MANNER IN WHICH ITS OPERATIONS FREQUENTLY INTERFERE WITH THE GOOD ORDER OF THE CHURCH, AND OBSTRUCT THE MINISTRY OF THE PAROCHIAL CLERGY. 3. THE TENDENCY OF THE SOCIETY TO OBFUSCATE THE OFFICE OF THE CHURCH IN RELATION TO THE WORD OF GOD.

"I will, as briefly as I can, explain what I mean on each of these points.

"Whoever has been in the habit of attending the meetings of the Bible Society is aware that they are composed of persons belonging to every variety of religious denomination, and holding every shade of opinion which is compatible with the acceptance of the Holy Scriptures as a revelation from God. All these persons meet together, and, from the nature of the occasion which assembles them, with an appearance of recognized equality in a matter touching upon the foundation of religious belief. The Independent, the Baptist, the Quaker, the Socinian assemble on the platform by the side of the member of the Church, on a common understanding that their differences are *pro hac vice* to be laid