

## PREFACE.

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The following paper is printed as it was read before the Synod of the Diocese of Quebec in its Session on the 11th day of June, 1883, with only such verbal changes as have suggested themselves upon a careful revision.

At my request and with the consent of the majority of each order, clerical and lay, voting separately, the motion which I then brought forward was withdrawn without being debated.

My reason for asking this was because I felt that the members of the Synod had not given the question that amount of careful consideration which ought to precede the public discussion of a subject of this character. At the same time I stated that I should bring the matter before the notice of the public and of individual members of the Synod on some future occasion. In order to do so I have had this paper printed, and I trust that it will make people think over seriously our Church's duty to the sick.

As one who looks upon the English Reformation as the emancipation of the intellect and energies of our race, I cannot but feel that in the peculiar combination in our Church of old and new, Catholic and Protestant, Apostolic order and faith with modern breadth of thought, we hold the key of the religious problems of the age. We have, by our very unity in tolerating differences, secured it, that our differences will contribute to the upholding of a basal unity.

The Anglo-Catholic Church, in its various branches throughout the British Empire and the United States, has a distinct and important mission to the Christian world. She is equipped as no other branch of the Church, for the discussion of all the subjects that press in upon her through her sympathetic contact with a most varied religious environment. It is our duty therefore to be ready to consider in a fair spirit, not only such a question as the one I have brought forward, but other kindred ones affecting the well-being of the Church and society.

In fact it is the exercise of this power of independent action, through the consciousness of the living Spirit within her and of her identity with the Church of the past, which will make her, more and more, the dominant factor in the religious life of the whole English speaking world.

F. G. S.