

family is said to have had a divorce, and in some cases two or three divorces; so that mutual respect and family love have been broken up again and again. What kind of children must such disunions produce? A heathen poet who lived in a loose age will tell us—

*Ætas parentum, pejor avis, tulit
Nos nequiores mox daturos
Progeniem vitiosorem.*

I thank God we have not got so low as this. But we should fear lest one step further should lead us to a point from which we cannot go back.

The clergy, then, will do well to refuse to sanction unions prohibited by their own Church laws and to exhort and persuade their parishioners to have marriages celebrated in the most reverent way; and further, which is probably the more difficult task, to persuade them not to contract marriages where there is no bond of religious union, more especially where it is almost certain that the validity of our orders and Holy Sacraments will be denied. Or, they will have to submit to being re-baptized, re-confirmed, and then deprived, as they most richly deserve, of one essential part of the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. If you think highly of holy matrimony you will endeavor to counteract such evils as opportunity may be afforded you.

It only remains for me now to thank you for the many marks of your respect and confidence which have been shown to me on several occasions. A Bishop can only be useful when he acts, not as an autocrat over his clergy, but as their fellow-laborer, in concert with them in the duties of their common calling; and in the exercise of his ministry, the Church of God from the earliest days has committed to his care functions in which priests take a subordinate part. The clergy will readily acknowledge that these spiritual powers have been entrusted to him for the strength and protection of the whole body of the faithful, according to the wise rules which the Church herself imposes.

A Bishop is as much restrained as a priest in matters of the highest moment by the creeds which are the bulwarks of our faith, and by the definite and clear interpretation of Holy Scriptures, which our offices severally contain. As long as we abide by these landmarks there must be a substantial and visible union amongst us, greater than the mere opinions of any single member or officer of the