

May not the assumption of such a power in our Church be but the germ of that absolutism, which, in its full development, would reduce us to the abject condition, where all power is concentrated in one poor mortal, and in which the several parts only perform their functions in absolute subordination to the supreme central will?

When such power is attempted to be exercised in this 19th Century by an English Colonial Bishop, is it not high time to check so dangerous an encroachment upon our liberties?

I feel justified, my Lord, in saying that the more I think of your unjust and unprecedented proceedings against me, the more am I constrained to regret that you should have assumed a spiritual jurisdiction but little short of the most despotic that the Church of Rome arrogated to herself in the most ignorant of the middle ages.

If a Prelate has it in his power, without even the semblance of a Court, a Commission, or a Synod, to assail in private, and officially to defame in public, without an iota of evidence, the personal character of a clergyman of another Diocese—who enjoys the full confidence and approval of his own Bishop—simply because he has dared to give utterance to opinions not agreeable to the Metropolitan, or from feelings of personal dislike, originating, perhaps from prejudice or party feeling, the sooner such power is curtailed and its sphere of action more consonant with the Protestant principles of Our Church defined, the better for the Gospel; the happier for the safety and liberty of the Clergy, and for the character and reputation of our beloved Reformed Church of England.

"Resting in the Lord and waiting patiently for him, who shall bring forth my righteousness as the light, and my judgment as the noonday."

I remain,

Your Lordship's obt. servt.,

I. HELLMUTH.

The Right Revd.

The Lord Bishop of Montreal
and Metropolitan.