

to say. It speaks, not only of things, but persons. It is an admonition not confined to the Ministers and Services of the Sanctuary, it applies the precept to every member of the Congregation at home as well as in church. So I resolved at last to end my difficulty by taking *both* the verses as my new year's Text, while my Subject may be briefly comprehended in a single word, 'EDIFICATION.'

Now, as I have just said, this Edification of Christian people is the business, not only of the priests of God's Church, it is the business of the Christian people themselves, it is a solemn duty they owe to one another. St. Paul says, that in sundry matters about which a variety of opinion was likely to arise among brethren, the grand rule to be followed was "Let all things be done unto *edifying*." Peace and harmony were to be followed and cherished with a view to the mutual *edification* of one another. It is worthy of notice that the Apostle does not condemn the difference of opinion on matters in which no principle was involved. He knew that while men were men, it was not God's design, that every man was to see everything exactly as every other man saw it. There would always be brethren to whom, some things would appear of more consequence than these things did to others; some would place value on matters which to others seemed the merest trifles. Some would have scruples about things (about *touching*, *tasting* and *handling*), that to stronger minds were no stumbling block whatever. These matters for the most part were comparatively trifling matters of individual or personal taste and feeling, and as long as they did not disturb the *peace* of the community, as long as they did not *disedify* the brethren and engender strife, there should be liberty and no pronouncing of censorious judgment. No man, said the Apostle, had a right, no man had any business to judge his brother about these matters of individual observance, such as the keeping of a particular day, the eating of flesh, or being a simple vegetarian. These things you observe refer to conduct in *private life*, to what Christians should or might do at home. There was to be a generous liberty of thought and action in all things that did not affect principle. But still what all should