

Dr. Parker's Last Message.

We feel bound to publish in full the Presidential Address prepared by Dr. Parker for the Brighton meetings of the National Free Church Council, and read on Tuesday by Principal Vaughan Pryce. The thoughts contained in it were very much in Dr. Parker's mind during the last months of his life, and were continually the theme of his conversation. The problems presented by the Higher Criticism troubled him. Although he had found for himself a way of solution, and was not retarded in his own preaching, he deeply felt that the churches had to pass through a time of stress before a readjustment could be reached, and earnestly deprecated any rash and hasty treatment of the subject from the pulpit. The action of the Church of England in connection with the Education Act was also a great weight upon his spirit. For himself he longed for a better understanding between the Church of England and Nonconformity. He did all in his power to promote it. Any expression of friendly feeling from Anglican dignitaries moved him much. Almost the only letters he kept were letters with messages of this kind. But more and more he became convinced that in the present temper of the Church of England nothing was to be expected except continual aggression, and that the one course for Nonconformists was to vindicate their position by all possible means—by ordinary means where they could be used, and by extraordinary means where conscience was invaded. He would say over and over again that the Church of England in its corporate capacity had never made a concession to the rights of Nonconformists that was not forced on them.—The "British Weekly."