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REVEREND BRETHREN AND CHRISTIAN FRIENDS,

THE providence of God having called me to preside, in this Diocese, over the Church to which you belong, I am impelled at this juncture to address you with reference to some circumstances which nearly affect the interests of our Establishment, and the discussion of which occasionally demands the exercise of much charity and moderation, as well as much firmness and prudence from her guardians and her friends.

I pray you, then, to take in good part what proceeds, as I humbly hope, from a proper sense of the duties incumbent upon me in the arduous and responsible post which I occupy ; and being ready to receive in the same spirit whatever can be urged on the other side to invalidate our arguments, I bespeak all indulgence from all quarters while I publicly set forth what I do conceive to be the true state of the question, and while I venture to make some suggestions respecting the manner in which it should be treated. It is the sincere desire of my heart before God, without compromising the interests which I am bound to maintain, to allay the irritation and violence of feeling which every true Christian must grieve to see produced by a question of temporal provision and support.—Our own defenders may occasionally have been betrayed into some heat or impropriety, but I am not aware that we have ever *attacked* any party, and altho' the circumstance of our enjoying superior rights, might perhaps have led us to expect that we should not enjoy them unmolested, *some* of the attacks which we have sustained during the last few years are such as we could not have looked for from fellow Christians.—It has appeared to be the object of some persons unknown, to mislead the public mind as to the character and views of our Church, and, as far as they could produce any effect, to *create* a state of