

only to the judgments which we pronounce, but to the part which we feel called upon to take with reference to the professors of the Roman Catholic Religion.\* I would willingly avoid this topic; but duty forbids my passing it without notice. I conceive that it is our manifest duty, as, if we have any love to the souls of men, it must be our earnest desire, wherever a door seems opened to us by the hand of Providence, to propagate the simple Truth of God, and to declare Jesus Christ to sinners as their Saviour, in a manner in which he cannot be presented to them by a system encumbered with human devices, and, according to the language of our own Articles, plainly repugnant, in many points, to the Word of God. And so far, I think, we shall be all agreed. But with respect to the most eligible and judicious mode in which we can prosecute the object of advancing the cause of Scriptural Truth, a great diversity of opinion may exist among persons equally concerned for the honor of God; and it is at least a question whether more is not likely to be ultimately done towards the attainment of this object, by a prudent and moderate course of proceeding, and very often by the unobserved working of a holy leaven in the mass of society,—the indirect influence of a purer faith, as recommending itself by its fruits, and winning friends by its deportment, than by the provocation of a public challenge, or the disturbance of an impetuous assault upon the host encamped around us under the banner of Rome.† One thing is plain :—that our *first* duty is to our own followers; our care of them, with the limited resources which we have at command, seems likely for a long time to be more than sufficient to fill our hands, and our incursions in other quarters may be reserved till we have means and energies to spare, after supplying our own ill-provided people; at least we must take care that nothing is left undone for their

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\* See note C.

† This applies to a particular portion of the Diocese—namely that portion of Lower Canada which is inhabited by the old French population.