

the *words* which the Rev. Mr. Coster would willingly substitute for them, to exonerate it not only from the Bishop's disapproval, but from the "well-founded objections of the Rev. Dr. I. W. D. Gray."

The Rev. Mr. Coster, in page 4 of his *Defence*, confesses that he thinks "*it would have been better expressed had he,*" the author of this "excellent little book," *not* used the superlative expression "*best.*" By the same parity of argument, any Tractarian may attempt to reconcile the grossest attack upon Protestantism. As for instance, WARD, in his "*IDEAL,*" &c., asserts that the Church of England should sue on her knees for re-admission into Rome. Now, to adopt the language of the *Defence*, "I think it would have been better expressed had WARD introduced the monosyllable *not* between the words '*should*' and '*sue.*'" Charity may put the best construction upon positive expressions, but it has no right to alter, erase, or substitute terms. I must therefore protest against this method of defence to substantiate the *ill-advisedness of my attack.* The "*superlative,*" in the "*Companion,*" places the Defender of it in a superlative difficulty.

In the conclusion of Mr. Coster's defence, he states in the most unqualified manner, that Dr. Gray was the "originator, "contriver, and manager of a most distressing discussion—to "use the words of a friend of his own—or as it might, with "great propriety, have been called, a most disgraceful row." I feel myself called upon to refute this unfounded accusation, and I may state most unequivocally and unreservedly, that I had determined to submit the question at the Anniversary Meeting of the Society, in consequence of having been informed by Dr. Botsford that he had purchased the book "*The Companion to the Prayer Book,*" from the Depository: he met me in the street, mentioned the book, and its objectionable character, and I then and there told him I would originate an inquiry respecting it at a full meeting of the Society. Dr. Gray was not aware of my intention, until I consulted him respecting the doctrines of the Book, which was some time after my conversation with Dr. Botsford; to whom I pledged my determination; and I beg leave to assure the Rector of Carleton, that neither the Rev. Dr. Gray nor any other Reverend should have diverted me from my purpose: therefore, "Dr. Bayard" has not been "ill-advised," and he is willing to assume the entire responsibility.

In reference to Mr. Coster's remark about the "distressing discussion," I can readily imagine that it did *distress* some persons; and the sequel will prove that the "*disgraceful row*" part of the story, proceeded not from the originator and supporters of the inquiry, but from the opposers of it.