

APOLOGY.

IN laying this tract before the public, the author begs all good Christians who may overlook it, to do so in a spirit of *Charity* befitting this joyous season.

The question touched upon is so mixed that it is quite impossible for all to see eye to eye on it: and it is therefore most necessary that both sides should use forbearance.

It will not do for a person to imagine that he is possessed of the whole truth, and to refuse to see any good in the ideas of those opposed to him.

He who finds in these pages nothing with which he can agree, will fall out with some of the greatest minds, ancient and modern; for their author does not pretend to originality, but only attempts to give a plain statement of an old case, and to recall a few facts which some people seem very anxious to forget. He who, while admitting their truth, would question the propriety and necessity of such a public overhauling of these things, is reminded that this is not written for women and children, but for men who are about to exercise their franchise in a matter which involves the dearest liberties of a British subject.

The reader is asked to disabuse his mind of the glamour thrown around it by his bringing up and surroundings; to cut himself clear from any preconceived ideas which may have been preached into him by those well-meaning people to whom he is used to look for guidance and advice; and to look the matter squarely in the face for himself, "the best way to come to truth being to examine things as they are, and not to conclude they are as we fancy of ourselves, or have been taught by others to imagine." *

Charlottetown, Christmas, 1890.

* Locke. "The Human understanding." Bk. 2, Ch. 12.