

These are the heads of argument, which bring me to a clear conclusion, that it is our duty to contend moderately but firmly against all change in our relative situation. I persuade myself that I shall never be thought the advocate of rapaciousness or injustice ;—that I shall never be supposed to recommend a high, disdainful, arrogant, intolerant spirit in the maintenance of our plea ; that I shall never be suspected of wishing to support it by statements either delusive or extravagant :—No,—if it can really be shewn that we are making an unjust claim and grasping at more than is fairly ours, let us subscribe with heart and hand to a renunciation of our pretensions ; let it be seen, I beseech you, that we seek nothing but the Truth ;—that where we may be wrong we are willing to be corrected ;—that where we are right, we wish to make no undue use of our advantage ;—that we are actuated by the firm persuasion of being engaged in the defence of our right and :—the ultimate promotion of religious unity and peace.—And, such being our object, let us, “ *if it be possible, as much as lieth in us, live peaceably with all men,* ”—let us not be angry with others because they view the case differently from ourselves, nor violate the sweet charities of social intercourse in the frank and open declaration of our sentiments upon the question :—Let us utterly disdain all recourse to indirect or unworthy methods of furthering our object. Let no heart-burnings, if possible, exist, to be smothered in ill-sustained disguise, or to blaze abroad in intemperate dispute :—above all,—and it is not a matter of form that I discharge in making the recommendation,—above all let us commit our cause in prayer, to the Providence of God, and beseech Him, that, weak and ill-judging mortals as we all are, we may neither do wrong to our neighbour, nor receive it at his hands :—Let us beseech Him also that if we aspire to superior advantages, we may not be behind in an exemplary Christian deportment ; that we may be made sensible of our increased responsibility to “ *let our light shine before men,* ” and “ *by our well-doing to put to silence* ” the voice of reproach. And you, my Reverend Brethren,—“ *I will not be negligent to put you in remembrance of these things though ye know them,* ”—see that you recommend our cause more by diligence in duty than

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