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EXCOMMUNICATION

OF THE

BISHOP OF NATAL.

The Bishop of Capetown's Letter to the Clergy and Laity.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,

The time has arrived when it becomes my duty, in accordance with the decision of the Bishops of this Province in Synod assembled, to separate Dr. Colenso, by solemn sentence, from the Communion of the Church. In taking this step, I feel that I ought to set before you the reasons which have constrained us to adopt this painful course; and the duties which it imposes upon us all.

The heresies into which Dr. Colenso has fallen are no light or common errors. They touch the very life and being of the Christian Church—overthrow the faith of Christendom. It is not merely the distinctive teaching of the Church of England that he has impugned. He has assailed those fundamental truths of our common Christianity, which are equally cherished by the Churches of the east and the west, and by every sect and denomination of Protestant Christians. It is with Christianity itself, as a Revelation from God, that he is at war.

I have gone so fully into this subject, both in my judg-