

REVEREND & DEAR BRETHREN,

The present conjuncture of ecclesiastical affairs is stamped under different aspects, by a character of no common importance. I do not refer here to those auguries which are to be framed from the signs of the times, as compared, in all reverential caution, with the delineations of prophecy, and which lead us to look for mighty changes developing themselves in the world, linked closely with the fortunes of the Church of God. Upon these, as they make a strong impression upon my own mind, I have been led to touch on different occasions like the present and to urge the consideration of them as incitements to special watchfulness and zeal. Nor shall I permit myself to enlarge upon that other obvious but interesting topic which presents itself in the marvellous—for surely the word is not too strong—the marvellous extension of our own episcopate with all its concomitant increase of means and facilities for fulfilling the high vocation of the Anglican Church, in doing her part towards the evangelization of the world. Nor yet, especially having to address the assembled Synod this very day, shall I expatiate upon the new powers extended to the Church, which if prudently used and kept in strict subordination to the spirit of the Gospel and the object of the ministry in saving souls through Christ, are calculated to afford valuable helps in the work of the Church. But I feel called upon to say a few