

While retaining our own honest convictions, let us not quarrel with others for doing the same. All men's minds will not run in the same groove; probably it was never intended that they should. The accidents of education, training, reading, and early associations will give a set or leaning to the mind, without materially, if at all, affecting its practical reception of the essential doctrines of the faith.

In the management of our deliberations, as in the spirit with which they are conducted, we are undoubtedly learning and improving as we proceed. It could hardly be expected that such unaccustomed powers would be managed to perfection at first; and indeed under a system so utterly new to English Churchmen, it would not have been strange if we had found ourselves not altogether equal to our new responsibilities. Yet under the judicious and impartial presidency which we have enjoyed, the character of our deliberations has been open to very little exception; and their results are gradually consolidating themselves into a most useful and efficient code of Church laws.

Much have we to be thankful for. Undisturbed by the weak fondness for medieval superstitions which has exhibited itself so painfully elsewhere—untainted by a neology which threatens to culminate in practical infidelity—we are solving a problem which has exercised the prayerful thoughts of many, namely, how, under a monarchy, can the Church be worked independently of the State? And I think we are bidding fair to arrive at a satisfactory solution.

Let us go on, then, as we have begun, profiting by every year's additional experience, and casting away no right or privilege because some difficulties may attend its exercise. To manage our new powers aright, is the duty which Providence has assigned to us; and to give back any of those powers, or to transfer them to other hands, asking others to do for us what we ought to do ourselves, is hardly in character with the high and honorable position which the Church in Canada now occupies in the eyes of the Church Catholic.