

brotherly ties, which one faith and practice and hope establish, we feel interested in their movements, we enquire, we meddle and we cross each other's faith. Had you been avowed Papists or Puseyists, with your altars and candles and nunneries, we would not be in contact nor meddle with you, and had we been preaching the Koran and bowing to the false prophet you would leave us in peace and give us no trouble. There would in that case be no small jarrings, no family bickerings, nor any prying watchfulness into each other's movements. It would then be a real conflict or a sullen peace. But whatever the estrangement of the past that kept us looking askance at each other from a distance, a distance only imaginary and caused by clouds in the sky and defect in our vision that disposed us to be suspicious and to indulge in petty contentions, I trust that we have grown out of this childishness and have reached the age of manhood and shall let the world see that those frailties are kept behind and that while as men, we claim the right to judge for ourselves and call no man master, we shall as Christian men, with our divine and only Master living in our midst and going in and out with us, try to obey and honor Him by loving one another and by helping in every good work, and by watching against our past besetting sin of faultfinding and judging one another. I trust we have reached—and thanks be to God it is not too late—that most desirable stage in our history as sister Churches, when it shall never again occur that evil reported, or trouble causing grief to the one, shall be a cause not of sorrow to the other. We have been enjoined by our Synod to appear in this venerable court to convey to you and to the Church you represent the assurance of our high esteem and the deep interest we feel in the great and good work in which you have so successfully engaged. We would be guilty indeed did we shrink from acknowledging, with unfeigned pleasure and gratitude to God, the noble services which your Church has performed. We remember, for our