

These, I repeat, are high grounds for any one to take. In fact, they are a public repetition of your baptismal vows.—Oh! pray for grace to be impressed with a deep feeling of your responsibility. Believe me, you are marked men. The Romanist, the Infidel, and the rebel, have their eyes steadily fixed upon you. And when you turn aside from the right path,—when you cease to live up to your rules,—you give the enemy a fearful vantage. The ungodly, immoral Orangeman, is the bitterest foe to Protestantism, to the Bible, and to God. The Papist and the unbeliever point to your excesses and exclaim, “behold the tendency of their principles.” And thus, in addition to your own damnation, you may have the blood of many a poor soul to answer for at the judgment day. The early Christians were known by their walk and conversation. The world, seeing their blameless lives, “took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus.” Even so let it be in your case. So conduct yourselves that the world may be able to point to each individual of your body and say, “Such a one is holy, loyal, and just. He reverences the name of his God, and honours his Queen. He remembers to keep holy the Sabbath day. He prizes the Church, and diligently avails himself of the means of grace committed to her care. The voice of prayer is daily heard within his dwelling. Surely he is an Orangeman.” The man, of whom these things cannot be said, is untrue to his professions, fights under false colours, and is a traitor to the cause he pretends to support. I can conceive of nothing more revolting than the boisterous lip-loyalty of such an Orangeman, perjured as he is in the sight of God and man.

Of yourselves, you can do nothing aright. However strictly you frame your rules, you cannot keep them by your own unaided strength. Not one of you by nature is sufficient for these things. Oh! be instant then in prayer for strength from on high, to walk worthy of your vocation as Christians. May Christ by his Spirit enable you to live godly, righteous, and sober lives to the glory of his holy name. Forget not