

All that the Crown would be required to decide would be, whether the Church here, in its executive capacity, had rightly administered its own laws.

But now, my brethren, there are other and very serious considerations arising out of the position in which we find ourselves. With increase of power comes increased responsibility. We assemble for objects connected with the highest interests of man. And though a Church Synod may not be surrounded with the outward honors and ceremonials of a secular parliament, nor occupy so high a place in the public estimation, nor be watched with so much interest, nor give rise to so much popular feeling and excitement, yet its utterances, compared to the whirlwind of political agitation, may be as the "still small voice," indicative of a higher presence; its actions may have a deep pervading influence, operating, though indirectly, not less powerfully, upon the moral and religious tone of thought among our whole people.

It behoves us, then—need I say how deeply it behoves us—to conduct our deliberations in a spirit of Christian forbearance and Christian courtesy, to set aside personal and selfish considerations—to act as before God, and only as we may conscientiously believe to be for the good of His Church. To this end all mere party feeling must evidently be kept in abeyance. We meet not to struggle for pre-eminence. We are not constituted, like some other assemblies, of a party in power, and a party out of power. We do not expect to see a minority pertinaciously opposing and harassing the action of the rest, nor a majority recklessly over-riding, and setting at naught, the wishes and feelings of the smaller number. Not unfrequently men forget that the highest test of character is not success in obtaining power, but the way in which they use it when obtained.

Especially must we school ourselves to admit of each other that men may be sincere Christians, good Churchmen, faithful ministers of Christ, and yet on many points hold opinions varying from, perhaps diametrically opposite to, our own.