

The mischief done by them is not through their being divided into separate sects, but through their not behaving themselves when they come together. Let everybody keep house for himself as he pleases, but let all live in peace. I would not take down the Episcopal Church if I could. If any man wants to be a hard-fisted, cast steel kind of a Christian let him be a Presbyterian, if he wants to praise God in the loud, boisterous manner of the Methodists, let him join them. But he must not interfere with other men's consciences. Some may say to me, "You will be damned if you don't believe my creed." Well I say, I'll be damned if I believe all that they accept, for I believe much of it to be untrue. I don't believe in Calvinism. I would be damned if I said I did, for I don't believe in it. God is the best hotel-keeper that ever existed, for he can suit all tastes and appetites. But some fellow gets up at the table and says that everybody must eat the same kind of bread that he eats, and drink from the same cup from which he drinks. Let everyone choose from God's bounties for himself. But let us be one in Christ. "Let your light so shine among men that others seeing your good works may glorify your Father which is in Heaven." When I stand in the Art Galleries of Paris or London and examine the works of the great masters, whether on canvass or in marble, I am delighted in their contemplation, for I love beauty. So let Christians live that when men see them, they may say to them, "What are the ways in which you have been taught, in order that we may walk in them?" That is the true spirit of the religion that has to conquer the world. You must live more beautiful lives, in other words, you must live God-like. When Jesus died for us we were yet his enemies. He takes care of those who love him, just as a mother takes care of her child; she asks nothing for her pains but the privilege of doing her child good. It is because it was given her of God. That is the God whom you are called to serve; this is the religion which you are called to embrace. A life moulded and formed by such a religion meets, I believe, the respect and admiration of every right-minded man in this community. This is my first meeting with you in Charlottetown, and my last one. Many of us will not stand face to face again until the thrones are set, and many of us when next we meet will stand on the immortal shore. By all that is reasonable and pure and right-minded, I adjure you to accept as your school-master the Lord Jesus Christ, denying the flesh and the works thereof.