

A CHARGE,

&c. &c.

MY REVEREND BRETHREN,

WE have all, I trust, come up hither at this time, after prayer to God for guidance and direction. Feeling the important consequences connected with such a meeting, you have prayed that it might prove a season of refreshment and encouragement: and, if this sense of dependence has carried you to the Divine footstool, how much more ought it to send me to the source of all strength, in order to obtain suitable words of counsel, warning, and instruction! Realizing more deeply the responsibilities of my office as years roll on, I cannot wonder that, among the papers of an eminent Prelate,* was found after his decease a Prayer, which he appears to have kept continually before him, and to have used at intervals in the preparation of what proved to be his last Charge to the Diocese of Durham. In the spirit, if not in the words of that prayer, would I endeavour to fulfil the duty assigned to me to-day.

* Bishop Van Mildert. See the Life prefixed to his Works, p. 155.