

cerely wish, for the credit of our holy religion which requires from us spiritual worship, and of our own Church in particular, that they were at least so far removed, as to obviate our liability to the reproaches of the Romish Church, whose errors and superstitions we have abjured, on account of our avowed inferiority to it in the devoutness of our worship! With this view, and to impress upon your minds the absolute necessity of worshipping God in spirit and in truth, in order to his acceptance of our services, I shall avail myself, on the present occasion, of such parts as I conceive applicable of a Sermon on the excellency and usefulness of the Common Prayer, preached in London by the learned and pious Bishop Beveridge, nearly a century and a half ago, and which is contained in the publications of the Venerable Society for promoting Christian Knowledge. The high character and station in the Church of this eminent Prelate, and the sanction of the Venerable Society just mentioned, cannot fail to commend it to your attention, as much more deserving of your notice than any remarks of my own. The text chosen for the occasion is contained in the passage which you have heard, "Let all things be done unto edifying," upon which I shall give you the Bishop's thoughts in his own words. But before I proceed, allow me, my Brethren, to request your serious and patient attention, should you be detained a few minutes longer than usual; and at the same time to bespeak your candour in judging of my motives for the present address, which I trust you will believe to be no other than a just regard for the honor of that God, in whose name I am called to minister, and an affectionate concern for the spiritual welfare and edification of yourselves, as composing the flock which he has committed to my care, and of which he will require an account at my hands. And should any thing that may be advanced appear to bear hard upon the constitution and modes of worship of other Christian communities to which any of my hearers may have been attached by early education or national prejudice, let me intreat them to consider me as intending no disrespect or uncharitable reflections towards those communities, but merely as pointing out what we conceive the superior advantages of our own, and desiring to assist them in deriving the greatest benefit from those services of which they have the opportunity of availing themselves in the absence of others, for which they may perhaps still retain a preference. Or, should I be so fortunate as to succeed in so far convincing them of the excellency of our own communion, without disparaging others, as to induce them devoutly to conform to her appointed mode of worship, and to engage in it with increased energy and zeal, I shall therein rejoice, as having been instrumental in bringing together the scattered sheep of other flocks, hereafter to form one fold, under one Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ. I proceed now to the words of the text—"Let all