

this involves no severance from the United Church of England and Ireland. Our spiritual relations to our Mother Church remain the same. In our adherence to her doctrinal standards, her ritual of worship, her orders of the ministry, we continue as we were, and with the unaltered determination, as expressed in the Declaration of the first Provincial Synod, (1861) "in dependence upon the Divine aid to preserve those doctrines, and that form of Church government, and to transmit them to our posterity."

While thankful to be thus exempted from various difficulties attendant upon the present position of the Church in England, our sentiments of reverence and attachment to the Church herself need in no degree be impaired or diminished; nay, rather, they should be strengthened; for the connection is now unhampered by many vexed questions which have hitherto encumbered it. The maturity of power, and the position to which we have now attained, need not weaken or extinguish the filial affection which is due from us to that Church from which we sprung, which fostered us in our infancy, to whose sympathies we still appeal, and whose hand is still open to aid our Christian enterprises. The mutual bond is of a higher, holier, and more enduring nature than if it rested only upon old acts of parliament, or upon questionable decisions of judicial committees.

Neither is our acknowledgment of the Queen's supremacy affected by the surrender in our favor of her Majesty's ecclesiastical prerogatives. "We still," to quote the same declaration, "maintain the ancient doctrine of our Church, that the Queen is rightfully possessed of the chief government and supremacy over all persons within her dominions, whether ecclesiastical or civil, as set forth in the 37th of the Articles of Religion; and we desire that such supremacy should continue unimpaired." The difference will henceforth lie in this—that in an appeal to the Crown arising out of any important Church difficulty, the question will be settled by reference to our own Church regulations, and no other.