

of Lindisfarne, on the subject of the work entitled *Essays and Reviews*, recently published.

“London, Feb. 4.

“My dear Archdeacon,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the address from yourself, the rural deans, and the clergy of the Archdeaconry of Lindisfarne. Having felt it to be my duty to read with great care the volume of “*Essays and Reviews*” to which the address alludes, I am not surprised that the hearts of honest and faithful churchmen should burn with indignation at finding such a publication should have emanated from men professing to be ministers of our church. I am still less surprised that you are, as clergymen, deeply grieved at finding such doctrines can be heard from any pulpit or professional chair in our land. You say you consider it desirable that the bishops should at once proceed to vindicate the commonly received Catholic sense of the Creeds, Articles, and Formularies. I have not failed to convey your opinion and wish to a large number of my right rev. brethren. The subject has undergone long and serious consideration. The illness of a beloved member of the family of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and a telegraphic summons to him, rendered it essential to postpone further discussion. You will feel with me that any conclusion determined upon in the absence of that most rev. prelate would have lost much of its effect from the want of that weight which his wisdom and firmness would have given to it. I feel that I should be failing in my duty, as your Bishop, if I hesitated to express my most deliberate conviction, formed after the careful reading of the “*Essays*,” that a more heterodox volume could scarcely have been produced. The cautious style of the writers may possibly render it difficult to frame out of this work a case for direct legal investigation; but no candid reader can be blind to the fact that inferentially the Atonement is denied, miracles are explained away, prophecy is cast aside, inspiration, in the only real meaning of the term, is rejected. Under these painful circumstances, permit me to express my hope that your exertions will not be limited to the issuing the address which I have now received. I feel that, as men of all shades of opinion in the church have united in signing the address, because they are convinced of the presence, in the person of these seven essayists, of a common foe to Christian truth, so we should all unite in dedicating ourselves afresh to the service of our Divine Master. We should resolve not to allow mere externals to divide us, but, on the other hand, a common danger to our common christianity should make us cultivate a spirit of Scriptural unity, redouble our exertions to obtain an experimental knowledge of the Word for ourselves, to propagate the Gospel of Christ among our fellows, and maintain in the face of the world the value of the sufficiency and supremacy of the Word of God. It will be, in great measure, by our Christian earnestness and by our Scriptural teaching that we shall guard the unwary from being led into paths of such dangerous speculation, and show our abhorrence of opinions which I, from my heart consider to be not only detrimental to the best interests of morality and derogatory to the Word of God, but which are so manifestly opposed to