

this without judging who is right and who is wrong,) that fundamental differences exist between the Bishop and some of the clergy, and between some of the clergy and others. You can see the difficulty; there are but two ways of getting over it, both of which are opposed to all religion and faith; the first is submitting questions of doctrine to the will of a majority among the opponents; or compelling all to teach as the Bishop believes; which, with the most sincere conviction on the Bishop's side that it is the only means of unity, is, I apprehend, one main object of the movement.

How much better for congregations, being lawfully constituted under Church of England principles, rather to pray and trust to a Gracious God to maintain amongst them its pure faith.

But with this reserve and without knowing until the time comes what course I might myself feel it right to adopt, I think that the whole body should deliberate together under the presidency of the Bishop; every question being decided by a majority of clergy and laity with equal votes, the Bishop having when necessary the casting vote. By this method I think all questions,—those of doctrine being as above excepted, might most satisfactorily be dealt with.

I should deem it just: also that questions affecting the internal affairs of congregations should be communicated to all the congregations beforehand with a view to their being determined at a subsequent session, and only congregations to be bound by such decision as consent to it.

For I see no necessity for the iron band of uniformity being so stringently placed on congregations as to destroy their independence and freedom of action on their own internal affairs. And I hope to see our own congregation waking up to a more lively interest in its own affairs.

At the same time I consider that the Prayer Book must as it now is be adopted in its integrity, subject only to such exceptions as are demanded by our own situation outside the national church and for the reasons I have above stated, any cases of violation of

it should be dealt with simply on the grounds of a breach of trust by the ordinary tribunals.

I would make one remark in reference to a statement I have been told has been made, that I have asserted that Bishops are not necessary in the Church of England. Why my brethren, I am by birth and education an Episcopalian, and by choice, an Episcopal minister. I believe the Episcopal office when exercised according to the principles of our church, to be most reverend and beneficial, and its just authority to be most readily and gladly submitted to by all who are under it. But I ask is the Episcopal office, that is as in the Church of England, necessary in the Presbyterian, or other churches? You know that this has been one of my objections to the doctrine of the apostolical succession; which however its consequences may be deprecated by charitable kind hearted men like Archdeacon Gilson does, as we hear it taught, and I fear, see it practised, involve as its logical sequence the conclusion that such bodies are not proper churches at all.

I thank you very much for your kind forbearance in listening to me this evening. I have no doubt omitted points of interest and perhaps of importance; but I hope you will give me credit for a sincere desire and endeavour, however I may come short in the performance, and however I may differ from some whom I respect and love to form all my conduct and sentiments as near as I can according to the will of God.

I would only, in conclusion, ask you to make these matters the subject of your earnest prayers. I will not disguise from you that I view the future with some anxiety, but not without hope. God is light and will guide us if we look to Him. One of our greatest evils is indifference. If we can but have peace—a blessing indeed most to be desired by a christian people—it seems sometimes to matter little what, on a point more or less, is our faith. The chief danger I should apprehend to the congregations should a synod as proposed be carried into effect, is the settling down into a dead level of uniformity, with peace purchased by no little sacrifice of truth. May God avert the danger.