

April 24. 1844.

Recd. 2. Morning.  
Apr. 24  
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My dear Lord

I have written to Mr. Fawcett  
in reply to a letter asking  
whether I would be present  
at a meeting on the subject  
of Convocation, to say that on  
the 4<sup>th</sup>. 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> of May I  
hope to be in London, and  
would gladly attend any pri-  
vate meeting on one of those  
days.

It is with the greatest satis-  
faction that I find & strong  
a feeling among our laity,  
and I shall be ready in every

way to lend what aid I  
can to extend it.

What Gladstone feels is, I believe,  
that the Clergy are too much  
divided, & too little matured  
in opinion to make any  
definitions, or positive enact-  
ments of Convocation safe  
for the Church. I feel this  
like wise.

But he would also admit  
that to say that the Clergy  
are unfit to legislate in  
the Spiritual matter of  
the Church is to say that  
they are unfit for one of their  
chiefest functions: & that,  
if this is to continue the

Church of England is really  
dissolved, and her government  
extinct.

I conceive it is necessary to  
make all efforts to prepare  
the Clergy for the discharge  
of such duties.

And in the mean while  
to check the legislation of  
Parliament which has  
in it, two evils, first, the  
no less unfitness of the Legi-  
slators, and next which  
is much worse the establish-  
ment of the falsest & most  
fatal principle namely that  
the Church has no Legi-  
slature, and that the State

is competent alone to <sup>initiate</sup> ~~enter~~  
and determine all Ecclesiastical  
questions.

It seems to me therefore that  
the affirming of the Legislative  
power & duty of the Church  
is most important in bar  
of the Erastian practice now  
all but established for ever.

The Ecclesiastical Commission  
was a bold & dangerous in-  
novation in that direction: &  
the sense of the Church has  
imposed a check upon it.

I think the Church may  
also impose a check on the  
disposition to attempt such  
practices hereafter, for the  
theory by which that disposition  
justifies itself.

For this purpose I think the most expedient, & direct course is to propose the Archbishop & Bishops with the fact of the extensive dissatisfaction of the laity of the Church, to long as they have no security against the legislation of Parliament in matters vitally affecting the Church.

If they felt themselves strongly supported by the laity their own course in Parliament would be much easier: & their means of treating with Government much more effectual.

For instance the question of Spiritual Discipline as it regards the Burial of infidels and impenitent persons

on every day I have proofs of  
the increasing disquiet of  
the Clergy on such points.  
The Archbishop strongly supported  
by the laity might require  
written that Bills originating  
with the Clergy in private,  
should be passed, & that licence  
should be granted to Convocation  
to declare its sense upon the  
subject.

I know no better way of propos-  
ing the Archbishop & Bishops  
with these feelings & views than  
by strong private representations.  
Addresses publicly signed often lose  
in weight what they gain in  
numbers: and many laymen  
will say in private things,  
tenfold more than they will

publicly set their hands to.

There are many other reasons in-  
ducing me to the same con-  
clusion of which I will add  
only one more.

The Convocation whenever it  
be convoked, must be convoked  
by the Archbishop, by whose <sup>action</sup> appli-  
cation the licence to deliberate must  
also be obtained from the Crown.

I am therefore unwilling to  
direct addresses, or representations  
to any but the one & only proper  
person, with whom the Bishops  
may be regarded as identified.

I have before me at the mo-  
ment the draft of a memorial  
intended to be presented to  
the Bishop of the Diocese by  
the Clergy of one of our Houses.

on the subject of Spiritual Dis-  
pline.

Last year the Clergy of  
New Brunswick took the  
same course, by the Address  
which I inclose.

I shall be most happy next-  
week to meet you & others  
for the purpose of discussing  
this matter which is not  
only vital but is rapidly  
coming to the very quick.  
Believe me,

Very dear bro,  
Yours faithfully  
A. S. Manning.

The bro Lyttleton

h - a

Archd. Manning. Apr. 24 1844