

# **REASONS FOR WITHDRAWING THE CLERGY REMONSTRANCE**

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Reasons for withdrawing the clergy remonstrance by A. P. Perceval

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**A. P. PERCEVAL**

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CLERGY REMONSTRANCE**



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**R E A S O N S**  
**FOR**  
**WITHDRAWING**  
**THE**  
**CLERGY REMONSTRANCE.**



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**BY THE**  
**HON. & REV. A. P. PERCEVAL.**

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TO THE  
MOST REVEREND, RIGHT REVEREND,  
VERY REVEREND, VENERABLE, AND REVEREND,  
THE METROPOLITANS, BISHOPS,  
DEANS, ARCHDEACONS, AND PROCTORS,  
OF THE PROVINCIAL SYNODS OF CANTERBURY AND YORK,  
THESE PAGES  
ARE RESPECTFULLY AND HUMBLY DEDICATED,  
BY  
THEIR MOST OBEDIENT AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.





THE

## CLERGY REMONSTRANCE.

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THE petitions under this title, to the two Houses of Parliament, were framed with the design of strengthening the hands of the Bishops and Metropolitans of the English Church, in case they had considered that from the importance of the alterations affecting the Church at large, but more especially the clergy, which have been recommended by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and which are now, or are eventually to be brought, under consideration of the civil legislature, it might be proper and necessary to claim the exercise of the undoubted rights and privileges of the Church to have those alterations first submitted to the open consideration of her Synods, and the advice and consent of those Church assemblies obtained concerning them.

But as, from the course pursued by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has himself introduced

into the House of Lords one of the measures recommended by that Report, without any open reference to or consultation with the great council of the Church, it is clear that the Episcopal rulers are content to waive for the present the open assertion of the liberties of the Church of England, those petitions have been withdrawn. To present them now would savour, at least in appearance, of an appeal to the civil legislature against the spiritual pastors, of an appeal to the sheep (as far as those legislative assemblies are composed of churchmen) against the shepherds; and, as concerns the other parties in the Houses of Parliament, of an appeal to schismatics and aliens from the Church against its apostolic rulers; a proceeding not only indecent in itself, but at essential variance with the spirit, if not with the letter, of the ancient canons (1).

To present them now would, also, imply a want of confidence in, and a distrust of our superiors, as though they had failed to take care in their proceedings of the rights and liberties of the Church of which they are the especial guardians. No doubt all proper precautions which the exigency of the times and the importance of the proposed changes so peremptorily demand, have been taken to secure unimpaired those rights and

(1). The figures refer to the Appendix.

liberties which, as a sacred deposit, former prelates have thought cheaply purchased at the greatest hazard and sacrifice. No doubt, though they have not thought fitting to take counsel with their spiritual assessors, the presbyters, as heretofore, they have not failed to take counsel among themselves ; and the records of Lambeth, if need be hereafter to search them, will, doubtless, show that no precedent against the liberties of the Church can be drawn from the present proceedings, for that, though the Bishops and Metropolitans have not held their Episcopal Synods openly, those Synods have been held ; and the requisitions of the canons (2) complied with, that the formal consent of the co-provincial Bishops and Metropolitans be obtained to all the proposed alterations. And therefore, however much we may regret that we are forced merely to take for granted a course which we would gladly have been able to show openly to the honour of the Church, and the confusion of her enemies ; and however much we may lament that there should be in the eyes of others (who from not knowing the requisitions of the canons, have no ground for supposing the real state of the case), an appearance that the Episcopal rulers prefer the mixed assemblies of religionists in the Reformed Parliament to the council of their own presbyters as their assessors in framing ecclesiastical regula-