

After considering maturely the proposal  
of the Duke of Wellington I have this day come to a  
decision that I ought to accept it; that in point  
of duty I am bound to do so. In fact I find that  
if I were to decline it merely from regard to our  
own ease, I should probably never be satisfied  
with myself again; but should always reproach  
myself with having shrunk from an office of  
so much importance as this is. Tomorrow there-  
fore I go to Stratfield Saye to intimate to the  
Duke my acceptance of the Archdeaconry,  
and to return him my thanks for the high  
honor he has done me. From the Bishop of



Winchester I learn that the great distance of the  
Bishop of Calcutta, who is my only superior, will  
prevent his interfering or superintending; so that  
I must have the entire direction. In consequence of  
this he says I shall be obliged to return to England  
before the end of five years to communicate  
with the government here; so that in reality our  
actual absence cannot be above three or four  
years at the utmost. There is nothing my dear  
mother to prevent our hoping to meet at that  
time, under the blessing and protection of God  
in whose service I am going, in health and  
happiness. In the mean time my first care must  
be to provide for your comfort while we are