

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P., to the GOVERNORS
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (No. 38) and VANCOUVER ISLAND (No. 49.)

SIR, Downing Street, October 26, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a proposal from the Bishop of British Columbia for the division of the Diocese of British Columbia into two, and the endowment of a new Bishopric. I have received this proposal from the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has intimated to me his approval of it.

Oct. 6, 1864.

I enclose a copy of the answer which I have returned to his Grace, and I have to request that you will take an early opportunity of acquainting me with your views on the subject.

Oct. 25, 1864.

The Governors of British Columbia
and
Vancouver Island.

(Signed) I have, &c.
EDWARD CARDWELL.

Enclosure 1 in No. 6.

Encl. 1 in No. 6.

7, Upper Berkeley Street, Portman Square,
October 6, 1864.

MY LORD ARCHBISHOP,

It may be in the recollection of your Grace that a resolution was passed at a meeting of the Colonial Bishoprics Council in July last, declaring the importance of dividing the Diocese of Columbia as soon as the funds could be found for the endowment of the new See.

Resolution of
Colonial
Bishopric
Council.
Necessity for
division.

The necessity for this division arises from the vast extent of the present Diocese, equal in area to England and France, and the physical impossibility of giving that attention to all parts of the Diocese which is most important in the early stage of planting and fostering the institutions of Christianity. The political circumstances also of the two colonies of Columbia and Vancouver, which have occasioned the appointment of two Governors, give direction to religious matters, and make it very desirable to go along with the public sentiment by an extension also of the Episcopate. A very strong feeling in favour of a resident Bishop in New Westminster has often been publicly expressed. Any measure tending as this would to strengthen British feeling is especially valuable in that part of the Empire at the present time.

It is proposed the title of the See to be created shall be that of New Westminster, after the chief town of the colony of British Columbia, the southern and north-eastern portions of which will form the new Diocese; while the north-west portion of Columbia, with Queen Charlotte Islands and the Colony of Vancouver will constitute the other Diocese, over which I shall continue to preside with Victoria as my place of residence.

Title of the
new See to be
New West-
minster.

With respect to endowment I am happy to be able to report to your Grace that 5,500*l.* is secured; viz.—

Endowment.

£	
2,500	already invested in land, chiefly in and about New Westminster.
2,000	in hand here, ready to be paid over if the See be constituted.
1,000	voted by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.
5,500	

Besides this the Colonial Bishoprics Council will probably make a grant similar to their last to Grafton of 1,500*l.*, making a total so far of 7,000*l.*, which at colonial interest represents 700*l.* a year.

Under these circumstances, and seeing the minimum endowment (5,000*l.*) required by the Crown is secured, I venture to ask your Grace, if the proposed arrangements have your approval, to take the requisite steps for obtaining the assent of the Government, and I presume your Grace will at the same time recommend to the Crown a fitting person to become the first Bishop of the new See.

Sanction of Government.

I have appended a map, also the boundaries of the proposed division, and am ready to furnish your Grace or the Government with any further explanation or details that may be required.

I have, &c.

G. COLUMBIA.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.