

government of the Church by the State, as at home—its being tied down by State courts and legal fictions—its being, as it were, kept in leading-strings by the law officers of the crown—has eventuated in a degree of confusion which seems as unaccountable as it is detrimental to the interests and dignity of the Church ; it has caused the Church to present, as regards the patents, powers, and jurisdiction of her Colonial Bishops, an almost disorganized and chaotic aspect, under cover of which openings are found for the escape of the most glaring heresies, and of the most palpable disobedience ; it has induced a condition of things into which, it may safely be averred, the Church would scarcely have fallen with her eyes open, and if left to herself.

But to whatever extent these doubts may be supposed to affect us, we have the plain straight-forward remedy in our own hands. The Synod Act of 1857, gives us every necessary power ; for an Act more comprehensive and absolute in a just sense, could hardly be framed. By it the whole unwieldy fabric of English ecclesiastical law, as regards us, is virtually swept away, and every prerogative of the Crown in Church matters unconditionally surrendered. By it we possess the power of doing everything relating to, or necessary for, the appointment or deprivation of any person holding office in the Church, of whatever grade, and for defining and securing their jurisdiction. The powers and authority hitherto conferred by royal letters patent may, and undoubtedly now ought to be, conferred by the Church here, in some manner duly specified and provided for by a Provincial Canon. And so in every other matter connected with the welfare, stability, and progressive requirements of the Church, we are freed from all the perplexities of English ecclesiastical law, and are invested with full power to take care of ourselves.

But while we thus possess and exercise the legal power of regulating the affairs of our Church in all matters relating to discipline, and necessary for order and good government,