

COLONIES
GENERAL

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COPY of a LETTER from Miss BURDETT COUTTS to his Grace the ARCHBISHOP OF
CANTERBURY.

MY LORD,

London, July 12, 1865.

I AM constrained by circumstances of recent occurrence to address your Grace as the official representative of the meeting of Archbishops and Bishops held at Lambeth Palace on Whit Tuesday, 1841. I had always felt a warm interest in the object of the declaration then agreed to, and about the year 1845 I resolved to offer to the Crown, through the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Howley, my individual aid towards providing without further delay, for the members of our Church established in two of its Colonies, the benefits of Episcopal Government. With this object in view, I had several interviews with the Archbishop; and in order that there might be no pecuniary difficulty in the way of the Archbishop arranging at once matters with Her Majesty's Government, I undertook to guarantee an adequate provision for the endowment of two Episcopal Sees to be erected by the Crown. Her Majesty was pleased thereon to issue Her Letters Patent erecting the Episcopal See of Adelaide in South Australia, and that of Cape Town in the Settlement in the Cape of Good Hope, and to nominate Bishops thereto. And I fulfilled my guarantee by paying, under the advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury, into the Bank of England, to the account of the treasurers of the Archbishops and Bishops, a specific sum of money for the endowment of the See of Cape Town, and a like sum for the endowment of the See of Adelaide. When I provided a fund for the endowment of the See of British Columbia and Vancouver Island with Archdeaconries attached thereto in 1859, I, with the concurrence of Archbishop Sumner, your Grace's immediate predecessor, pursued the same course which I had before adopted under the advice of Archbishop Howley.

It will be within your Grace's recollection that the declaration of Archbishops and Bishops, to which I have referred, and which was agreed to at Lambeth Palace in 1841 by all present, and in which your Grace, although not present, desired to express your concurrence as Bishop of Ripon, set forth that the Archbishops and Bishops of the United Church of England and Ireland, "contemplating with deep concern the insufficient provision hitherto made for the Spiritual wants of the members of our National Church in the British Colonies, were prepared, &c. &c. &c.," were prepared to undertake the charge of a fund for the endowment of additional Bishoprics in the Colonies, and to become responsible for its application; and that a Standing Committee had been appointed with full powers to confer with the Ministers of the Crown, and to arrange measures in concert with them for the erection of Episcopal Sees in certain specified dependencies of the Crown, amongst which the Cape of Good Hope was enumerated. I had always supposed that in undertaking to provide funds for the endowment of Colonial Sees, I was co-operating with the Archbishops and Bishops of the United Church of England and Ireland in laying the foundation of a system of efficient Church Government for the members of our National Church resident in the respective Colonies; and that the Crown, by its Letters Patent, had power to give legal effect to an order of things calculated to secure that the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England by law established should be maintained in their completeness amongst the congregations of our own communion in those Colonies. Without this security, I should not have guaranteed the endowment funds; and upon the faith of this having been accomplished by the issuing of Her Majesty's Letters Patent, I fulfilled in each case my guarantee. In the numerous conversations which I had with Dr. Howley, he uniformly expressed himself thankful that the Church of England had been so firmly planted in the Colonies during his primacy, and considered that its constitution had been secured in every colonial dependency of the Crown in which an Episcopal See had been founded. The late Bishop of London, Dr. Blomfield, with whom I was in constant communication, always represented to me that he also considered that the planting of the Church of