

COLOMBO.

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Copy of a DESPATCH from GOVERNOR SIR HERCULES ROBINSON to the Right Hon.
EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 233.)

Queen's House, Colombo, Dec. 14, 1865.

(Received, January 19, 1866.)

(Answered, No. 126, May 8, 1866, page 16.)

SIR,

At the request of the Bishop of Colombo, I have the honour to forward copy of the proceedings of the Synod of Colombo, together with a copy of a letter from his Lordship which accompanied the same.

2. The Bishop has invited special attention to the 6th Resolution of the Synod, in which I am asked to communicate to the Secretary of State their request that clergymen appointed from England may be required to sign, on their arrival here, the Declaration of principles adopted by the Synod.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon.
Edward Cardwell, M.P.

(Signed) HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON.

Encl. 1 in No. 11.

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"Acts and Resolutions of the First Synod of the Diocese of Colombo," held in St. Thomas' College on the 20th September 1865 and two following Days.

(Extract.)

IV.—STATUS OF SYNOD.

1.—Moved by W. W. Cairns, Esq.,

Seconded by the Rev. G. Schrader,

That this Synod, lawfully summoned by the Bishop of the Diocese, claims to be by representation the Church of the Diocese of Colombo in union and full communion with the United Church of England and Ireland, and identical with the said Church in faith and doctrine, and acknowledges the supremacy of the Sovereign, and the authority of any Synod of this Province lawfully summoned in which this Synod shall have been duly represented.

2.—Moved by the Rev. Canon Bailey,

Seconded by F. W. Willisford, Esq., M.D.,

That nothing in the acts of this Synod, or in the terms therein used, shall be held to assume the powers or functions of legislating with any coercive jurisdiction; but merely as purporting to lay down rules, which will bind those who expressly or by implication assent thereto.

3.—Moved by W. E. T. Sharpe, Esq.,

Seconded by the Rev. W. F. Kelly,

That this Synod disclaims any attempt to pass rules contrary to law, or to create tribunals similar to those which, in countries where there is an Established Church, exercise a legal and coercive jurisdiction.

V.—DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

Proposed by the Venerable the Archdeacon,
Seconded by James Moir, Esq.,

That this Synod do adopt the following Declaration of principles:—

We, the bishop, clergy, and laity of the Diocese of Colombo, in Synod assembled, in union and full communion with the United Church of England and Ireland, do declare that we receive the Holy Scriptures as the revealed Word of God; and the authorized version of the same as of like authority in this Diocese as it is in England; and we do maintain the doctrines and sacraments of Christ as the Lord hath commanded, and as the said United Church of England and Ireland receives the same; and do receive the Book of Common Prayer, and administration of the sacraments, and other rites and ceremonies of the Church, according to the use of the United Church of England and Ireland, together with the Psalter or Psalms of David, pointed as they are to be sung or said in churches, and the form and manner of ordaining and consecrating bishops, priests, and deacons; and further we do disclaim the right to alter the standards of faith and doctrine now in use in the Church, the three creeds, the thirty-nine articles, the Church catechism, and the other formularies