

to the highest ecclesiastical authority in England, and fully to establish the rights and liberties of the clergy in the diocese of Tasmania."

I have called attention to the memorial of these parties as showing what is the real desire of the colonists. I will now refer to a petition which has been presented from the Bishop of Cape Town. My right hon. friend presented that petition before proceeding to move the second reading of his bill, and in the course of his speech adverted, I understood (but I speak under correction, if I am wrong), to the views of the Bishop of Cape Town as those of a petitioner for the bill; my right hon friend represented him as favourable to the bill as it stands. As my right hon. friend put the Bishop of Cape Town forward as a petitioner for the bill, and as I believe that right rev. prelate to be one of the most exemplary and admirable of our bishops (hear, hear), I thought it due to the right rev. prelate that there should be no mistake as to what his views really were. I made it my duty to speak to the Bishop of Cape Town on the subject of the bill. I told him my opinion, founded on the highest advice I could take, was, that it would break up the Church of England, and make in every colony a separate church, that it would impugn the supremacy of the Crown; and I asked him if he was prepared to petition Parliament for those objects. (A laugh.) The right rev. prelate gave me authority to state that in petitioning for this bill he desired no more than to petition for greater freedom of action, that he shrank from impugning the supremacy of the Crown, and that, so far from wishing the church in the colonies to be separate from the church in the mother country, his anxious desire was, if possible, to draw closer the bonds of union between the Church of England and the colonies. With these views, which I have stated as clearly as I can, though at a length which I fear may have wearied the House (hear, hear), it is impossible for me to consent to the further progress of the bill. I consent to the principle of it, so far at least as to agree with the right hon. gentleman that legislation conferring greater powers in the colonies may be desirable, but I cannot consent to that principle when it involves the grave considerations to which I have adverted. Whatever my position in life may be, whether as a Minister of the Crown, as an independent member of this House, or as a private citizen of the State, I will be no party to breaking the Church of England into fragments, or to impugning that supremacy of the Crown, which I in my conscience believe to be one of the surest guarantees of that religious liberty which we enjoy. (Hear, hear.) Under these circumstances, I implore the right hon. gentleman not to proceed with the bill, which I am slow to believe he can intend ("Hear,