

NEW
ZEALAND.

The existing Letters Patent then having been declared invalid, I can see no reason why the petitioning Bishops should not be allowed to surrender them; and as the Anglican Church in the Colonies is declared to be on the same footing exactly, *quoad* its relation to the State, as the several Nonconformist bodies there, it appears to follow that the Bishops of those Churches should be allowed to exercise all the Episcopal functions in the Colony, according to the constitution on the basis of voluntary compact which has been agreed upon and promulgated. This constitution has been recognized by the Colonial Legislature, and is in accordance with a despatch from a former Colonial Secretary, the Right Honourable Henry Labouchere.

This much as to the future. But as regards the past, I must be allowed to express an earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government will see fit to introduce into Parliament early in the ensuing session a Bill for all the Colonies in which the Church is not by law established, enacting that all acts already done, which would have been legal under the Letters Patent, now declared invalid, shall be as good and effectual in law as if the Letters had been valid.

The problem still remains to be settled, what will be the exact relation between the Anglican Church in the Colonies and the Church of England at home. It will require time and thought to solve the question, but I already find an anxious wish on the part of clergymen selected here for Colonial Bishoprics to be consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury. I hope, therefore, that in the Bill for which I ask it may be declared lawful for the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England to consecrate Bishops for such Colonies without any licence or Letters Patent from the Crown.

I should imagine it would now be right to repeal those Acts of Parliament which relate to the Church in these Colonies, as having no longer any force.

The Right Hon.
Edward Cardwell, M.P.

(Signed) I have, &c.
C. T. CANTUAR.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a LETTER from the Rev. W. F. OLDHAM to the Right Honourable
EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

Riverton, New Zealand, March 15, 1866.

(Received May 19, 1866.)

(Answered May 25, 1866, *infra.*)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to address you in reference to the petition of the Bishops of the Church of England in New Zealand, praying for permission to resign their patents granted by the Crown. I beg respectfully to submit that the said petition, though expressing the unanimous opinion of the Episcopal bench in this Colony, gives no clue to the feeling of the other two orders, of clergy and laity; they not having expressed their opinion in General Synod.

The feeling of a large number, possibly of a large majority, of both those orders, is strongly opposed to any unnecessary severance of the ties which connect the Colonial Church with the Church and Crown of England.

To the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Signed) I have, &c.
W. F. OLDHAM,
Incumbent of Riverton.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of a LETTER from W. E. FORSTER, Esq., M.P., to the Rev. W. F. OLDHAM.

SIR,

Downing Street, May 25, 1866.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Cardwell to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which you addressed to him on the 15th March last, with reference to the petition of the Bishops of New Zealand, praying for permission to resign their patents granted by the Crown.

The Rev. W. F. Oldham.

(Signed) I have, &c.
W. E. FORSTER.