

the clergy back again. Put the matter before your people in as plain language, as conciliatory a manner, and as frequently as you can, listening to every reasonable objection, and furnishing a reasonable answer, and something will be done. For I cannot help saying, that if we had been thoroughly in earnest about the Endowment Fund when it was first proposed, it would not have so entirely fallen to the ground.

But I must proceed now to another question of practical importance to us all.

You have been informed of the nature of the late decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the question between the Bishops of Capetown and of Natal. And you may have read with astonishment that the decision affects the whole Colonial Church, and that when her Majesty was advised to issue letters patent to bishops about to reside in colonies possessing independent legislatures, she exceeded the powers vested in her by the constitution; and consequently, that these letters patent did not carry with them all the powers supposed to belong to them. This decision need not, however, take us entirely by surprise, as I have been informed, for some years past, by high legal authorities in the province, that it would not be safe to trust for coercive jurisdiction to the power supposed to be given by the letters patent to myself, or to rely upon their authority in this respect, in the courts of law. Happily for me, and for us all, the question has never been raised. It may, however, afford reasonable ground for astonishment, that those who are learned in the law, and were called in specially to advise her Majesty in the exercise of her powers, should never have been able, or should never have taken the trouble to ascertain precisely the extent of those powers; and should have allowed the Queen's name to be used, and her Majesty's seal affixed to documents which the highest legal functionaries judicially pronounce to be defective. Still more surprising is it, that the same learned and acute functionary, who informs the world of the defect of these letters patent, should himself have drawn them up, only a few years since, for the benefit of the Metropolitan See of Capetown; thus pronouncing sentence, not so much upon the Bishop, as upon his own acts. Such a decision, however, does not, as it appears to me, deprive us of any power that is specially important. In considering its effects upon the Bishop of the diocese, upon the clergy who are placed under his supervision, and on the laity to whom it is his duty to minister, we must recollect that if bishops, in legal acceptance, be "creatures of law," this is nothing more than all persons are, who are subject to the laws of their country. But this is only one part, and not the most important part of our office and function. The law may or may not entrust us with certain legal powers, which we are bound faithfully to use, according as "this realm" has imparted them to us; but if the realm, or the Sovereign who represents the realm, have no such power to impart, we have not the special legal power her Majesty assured us that we had—that is all. No fault or