

with which of course I shall not directly deal, lest I should even appear to recognise some sort of accountability to an absolutely unauthoritative and obviously prejudicial tribunal. Let me observe, also, that I entertain no doubt of any questions on the recent matters affecting myself, in which the public may do me the favour of taking interest, *righting themselves* as time goes on. But many reasons will occur to indicate the propriety of silence on my part. At any rate, I wish it to be understood that I am prepared to suffer under any amount of (temporary) misconstruction, rather than to promote a discussion which will, I am confident, issue in results far more favourable to myself than any one else, which would, in the meantime, most miserably disturb the peace of the Church of England. Let me say then, Sir, under this protest, and with these explanations, that your account of the recent question between the Bishop of London and myself is inaccurate in the following particulars :—1. I have never been ‘suspended’ by the Bishop of London, in the technical sense of the word. I abstained for five days from officiating, *by my own offer*, to which the Bishop acceded. 2. The Bishop asked me to *resign* before his lordship had received any ‘letter’ whatever from me. 3. I never ‘declined the Bishop’s suggestion,’ but took time to consider, and never sent in my formal answer. 4. I have never been ‘formally’ suspended, since I have never been suspended in any sense, except by my own voluntary proposal, which the Bishop adopted. 5. The Bishop could not ‘recall’ what his lordship never issued. And so the matter remains, subject, no doubt, to material conditions, and dependent upon future (hypothetical) legal determinations. Whether the objectors to my present position will save their cause by pressing forward these determinations, it is not, of course, for me to suggest, though I have a private opinion upon the subject. I am, Sir, your obliged servant, **FREDERICK OAKELEY.** London, March 1.”

MR. OAKELEY AND HIS BISHOP.—Various accounts having appeared in the public papers as to the steps taken by the Bishop of London with reference to the Rev. Frederick Oakeley, we are authorised to state that Mr. Oakeley has been allowed to continue his ministrations in Margaret-street Chapel *ad interim* only, till the Bishop shall have obtained the opinion of his legal advisers as to the proper course of proceeding in so grave a case. We are also able to state, that there is no foundation for the report that the Bishop has received a communication from the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford on the subject of the letter addressed to the Vice-Chancellor by Mr. Oakeley.—*Official from the Bishop’s Chaplain.*—*Herald.*

To THE BISHOP OF LONDON.—My Lord—We,

the undersigned, being persons frequenting the services at Margaret Chapel, having been informed that your lordship has suggested to the Rev. Mr. Oakeley that he should resign his license, and retire from the ministry of the chapel, beg with great respect to make the following representations :—That Mr Oakeley has for some years had the charge of the chapel, and during that period, partly by the mode of conducting the services, partly by the uncontroversial and practical tone of his teaching, and partly by his kindness and sympathy towards those who have had recourse to him for advice, has collected around him a body of persons of various grades of opinion, who all hold him in high estimation. That many persons have found in the constant services of the chapel, opportunities of retreat from the hurry and anxiety of business ; others, occasions of retirement in season of distress ; and we have reason to believe that many others, whose minds have been in a perplexed and unsettled state, have been quieted and held in their position by Mr. Oakeley’s counsel and encouragement in private. That in our attendances on the services at Margaret Chapel we have never heard any doctrines inculcated which we have any reason to believe your lordship would have disapproved ; and that we thoroughly believe that the influence exercised by Mr. Oakeley over the members of his congregation, and which, in many cases, is confessedly great, has always been exercised for good, and in restraining from extreme conclusions when there might be any tendency to such a result. That we are apprehensive that the retirement of Mr. Oakeley from Margaret Chapel will have a very injurious effect upon the minds of very many who now look to him for sympathy and support, and that it will in many cases produce the utmost distress and perplexity ; and that, in so far as it may tend to the discontinuance of the chapel services in their present state, it will be a serious privation to us all.

To THE EDITOR OF THE ‘MORNING CHRONICLE.’—Sir—As your article on the subject of myself still gives rise, inadvertently, and through a want of clearness in my own letter, to an erroneous impression of some consequence respecting me, allow me to say that even when I wrote to you on Saturday, the question of my resignation was entirely at an end, by the Bishop of London having, under actual circumstances, and as farther advised, ceased to require it of me. With this explanation, and with others which appear elsewhere, I close as far as I myself am concerned, the whole question with the public papers, and leave any future misconceptions respecting me to correct or adjust themselves. Thanking you for your kind attention to my communication, I am, Sir, your humble servant, **FREDERICK OAKELEY.**