

own part, of being so invited, I was called upon from different quarters, towards the end of last year, as being, by date of consecration, the senior Bishop of the Church of England, in the North American Colonies, to go home and meet the late lamented Metropolitan of Australia who was on his way to confer upon matters Ecclesiastical, with the authorities in Church and State. He had been in communication with those authorities upon the subject and it had been arranged that, for the greater convenience of discussion and the greater advantage, in every way, of conducting the object, he should pay a visit to England. I had not only no idea beforehand, of going, but it was with much difficulty and at a considerable sacrifice of my own private convenience and the public convenience of my Diocese, that I conditionally undertook to go. And although I had not seen my own country and my own friends there, for seventeen years, I endeavored to avoid going and waited to the last moment to see whether the task could not, in the manner described in the Pastoral Letter just mentioned, devolve upon other hands.

Under such circumstances as these, it is very evident that I could not enjoy the benefit of gathering counsel from the different portions of this great and straggling Diocese, before setting out upon my mission. I could only point out, as I did, in that Pastoral, point out, the course which was open, of my being favored with suggestions from my Clergy or their people after I should have reached England. And there was nothing to prevent, if anywhere it had seemed expedient, their holding local meetings upon the subject with which I had to deal, and communicating to me the result. That subject itself was perfectly understood: it was put before the public in 1851, in the Minutes of the Episcopal Conference held in that year, at Quebec, as well in the answer of the assembled Bishops to the address made to them by the Clergy. All the seven North American Bishops, including the two who were absent, had concurred in those Minutes, and the particular object which they comprehended, of procuring relief for the Colonial Bishops in certain difficulties attaching to their charge, *by means of new privileges and powers to be conferred upon the Clergy at large and the Laity duly represented*, which, so far as I had reason to believe was *universally* approved in the Dio-

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