

. COLOMBO.

be elected in a certain manner prescribed by him for the purpose of making laws binding upon churchmen."

"A very elaborate argument was entered into at our bar, in order to show that diocesan synods may be lawfully held in England without the licence of the Crown, and that the statute with respect to provincial synods does not extend to the colonies."

"It is not necessary to enter into the learning on this subject. It is admitted that diocesan synods, whether lawful or not, unless within the licence of the Crown, have not been in use in England for above two centuries; and Mr. Long, in recognizing the authority of the bishop, cannot be held to have acknowledged a right on his part to convene one, and to require his clergy to attend it. But it is a mistake to treat the Assembly convened by the bishop as a synod at all." (p. 312.)

"The Synod, which actually did meet, passed various acts and constitutions, purporting, without the consent either of the Crown or of the Colonial Legislature, to bind persons not in any manner subject to its control, and to establish courts of justice for some temporal as well as spiritual matters; and, in fact, the Synod assumed powers which only the Legislature could possess. There can be no doubt that such acts were illegal." (p. 312.)

"The oath of canonical obedience does not mean that the clergyman will obey all the commands of the bishop against which there is no law, but that he will obey all such commands as the bishop by law is authorized to impose." (p. 313.)

No. 15.

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COPY of a LETTER from W. E. FORSTER, Esq., M.P., to REV. H. VENN.

SIR,

Downing Street, May 8, 1866.

* Page 16.

No. 126, May 8,
1866, page 16.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Cardwell to inform you that he has had under his careful consideration your letter of the 18th of January* respecting certain Resolutions passed by the Diocesan Synod of Colombo.

I am to state that the Resolutions of that Synod were communicated to Mr. Cardwell by the Governor of Ceylon, and I enclose a copy of the answer which Mr. Cardwell has addressed to the Governor.

Rev. H. Venn.

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