

kingdom, praying the interference of the legislature in behalf of the moral and religious improvement of India, were presented, and placed upon the tables of both houses. After the measure had been fully discussed, two very important resolutions passed the Imperial Parliament. By the first it was enacted, that the East India Company should be made chargeable with certain salaries to be paid to a Bishop and three Archdeacons, if it should please His Majesty by his Letters Patent to constitute and appoint the same. The other resolution was as follows:—

“ That it is the duty of this country to promote the interest and happiness of the native inhabitants of the British dominions in India; and that such measures ought to be adopted as may tend to the introduction among them of useful knowledge, and of religious and moral improvement. That in the furtherance of the above objects sufficient facilities shall be afforded by law to persons desirous of going to, and remaining in India, for the purpose of accomplishing these benevolent designs.”

Thus was accomplished, though not to the extent anticipated by the friends of the establishment of Christianity in the East Indies, the grand object, which many wise and good men foresaw would best tend to advance the pious work in which the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge had been the first to engage, and which had been supported by its liberality for upwards of a century.

The preliminary arrangements for the erection of the new see, according to the regular forms prescribed by law, having been made, Doctor Middleton was selected for the appointment. In the autumn of the year, 1813, he received an order to wait upon the Earl of Buckinghamshire, who was the President of the Board of Control. By this nobleman, in his lordship's official character, Doctor Middleton was recommended to the Prince Regent. His Royal Highness having approved of the selection, letters patent were forthwith made out to that effect, and on the 8th of May, 1814, Doctor Middleton was duly consecrated Bishop of Calcutta in the archiepiscopal chapel at Lambeth palace. The consecration sermon was preached by the venerable the Archdeacon of Winchester. On the 17th of the same month, the new bishop of Calcutta attended a special meeting of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, when his Lordship received their valedictory address, which was delivered by the Bishop of Chester, and, on the 8th of June, took his departure for Bengal.