

THE CHURCH.

After long delays and unsatisfactory discussions, which have at any rate given an assurance that the utmost justice has been done to the late Bishop of Natal, the convocation of the Southern Province has accepted the report of the Committee, which it appointed to investigate the validity of the sentence of deposition pronounced by the Bishop of Capetown upon Dr. Colenso. That report states that in the first place, substantial justice has been done to the accused, and secondly, that the Church seeing that all legal difficulties affect its temporal and not its spiritual character, may rightly accept the validity of the sentence of deposition. This opinion is founded upon a careful consideration of the mutual position of the Bishops of Capetown and Natal, especially after the decision of the Privy Council on the question of the invalidity of the Letters Patent; and further upon the nature of the citation, to which it is evident that Dr. Colenso assented by having appeared before the Court; and also upon the proceedings themselves which appeared to have been conducted in conformity with the principles of the English Church. The Bishop of London has appended to the report a document in which he expresses his inability to accept it, purely and simply on State grounds. The decision of the Court summoned by the Bishop of Capetown, was set aside by the decision of the highest Court of the empire, and, therefore, the same decision seems null and void to the Bishop of London. But the decision was set aside on the ground that the Letters Patent, which conferred a temporal position and temporal jurisdiction, were null and void, and that in the eye of the law of England, neither Bishop existed at all; the spiritual existence and spiritual relations of the same Bishops were not considered, and it is evidently quite possible, as in this Canadian Church, to acknowledge the latter while denying the former. But the Bishop of London and the Dean of Westminster cannot see a Bishop, except he be surrounded with the glories of a temporal position; he must be recognised at law, or he is no Bishop of the Church. While, however, we regret that a prelate holding the high position of a Bishop of London, should dissent from the rest of the Upper House, yet no slight service has been rendered by the protest to the report, inasmuch as it acts as a perpetual commentary upon it, entirely preventing the possibility of its real meaning ever being called in question. Inasmuch as the Bishop of London doubts the compact, which existed between the Bishops, on the ground of the invalidity of the Letters Patent, it is plain that the remainder of the Committee felt that such did exist; and as the Bishop doubts the Metropolitan hav-

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