

SUMMARY OF CHURCH NEWS.

THE late papers from England inform us that Bishop Colenso has reached Natal, and by the aid of an interdict from the Chief Justice preventing the doors being closed, made good his entrance into the Cathedral of St. Peter's, Maritzburg, and there performed the service and preached. It appears that the Church Wardens of St. Peter's had handed to the Bishop a formal protest against his officiating there, and that as late as ten o'clock, on Saturday night the Bishop applied for and obtained the interdict which was served upon the wardens at eleven o'clock on Saturday night. On the Sunday morning the Bishop, despite the resistance of the Dean and Church Wardens, forced himself into the Cathedral, robed himself and read the usual service. There was a large crowd assembled, of whom an eye-witness says, "that of the regular attendants at the Cathedral there were but few present; of professing churchmen there were undoubtedly a great number; of dissenters but a sprinkling; whilst the rest was made up of those who, we are bound to say, never enter a place of worship from one year's end to another."

This event gives us another instance of the injury which any connexion with the Ecclesiastical law of England inflicts upon the Colonial Church; and of the difficulty as well as the necessity of being entirely freed from the trammels which it imposes.

The "John Bull" has the following comments on these extraordinary proceedings—

It is, of course, very easy for persons at home to find fault after the event with the line of conduct pursued under a panic by those on the spot; but it seems to us, certainly that the Dean was wrong in his proposition to close the Cathedral. The decree of the Supreme Court merely interdicts him from not opening the doors. It decides nothing as to Bishop Colenso's right to officiate. Had the Dean himself conducted service, the Bishop would have been in a far more embarrassing position. We await, of course, fuller information, but what we do know is sufficient to show that the gravity of the situation cannot be overrated, and proves not only that Churchmen at home should do all in their power to support the noble-hearted Bishop of Capetown, but that some satisfactory solution of the real *status* of the Colonial Church is positively necessary. If the Church is not established by law it does not seem to be the business of the Temporal Courts to decide whether a church should be open or not; and on the other hand, the reliance of his advocate on the Queen's Letters Patent, may hereafter defeat Bishop Colenso's object. The Erastianism involved in saying that he came in the Queen's name, is very suggestive of the thoroughly worldly *animus* of the party with whom the late Bishop of Natal is so favorite an idol. It is suicidal, however, to shut our eyes to the real gravity of the case, or to attempt to represent it as one easy of solution. It is replete with difficulties, which can only be surmounted by great caution and faithfulness.

The Bishop of Toronto, C. W., has addressed an appeal to his Diocese, calling for aid to support the Mission Fund. It appears that twenty-eight missionaries have been receiving part of their support from the Board of Missions, but that this assistance must be reduced, if not in some cases suspended, unless the fund be increased.

A picturesque Church has just been completed on the brink of the precipice overhanging the Niagara River at Clifton. It was opened on the 17th Decr. last, and dedicated in the name of "Christ Church." This will supply a want much felt by the many who frequent that attractive spot. The Right Rev. Bishop Coxe, Diocesan of Western New York, took part in the ceremony and preached the sermon.