

BRITISH
COLUMBIA
AND VAN-
COUVER
ISLAND.

the Bishop to retain his present title, and to give him still a right to control and dispose of the funds placed in his charge as Bishop of British Columbia.

For myself, I can only say that I hope, if there is a division of the Diocese,—a measure which appears to be decided on,—that the Sees will be kept as distinct as the Colonies, and that some settlement will be arrived at respecting the endowment money bestowed by Miss Coutts. If it was granted for British Columbia, it ought scarcely in justice to be allowed to form part of the permanent wealth of another Colony.

(Signed) W. HAMLEY.

Custom House, 3rd January 1865.

DIVISION OF THE DIOCESE.—GOVERNOR SEYMOUR'S OPINION.

THE Bishop hoped on his return to England to have furthered the division of the Diocese, but he has not seen his way to press the subject. Nothing has proved so effectual to cause increase of clergy and means in any colonial district as the establishment of the Episcopate. A permanency is imparted to the work, which gives confidence to all concerned. A leader of experience is secured, who brings helpers with him. More local aid is called forth. The young Church is fostered in its early stages with more constant care and oversight. Not having to be away for many months on long journeys over a vast and widespread diocese, the Bishop can bestow more attention upon central religious objects in the chief town where he resides.

A subdivision of British Columbia and Vancouver is required on account both of their extent and rivalry. They are as large as France and England. They have never drawn willingly together. The Imperial Government have recently yielded to this feeling, and sent out two Governors in place of one, with entirely separate administration. The difficulty of uniting the two Colonies in one diocesan action will be greater than before. In whichever of the two is fixed the Episcopal seat, an alienation of feeling in the other will be the consequence. The best interests of religion, as well as good policy, will be served by yielding to the colonial feeling, and by gathering up all sympathies in a division of the Diocese.

Governor Seymour, in his address to the Legislative Council of British Columbia on the 8th of April 1864, thus speaks of the importance of separate administration of the two Colonies:—

“And now I must notice your resolution of yesterday's date. Protesting against any union with the Colony of Vancouver, I shall forward that resolution to his Grace the Secretary of State, and strongly express my opinion that British Columbia has grown too large for a return to the old system to be possible. Whether union under other conditions might hereafter be acceptable, I am at present unable to say. I would, however, observe, that from my short experience I am inclined to think that an efficient administration of the affairs of British Columbia alone would be enough to require the whole attention of a Governor.”

Vancouver and Columbia, being distinct Colonies with two Governors, should now have also their two Bishops. The fostering and organization of the Church, and the religious welfare of the people, are at least as important as the secular interests of the State. No time should be lost. The following step has been taken. At a meeting of the Colonial Bishops' Council, July 15, 1864, the Archbishop of Canterbury in the chair, it was resolved—

“That the Council record their conviction of the importance of separating Vancouver Island from the diocese of Columbia, and erecting it into a separate Bishopric as soon as the necessary fund for its endowment can be provided.”

Is there no one, who reads this, to whom God has given the power, willing to respond to the call, and by a noble offering fix deep for all time the roots of the Church of God in that rising British province?

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COPY of a LETTER from the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P., to His Grace the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

MY LORD ARCHBISHOP,

Downing Street, July 22, 1865.

WITH reference to my letter of the 25th of October last, stating that I was desirous of consulting the Governor of British Columbia respecting the application of the Lord Bishop of that Colony for a division of his Diocese, I have the honour to inform your Grace that Governor Seymour has reported to me that objections are entertained by his Government to the mode in which it is proposed to divide the Bishopric.

As I have reason to believe that the Governor is about immediately to visit England, I think that it will be desirable to await his arrival before forming any definite opinion on the subject.

His Grace the Archbishop
of Canterbury.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD CARDWELL.