

tainty when he may come to us, or let us hear from him. In the meantime, we are resolved to do our best in carrying on the work of the mission here, in accordance with the last wishes of the Bishop, in the way he has directed, and would have himself approved, until the arrival of his successor, or of instructions from the Metropolitan."

One of the last letters written by the lamented Bishop Mackenzie, before leaving his station, speaks in terms of the most unqualified praise of Dr Livingstone. The Bishop is anxiously solicitous that a previous communication of his should not be misconstrued, as implying that Dr Livingstone had dissuaded him from embarking on his mission up the Shire, or had done anything to impede the progress of the work. "On the contrary," he says, "I felt, and still feel, that Livingstone has the success of the mission at heart, quite as much as that of the public service in which he is engaged. Indeed, I believe that each of us regards the work of the other as tending with his own to the great object to which he is himself devoted—the evangelisation and civilisation of this country."

In memory of the Right Reverend Charles Frederick Mackenzie, first Missionary Bishop to Central Africa. Died January 31st, 1862:—

Lord Christ, Thy name we praise,  
And thank Thee whilst we shed the mournful tear,  
For this Thy servant, who has closed his days  
In Thy true faith and fear.

Nobly didst Thou endow  
Body and mind with all high excellence;  
For such a man we thank Thee, Lord, though Thou  
Hast early called him hence.

We may not say too soon:  
He went not ere his manful toil had won  
The blessing of success; whilst yet 'twas noon  
His goodly task was done.

Now, in that far-off land  
Where rests his sacred dust, outshineth light  
From Thine own Church, implanted by his hand:  
Guide it, O Lord, aright;

And let it ever grow,  
Like him, in all good things, till it attain  
Stature so fair proportioned as below  
Humanity may gain.

Upon thy loving breast,  
Dear mother Britain, though he might not die,  
Be comforted, for blessed is his rest  
Among the saints on high.

And for that he hath won,  
Although he sought it not, an honoured name,  
Mother of heroes, write thy favoured son  
In thy bright scroll of fame. C. L.

### THE CHURCH ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE.

(From the Melbourne Church Chronicle.)

The Annual Session of the Melbourne Church Assembly commenced on the 28th January. Besides the Bishop, there were present, at the commencement of the proceedings, thirty-seven clergymen and nineteen lay representatives.

The Bishop of Melbourne, in his opening address, mentioned that there had been a steady increase in the number of clergy. In 1860, there were sixty-seven clergymen; in 1861, seventy-five; and now, in 1862, there are eight-four. There were three cures now vacant. There were

earnest applications for clergymen from nine districts, some of which were temporarily and partially provided for by clerical and lay assistance. Fourteen more clergymen were wanted. Three churches had been consecrated; twelve or thirteen new churches had been opened for divine service; two more were ready for opening; three were almost finished; and one church had been enlarged. Nineteen new buildings were in contemplation. Two parsonages had been completed, one repaired, and three more were in contemplation.

In the appropriation of the money payment from the public revenue, the limitation had been observed of pound for pound of private donations. The classification of parishes had been the result of much anxious deliberation, in spite of which it was anticipated that there would be dissatisfaction. The Bishop urged the maintenance of the state grant on all who wished well to the church. He declared the state of their general church fund was a disgrace to the church. In 1861, the amount of expenditure had exceeded the whole fund by £1,223 11s. 8d., which would have to be deducted, on account of last year, from the fund for the present year, which amounted to £2,958 4s. 11d. inclusive of the grant made by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. The total amount collected at all the places of worship towards this fund was only £344 7s. 1d. It would be impossible to maintain, still less to extend, the work of the church, unless this fund were very greatly increased. The poorer members of the church did more in proportion than the richer.

From Moore College, New South Wales, it appeared that two of the recently ordained clergy were received, and another candidate for orders was expected. There is, it appears, a property in Melbourne, from which young clergymen are educated, or assisted in their education. The Bishop defended the employment of lay readers, observing that there was no novelty in this, lay readership having existed in England before the reformation. They were very useful in thinly populated districts then as now. To the Endowment Fund, Mr A F Morris had given a donation of £100 for three years, an example worthy of imitation. His Lordship further alluded to two other subjects of great importance, the Bishopric endowment, and the erection of a cathedral.

After the Bishop's address, various reports were read. The whole amount of money from the public revenue, available for 1862, is £25,292 19s 4d, including lapsed grants from 1861 upwards of £13,000 of this is available for building, and upwards of £11,000 for stipends. For the purposes of the latter appropriation, the parochial cures of the diocese are arranged in four classes, of which those of the first receive £10 each, those of the second £100 each, those of the third £125 each, and those of the fourth £175 each. Of the Melbourne churches—St. John's, St. Peter's, and St. Mark's—appear to be independent of all aid, as are Christ Church, and St Paul's, Geelong; but three others of the Melbourne churches—St Paul's, St. James' and St. Mary's, are in class 2.

The Council of the Diocese of Melbourne consists of members appointed by the Bishop. The Rev. G Goodman endeavoured to alter the mode of election to this council, by the proposal that the assembly should elect by ballot from a list of names submitted by the Bishop. This proposal when it came to the vote, was negatived.

A committee was appointed to inquire into, and report upon, "the best mode of speedily securing the clergymen, now urgently required for the diocese." The assembly sat during six days.

### THE RECENT JUDGMENT AT THE CAPE.

The case of *Long v Bishop of Capetown*, which has been so long pending, has at last reached a landing-place. Judgment has been given with costs by the Supreme Court of the Cape Colony for the Bishop of Capetown. Mr Long, however, had just given notice of appeal when the last mail left, and if his friends persist in re-opening the case before the judicial committee of the Privy Council, we may still have many months to wait before the final decision can be hoped for. And to some extent, these considerations should restrain criticism upon the judgments already delivered, and abate the freedom with which we might otherwise be tempted to congratulate our colonial brethren at large on the fortunate circumstance that the first case which has ever brought the legal status of the colonial churches really and sharply to the test has arisen within the diocese of Capetown. Still it may be allowed us to say that in our opinion Mr Long's friends, in going to the expense of an appeal, have done the best thing they could for the interests of the colonial churches generally, and to state our reasons for thinking so.

Three things are obvious at a glance: one, that the decision of the Supreme Court of the Cape Colony has no virtue beyond the boundaries of that one colony. The next, that men afflicted with Mr Long's distinctive sort of conscientiousness, though comparatively rare, are not absolutely confined to South Africa. The third, that the Queen's Letters-Patent, if worthless at the Cape, are not worth very much any where. Mr Long draws, what to our apprehension appears a very subtle distinction, but which, as evidently, to his conscience, is a very broad one, between the royal prerogative abstractedly and *per se*, and the same prerogative as expressed by formal letters-patent. The first he so reverences that he will go through fire and water rather than incur the slightest suspicion of even seeming to violate it. To the last he offers all the indignities in his power, denying and defying all episcopal jurisdiction over himself whatsoever, in the face not indeed of the letters patent only, but of every obligation by which a colonial clergyman can be bound, including the royal will and pleasure as plainly expressed by the letters-patent as it is conceivable that by any mere legal instrument it ever could be expressed. We doubt if the extraordinary delicacy of moral perception evinced by this distinction will find many parallels. But so long as the authority of the Queen's Letters-Patent remains doubtful, the temptation to take advantage of the doubt will, to a certain grade of character, be all but irresistible; and so the self-same issue as that raised by Mr. Long may be raised again and again, although probably in most cases by other and more common routes. More ordinary men in holy orders will now and then emerge in every colony, who, hoping that no higher law can be enforced, will defiantly proclaim that they mean their own will to be a law to them, that they are sick of vows, rules, rubrics, canons, superior authority of every sort; and who necessarily will try to do just what Mr Long did, and to do it as he did it, saving, of course, all profession of respect for the royal prerogative in the abstract. And consequently also, like him, they will wish to retain the prestige of their position as clergymen, and if possible to carry their congregations with them, together with the appurtenances of edifice, communion-plate, parsonage-house, and whatever else they have been accustomed to use as their own. It is high time that a colonial bishop, attempting to resist predatory efforts of this description, should know, on the very highest authority which the empire affords, the precise amount of protection which the community pro-