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"Ad profectum sacrosanctae matris ecclesiae."

THE Bishops of the "Anglican Church in New Zealand," have taken a decided and important step by petitioning for leave to resign their letters-patent, as now worse than useless. The object aimed at is to free their Church entirely from the evils attending an indefinite position with regard to English ecclesiastical law. Recent events shew plainly that that law is enforced more for the injury than for the benefit of the Colonial Church. It does not afford protection from threatened danger, nor allow the Church to purge itself from evils which may arise within its own pale. The New Zealand Bishops would therefore cut off, if possible, any appeal to the Crown from the decisions of their own Church, and insist upon standing, so far as English law is concerned, in precisely the same position as other religious bodies, while they would rely upon the powers belonging to their sacred office for such authority as their position requires.

The question may in some form come before our own Synod at any time. The petition of the New Zealand Church is therefore published in full, that those most interested may know what others are doing, and may turn their attention to the subject. It is, however, doubtful whether the petition of the New Zealand Church, if granted, would bring the desired exemption. The Crown, though asserting through its law officers that the Churches in the Colonies are purely voluntary associations, yet seems extremely unwilling actually to treat them as such, and to lose its hold upon them as part of the establishment. There would probably be some disadvantages attending the position sought for by the Church in New Zealand. The Colonial Bishops and their clergy might be shut out from officiating in England, and we would feel more than ever cut off from our parent Church. Yet, if the end in view can be thus obtained, the advantages may be found to far outweigh the loss and to be worth a sacrifice. The best position we can now hope to obtain for our Church, is entire freedom from the impediments of the ecclesiastical law of England, and union under a metropolitan of our own selection and appointment.

PETITION OF THE BISHOPS OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NEW ZEALAND, 1865.
To the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble petition of the undersigned Bishops of the Anglican Church in New Zealand sheweth—

1. That your Majesty's petitioners were duly consecrated according to the form and manner of making, ordaining, and consecrating of Bishops, according to the order of the United Church of England and Ireland, and humbly express their conviction that all the powers necessary for the due administration of the office of a Bishop in this colony were conveyed to them by the ordinance of Consecration.

2. That your Majesty's petitioners accepted letters patent from the Crown, the validity of which has now been denied by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the following words:—

Although in a Crown Colony properly so called . . . a bishopric may be constituted and ecclesiastical jurisdiction conferred by the sole authority of the Crown, yet the letters