

5. During an intimate acquaintance with the progress of the Church of England in the Colony, since the first Gold rush in 1858, I have observed with pain the extension of the feeling of antagonism from secular matters to ecclesiastical affairs.

6. His lordship himself clearly indicates the kind of influences which have produced this result when he so forcibly alludes to the frequent remonstrances that have "so often been publicly expressed," and the "very strong feeling" which has been generated in favour of his Lordship's residence at New Westminster or some other locality in the country which gives the title to his Diocese.

7. It is difficult for those on the spot to see what principle has been followed in the proposed geographical division of the Diocese, or what advantage, in the interest of Christian Institutions, it is likely to produce, to counterbalance in some degree the extreme unpopularity of the proposed measure.

8. Comparative distance can scarcely be the guide, for New Westminster is considerably nearer than Victoria to the Indian Missions of the North-west coast.

9. It does not appear, moreover, how far the trust funds specially subscribed by charitable persons for the benefit of British Columbia as well as Vancouver Island can with propriety be restricted to the purposes of the proposed arrangement,—at all events, without full consideration of the spiritual destitution of British Columbia, and a corresponding redistribution of the fund.

10. If this redistribution can be equitably effected, or a corresponding equivalent secured, no more beneficial arrangement could be proposed than two separate Bishoprics conterminous with the two several Colonies, just as nothing could be devised more detrimental to the progress of so conservative and British an element as the Church of England in the Colony, than the very unsatisfactory division now proposed by the present Bishop of British Columbia.

Attorney General's Office,
3rd January 1865.

(Signed) HENRY P. PELLEW CREASE.

THE TREASURER'S OPINION.

IN preference to the arrangement proposed, which does not seem to me to go along with the public sentiment as regards territory, I would rather have in principle a Metropolitan See (the Metropolitan retaining the title of Bishop of Columbia), with one or more Suffragan Bishops, the limits of whose Sees should be conterminous with those of the two Colonies. At the present time, for the want of the requisite funds for endowment, this may be practically impossible; but it is, in my judgment, a mistake to throw a portion of British Columbia into the See of Vancouver. And even if this were necessary for a time, I think that the portion lying nearest to Vancouver Island should be the portion attached; while, by the proposed distribution, it appears that, alleging as he does with perfect reason that the distances are too great for any one person to travel over, the Bishop has chosen the most opposite points for union in his own Diocese.

I should be very unwilling to see any part of British Columbia united with the Island of Vancouver in one See, so long as the Colonies are separate. Something of the kind I suggest has, I believe, been tried and found to work well in New Zealand, where there is a Bishop of New Zealand, and Bishops of Christ Church, Nelson, &c. his suffragans.

(Signed) CHARLES W. FRANKS.

Treasury, 3rd January 1865.

THE COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS OPINION.

It is quite true, as the Bishop has stated, that there has been a wish on the part of the people of New Westminster for the Bishop to reside among them. But that feeling was never extended in any way to the contemplation of the separation of the Diocese and the erection of a new See. The people were disappointed; and they expressed their disappointment in plain terms to the Bishop at a public meeting shortly after his arrival, at finding that his palace was to be set up at Victoria, and that the large sums provided by Miss Coutts were to be invested there. We understood that the Bishop was appointed, by his title and in reality, to this Colony, and that the money for establishing the Bishopric was to have been laid out mainly in the purchase of property here. The investments at Victoria have, no doubt, been much more profitable. The Church property there, in town lots and in land in the neighbourhood of the town, is well known to be every valuable.

It appears now that a new Bishop is to be appointed, and fresh funds devoted to the support of his office. I doubt if any necessity would have arisen, or if there would have been any pretence for such a step, if the Bishop at first had made New Westminster his residence. Victoria could have been reached, on an average throughout the year, twice every week, in trips of eight hours each; and, except Victoria, there are few places, if any, in Vancouver Island, requiring any special attention. The extent of territory in British Columbia is undoubtedly very large, and may, as his Lordship has stated, be equal to both England and France; but the permanent white population is very small, probably scarcely 5,000 in each colony; a small number, surely, to require two bishops, two archdeacons, and a body of clergymen.

If, however, the contemplated change is to be carried out, and if the feelings of the people of this Colony are to be taken into account in the matter, I am satisfied that they would with one voice protest (the intelligent part of them) against the union of the north-west portion of the country with Vancouver Island. In what possible way would "British feeling be strengthened" by such an arrangement. Colonial acuteness would be much more apt to suggest that it was intended to enable