

COLONIES
GENERAL.

Church's peace and unity of doctrine in the Colonies, may devise and speedily introduce some wise measure of conciliation, and that meanwhile they may use privately whatever influence they possess to urge that no rash steps ought to be taken in the Colonies, I beg to place in your hands the enclosed petition.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. C. LONDON.

P.S.—I presume it is Miss Coutts' intention that her petition shall be published, and my letter is written with the same intention.

Encl. 2 in
No. 20.

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The humble PETITION of ANGELA GEORGINA BURDETT COUTTS, of 1, Stratton Street, in the city of Westminster, and of 59, Strand.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Petitioner humbly approaches Your Majesty, and prays leave to submit to Your Majesty's gracious consideration—

1. That upon the representation of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United Church of England and Ireland that many of Your Majesty's subjects, professing the doctrine and discipline of that Church, resident within Your Majesty's Colonies of South Australia, the Cape of Good Hope, Vancouver Island, and British Columbia respectively, were deprived of some of the offices prescribed by the liturgy and usage of the Church aforesaid, by reason that there was not a Bishop residing or exercising jurisdiction and canonical functions within the same, Your Petitioner was induced to provide means for the endowment of Episcopal Sees within Your Majesty's said Colonies, and thereupon Your Majesty was graciously pleased to issue Your Royal Letters Patent creating the Episcopal Sees of Adelaide in South Australia, of Cape Town in the Settlement of the Cape of Good Hope, and of British Columbia in the Colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, and subsequently by your Royal Letters to raise the Episcopal See of Cape Town to the dignity of a Metropolitan See.

2. That the Lords of the Judicial Committee of Your Majesty's Privy Council, in their Reports to Your Majesty upon the appeal of the Rev. Wm. Long against the Lord Bishop of Cape Town, and upon the petition of the Lord Bishop of Natal, referred to them by Your Majesty's Order in Council of 10th June 1864, respectively have declared that Your Majesty's Royal Letters have been insufficient to confer any ecclesiastical jurisdiction upon the Bishop of Cape Town.

3. That your Petitioner has been advised by counsel learned in the law that Your Majesty's Royal Letters Patent may be held to have been in like manner insufficient to confer any ecclesiastical jurisdiction upon the Bishop of Adelaide within the Colony of South Australia, or upon the Bishop of British Columbia within that portion of his Diocese which is within the limits of the Colony of Vancouver Island.

4. That your Petitioner, in furnishing means for the endowments of the said Sees, had strictly in view to provide for the members of the United Church of England and Ireland resident within Your Majesty's said dominions the benefits of Episcopal ministrations and government according to the order of the said Church, under the chief government of Your Majesty; and Your Petitioner fully believed, in providing the said endowments for the said Sees, that the Bishops thereof would be subject to that ancient jurisdiction over the State Ecclesiastical which rightfully appertains to the Crown of Your Majesty as being within all your dominions supreme.

5. That your Petitioner has been advised that unless the defect of Your Majesty's Royal Letters be supplied by some act of legislation, the members of the United Church of England and Ireland resident within the said Colonies will be without that security for the maintenance of the doctrine and discipline of the said Church which the exercise of Your Majesty's prerogative by the appointment of Bishops exercising jurisdiction under Your Majesty's Royal Letters was intended to establish.

6. That the said failure will be a source of great grief to your Petitioner, and also to many of Your Majesty's loyal subjects residing in the said Colonies, from whom personally, as well as from the legislatures of the said Colonies, your Petitioner, shortly after Your Majesty's said Royal Letters were issued, received public assurance of their satisfaction and thankfulness for Your Majesty's gracious act.

7. That by the said failure the object which your Petitioner had in view in providing endowments for the said Sees will be frustrated.

Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly prays Your Majesty to direct that in any measure for amending the law with respect to the Bishops and Clergy in the said Colonies, care may be taken to preserve unimpaired to Your Majesty and your Successors the exercise of your Royal Supremacy in the appointment of Bishops and the Chief Government of the Church.

(Signed) ANGELA GEORGINA BURDETT COUTTS.

May 2, 1866!