

the Church within this Diocese. But it appears that while we have been here engaged in these considerations, the attention of Parliament, prior to any application on our part, has been directed to the introduction of the same measures on behalf not of this diocese only, but on behalf of a very considerable portion of the Colonial Churches. By a bill introduced by the member for the University of Oxford, it is proposed to enact that in each of the colonial dioceses named in the bill or to be hereafter included by the authority of her Majesty, it shall be lawful for the clergy and laity, under suitable regulations, and with the assent of the Bishop, to frame such regulations as by the concurrence of all shall be deemed most salutary and conducive to the welfare of the Church. So far as our acquaintance with the proposed measure at present extends, the purpose of it appears to be in exact agreement with the proposition of the Bishops assembled here in 1850—that is, to extend to the laity of the Church a degree of active influence, which from the outset they have never possessed directly, and perhaps hardly indirectly, in the management of its affairs. The concurrence of so many portions of the Church in the same views at the same instant, from east to west, from north to south, from the centre to the outermost limit, and the adoption of the same by the most distinguished statesmen, urged forward by no impulse or solicitation from us, but by their own thoughtful conviction that this is the path to be traversed in pursuit of the most advantageous constitution for the Universal Church, are assuredly tokens and signals that this movement forms part of a providential arrangement of God under which He will provide that as her days are so shall the strength of His Church be. It is not in my power at present, from want of sufficient information upon the subject, to embody in description what the final character of this measure is likely to prove. So far, however, as I can read it, I read it in hope, and under a persuasion that its provisions will be so carefully drawn up, so maturely considered, and so cautiously adopted, that they may prove a benefit, a blessing, and a support to the Church of the Lord through many coming centuries; and, it may be, even to the end of the world. Had I been in a position to recommend a course of proceeding, my advice I acknowledge would have been, that previously to the initiation of any Parliamentary proceeding, her Majesty should have been advised to issue a commission to inquire into and report upon the state of the entire Colonial Church: a subject, I have reason to think, but imperfectly understood in England. This Report, after having been submitted to her Majesty, I conceive it might have been serviceable to refer to sub-committees of Churchmen in each Colonial diocese; that they might have opportunity of examining into the proposed Constitution, and of expressing to the Queen their satisfaction with, or disapproval of, any particular portion of it. After this, considerations having been bestowed afresh upon any points against which objections had been raised, and the Report of the Commission amended accordingly, the same might have been again submitted to the judgement of the highest tribunal, and have been finally authorized by her Majesty as Chief Governor of the Church of England. Or it might, if deemed preferable, be sanctioned by Act of Parliament, which includes the Queen's assent.

The principle to be kept in view in giving the sanction of the civil authority to such an ecclesiastical ordinance, are three:—First, that all approach to an Erastian character be scrupulously avoided: that is, that the State do not assume to itself the right to alter the existing laws of the Church, or to impose rules of government, unless the Church (both clergy and laity) shall have had a previous opportunity of examining into the proposed settlement, and judging whether it is fully agreeable to the law of Christ: Secondly, that all the fundamental rules of the Church of England, whether as to doctrine, or as to its rule of discipline, be duly maintained; and, Thirdly, that one uniform system be established throughout all the Colonial Churches, (uniform I mean, as to all vital and essential observances,) whereby they may be bound together in one great system of unity, and so form collectively, one with another, and with the parent Church of England and Ireland, one great assembly of saints engaged throughout the world in spreading abroad the truth of the glorious Gospel, that all men may be brought to the knowledge of it, and the nations may be prepared for the appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. This, I entertain a strong hope, is part of the high destiny reserved for the Church of England by the extension of her Colonial empire. It may be that the motives which often impelled the agents and instruments in that extension were worldly or sordid. In many cases, we know they were so; but all our fears may be composed by the remembrance that however the nations may

rago together, in pursuit of objects of their own, the Lord is the Great King over all the earth. The fierceness of man shall turn to His praise, and the fierceness of them shall He restrain, and make them all work together for the establishment of His own glory and the redemption of His chosen people. And now, brethren as numbered among those who have been called to bear a part in forwarding the development of the kingdom of heaven upon every inhabited shore of the world, in this moment of separation from you whose welfare has been the constant object of my anxiety, my earnest exhortation to you is, that you be at peace among yourselves, and let the fruit of the Spirit be shown among you in the love and joy, the goodness, the gentleness, the meekness, temperance, and faith, whereby as many of you as are called to the ministry may make full proof of it, and as many as are to seek knowledge from your lips, so study to adorn the doctrine of God in all things, that all who behold you may report that God is in you of a truth. For myself, I desire with much earnestness two things; first the benefit of your continual intercession for me before the throne of grace, that I may be preserved from bodily perils, and, much more, sustained in the spirit of a sound mind for the discharge of the arduous and solemn embassy to which the Lord has appointed me; and secondly, that if in the discharge, during so many years, of the duties of my office, I have ever, through misuse of the discretion which is attached to it, given cause of offence to any, they will forgive the wrong at my present earnest solicitation, and on my humble confession of it. It has never been an intentional wrong, you may be assured. But I am so deeply penetrated with a sense of the infirmities of mind and character which are inherent even in those who most earnestly endeavor to do the best, that I can never be free from the apprehension of having given proof in my own conduct of the infirmity I am speaking of. Forgive me this wrong, I pray you, as I do most freely and from my heart forgive if any have offended me. We have partaken together, it may possibly be for the last time upon earth, of that blessed communion which is not only an outward symbol, but ought verily and indeed to fill us with the substance of that peace which Christ left as his last bequest to his followers; and in the fellowship of which we are made one with him. Thus let us separate, remembering the precept, Be ye kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.

The address was listened to with the greatest attention by the assemblage present, and many were moved to tears, particularly at those passages in which his Lordship alluded to the ties of affection and remembrance which bind him to this southern land, and those wherein he begged to be forgiven for any offence which he might unconsciously have given to any of his brethren in the course of discharging the onerous and responsible duties of his office.

Mr. Charles Campbell said that he had been requested by many of those present to assure his Lordship that had more time been allowed, he would have received an address from the laity, expressive of their affectionate and respectful sympathy, and of their earnest prayer that he might be providentially preserved both in body and mind, during his long and probably eventful journey.

The Bishop then again wished his flock farewell, expressing his hope that every blessing would attend them until his return; and having shaken hands with his friends, his Lordship left the room, followed by the best and most earnest wishes of every one present for his safety and success.

The Bishop reached Southampton in the Royal Mail steamer *La Plata*, on Nov. 18. But the yellow fever had broken out on board during the voyage; and passengers were not permitted to land until after a favorable report of the state of the crew had been made by the medical officers. The correspondent of the *Times* makes the following statement:—

"Pratique having been given to *La Plata*, about noon on Saturday, Nov. 20, the vessel hauled down the quarantine flag, got under weigh, and steamed out into open water, where the ceremony of committing to the deep the bodies of two unfortunate men who had died was performed with due solemnity; the funeral duties being impressively performed by the Bishop of Sydney in person. After this, *La Plata* headed towards Southampton, and entered the docks about four o'clock, the passengers' baggage being immediately landed and cleared by the customs and dock authorities. The cargo and bullion will be discharged on Monday.

It is worthy of special remark, that although the bulk of the passengers landed on Friday, so soon as permission was communicated to them, the Bishop of Sydney, who was also a passenger, refused to leave the ship until the unfortunate invalids on board had either recovered or should be removed to more suitable quarters on shore. The venerable prelate was most assiduous in his attentions to the sick on board, continually visiting them in their affliction, and administering the spiritual consolations of religion at all times throughout the voyage. The Bishop also attended Captain Allen in his last moments, and performed the last offices of religion to most of those who fell victims to the yellow fever on the voyage, thus winning the admiration and esteem of all on board. Mr. Wilkin, the quarantine officer of the port, was detained on the *Plata* from Thursday morning to Friday night, and was most unremitting in his exertions for the welfare of the numerous invalids, alleviating the sufferings and attending to the wants of the unfortunate men who lay ill on board."

## News Department.

By the R. M. Steamship *America*, Dec. 26.

HOUSE OF LORDS, MONDAY, Dec. 20.

## MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.

The Earl of DERRY said: My lords, it is consistent with the usual practice, and I think conducive to the public advantage, that a Minister, in announcing to your lordships' house the dissolution of the Government over which he has been called on to preside, should enter into some explanation of the causes which have led to an event that can not but be productive, in every case, of more or less of disturbance to public affairs. It is unnecessary for me on the present occasion to advert to the circumstances under which the Government dissolved the last Parliament. A careful examination of the returns made by the different constituencies, and of the policy professed by the candidates at their several elections, rendered the position of the Government and of the other parties in the State a matter of no uncertainty, and of easy calculation. It was clear that there were of the supporters of the Government, on questions not involving Free-trade or Protection, but of parties who were generally disposed to support her Majesty's Ministers, 310 gentlemen. There were three other parties—if, indeed, there were not many more—the first including in it all the various gradations of opinion, from the high aristocratic Whig down to the wildest theorist and the extremest of the Radical party, in all their ramifications, comprising 260 members. The third party consisted of gentlemen from the sister kingdom, principally representing the Irish Roman Catholic clergymen, and holding the extreme doctrines of the Ultramontane school—all of them pledged by the declarations which they have put forward to use their utmost endeavors for the overthrow of the present, or any other Government which is not prepared to act upon their extreme opinions. Further, there was a party, numerically small, comprehending from thirty to thirty-five members, gentlemen of great personal worth, of great eminence and respectability, who once professed, and I believe do still profess, Conservative opinions. In this state of things it was obvious to her Majesty's Government, that though they had by far the largest party, and were nearly a moiety of the whole House of Commons, yet they did not possess the support of an absolute majority in that house, and that consequently, if it should be the will of all the three other parties to whom I have referred to combine in carrying out a movement for the overthrow of the Government, those three parties so combining—whatever power they might possess for the formation of another Government—had full power to destroy and overthrow the Government which then existed. We were not long to be left in doubt as to whether the will existed on the part of those to whom I have alluded, to overthrow the Government. Before we had an opportunity of bringing forward any specific measures, notice was given of a motion by a gentleman holding extreme opinions—a gentleman of whom I desire to speak with all respect, because he has throughout consistently maintained and steadily supported the same opinions when they were unpopular which he did when subsequently ratified by public opinion, and in order that the Government might be placed in minority on that question, before we had any opportunity of bringing forward our measures, it was necessary that a concert should take place among all the parties to whom I have referred, because, without such concert the Government would still be in a majority. The incidents, my lords, possess almost a dramatic character; for when these concerted measures appeared ready for execution, an amendment was moved in another and an unexpected quarter, which placed the matter on a different footing, and prevented that union of Whigs, Conservatives and Radicals, which was necessary for the Government to be placed in a minority. We proceeded then to bring forward and to submit to Parliament the financial policy which we were to propose, and after a lengthened debate in the House of Commons, by the union of all the three parties, the Government were defeated in a house almost unprecedentedly full—a house, in which there were not more than six and twenty members in the whole house who, in one way or the other, did not record their opinion. In that house so constituted the Government were subjected to a defeat by a majority of nineteen. If we had been defeated on a minor and incidental point—if it were on some detail of a measure the general principle of which was assented to by Parliament—greatly as I should feel the position of the Government weakened by being subjected to a defeat even on a minor matter—greatly as preceding Governments have been weakened by submitting to repeated defeats and to reversal of their policy—inconvenient as I should have considered such a state of things to be—still I do not consider that I should have been justified by a defeat on a minor question in abandoning the duties which had been confided to me. But, my lords, this defeat was on no minor question—it was on the basis of our whole financial policy—let me say it was ostensibly on the basis of the financial policy which was to be established in this country, and in reality and in truth it was to determine the confidence or the want of confidence the House of Commons reposed in us (*hear, hear.*) I felt, and my colleagues felt with me, that no option remained but to tender to her Majesty the resignation of those offices with which she had entrusted us. Her Majesty was pleased to accept our resignation, and signified her pleasure, which was acted upon in the course of the same day, to send and take the advice of nobler members of your lordships' house,—both of them