

that a copy of the letter which I addressed to his Grace should be forwarded to Her Majesty's Secretary for the Colonies, and also to the Bishops of Adelaide, Cape Town, and British Columbia; and I now beg, with great respect, to place a copy of it in the hands of Your Lordship, as first Minister of the Crown.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANGELA G. BURDETT COUTTS.

The Right Honourable Earl Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

COLONIES
GENERAL.

No. 20.

No. 20.

COPY of a LETTER from H. WADDINGTON, Esq., to the UNDER SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Whitehall, May 5, 1866.

(Answered May 16, 1866, page 25.)

SIR,

I AM directed by Secretary Sir George Grey to transmit to you the enclosed copies of a letter from the Bishop of London, and of the petition of Miss Burdett Coutts which accompanied it, relative to Colonial Bishoprics; and to request that you will submit the same to Mr. Secretary Cardwell for his consideration.

I am, &c.

The Under Secretary of State,
&c. &c. &c.
Colonial Office.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON.

May 3.

Enclosure 1 in No. 20.

MY DEAR SIR GEORGE,

Fairlight Lodge, near Hastings, May 3, 1866.

Encl. 1. in
No. 20.

I HAVE been requested by Miss Burdett Coutts to convey to you as Secretary of State the enclosed petition to Her Majesty the Queen.

The petition, as I understand it, sets forth Miss Coutts' anxiety, arising from what she conceives to be the present danger lest the funds with which she endowed the See of Capetown, and two other Sees, on the faith of engagements publicly entered into by the Archbishops and Bishops of the United Church of England and Ireland on the one part, and the Government of Her Majesty on the other, be diverted to a purpose very different from that for which she had destined them. I understand Miss Coutts to say that she gave her endowment to the United Church as existing in these Colonies, maintaining the same doctrine and discipline as the Church at home, and subject, while they are still colonies and not independent states, to the same Royal Supremacy; but that some events which have already occurred, and others which have been announced as imminent, threaten to divert these funds to independent Episcopal Churches, not bound by or submitting to the laws of the Church at home, and openly repudiating that Royal Supremacy, the exercise of which she conceives to be one main safeguard whereby the various provinces and dioceses of the National Church are outwardly knit together in one law and discipline.

Miss Coutts has requested me to transmit to you her petition, I presume not only because I am the Bishop of the Diocese in which she resides, but also because she knows that I sympathise in the apprehensions she entertains, and because from my position as Bishop of London I am peculiarly connected with the Church in Her Majesty's Foreign or Colonial Possessions. To the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and to the Bishop of London was long since committed by law the duty of ordaining clergymen for the Colonies, and on myself and my predecessors in the See of London has chiefly devolved the performance of this duty. I am continually called, in discharge of this legal requirement, to provide clergy for those dependencies of the Crown in which no Bishop of the United Church of England and Ireland holds jurisdiction. I am naturally, therefore, very apprehensive of anything which shall substitute independent Bishops of free Churches for those whose jurisdiction we have hitherto recognised, as conceiving them bound by the same allegiance to administer the same laws with ourselves, and adhere to the same doctrine.

You may be aware, that had it not been for a recent attack of illness, from the effects of which I have not yet completely recovered, I should before now, according to notice, have called the attention of the House of Lords to the present very unsatisfactory condition of affairs in reference to the Church in certain Colonies, and to the necessity for Government endeavouring to deal with the difficulties (which have arisen) in a manner consistent with the ancient constitution of the Church and the prerogative of the Crown, and consistent also with the wishes of those members of our Church in the Colonies who earnestly deprecate anything which shall separate them from the Church at home.

The same cause which has prevented me from bringing this matter before the House of Lords deprives me of the privilege of taking my place this day in Convocation, and earnestly begging that body to dissuade the Bishop of Cape Town from the rash act, which, in his zeal for the maintenance of pure doctrine, he is commonly reported to contemplate, of consecrating a new Bishop for Natal, before the cause respecting that See, now before the courts, is decided, and before any legislative enactment has been passed to avert the confusion now threatened.

Earnestly trusting that Her Majesty's Government, on the one hand careful to maintain Her Majesty's prerogative, and on the other taking counsel with the Bishops how best to secure the