

Of course, if they merely went forth into the heathendom of themselves as individuals, with no basis of operation with the Church at home, it would be contrary to all early precedent and full of inconvenience. If these Bishops were free in reference to the formularies, doctrines, and articles of the Church, and assumed the power to found new branches of the Church, with strange doctrines, discipline, and practice, then every kind of evil might arise. We might find it difficult to know if we could maintain communion with them; and where the point was at which we should break off communion with them; and thus every possible trouble might arise to them, to the new Church, and to ourselves. Therefore, the Bishops took counsel with the first Missionary Bishops sent out, Bishop Mackenzie being of the number, with the view of providing the necessary safeguards, of defining the relation of the Missionary Bishops to the Synod of the neighbouring province, and the amount of liberty to be given to them. There were other questions suggested subsequently, and which were referred to the same joint committee of Convocation, and the committee have met and deliberated with great care and an earnest desire to come to some conclusion, which might be useful in the way of advice to our brethren out there. Of course not the slightest idea is entertained that we have any authority to direct them. We claim none whatever. At the same time, we have no right to refuse our brotherly counsel. We owe a great debt to those of our brethren whom we sent to the outskirts of Christendom, in the midst of all the temptations and difficulties from which we happily are so mercifully shielded. We owe it to them, inasmuch as they have borne the brunt of the battle, and have fought for Christ's sake among the heathen; and we ought, as far as we can, to be fellow-laborers with them, in order that we may be fellow-sharers with them in the blessedness of their reward. But we arrogate to ourselves no authority. We can only give them advice and counsel on their seeking it. And next, as we have at home learned leisure, learned men, and extensive libraries; as we have the traditions of past years to help us, we may be reasonably supposed able to give good advice to those who require it; and therefore we are bound to give them all the help and brotherly counsel in our power. It was with this intention that your Grace consented to the nomination of the joint committee of the two houses; that my right Rev. brother the Bishop of London and myself have attended its sittings; that the members of the other house have met from day to day; and at last, having regard to the various points upon which our advice is asked, have prepared a joint report containing answers to the questions sent home for our consideration, to which I believe there is no valid objection, and which I think would greatly strengthen the hands of our brethren in those distant parts. I beg to move, therefore, that the report of the joint committee presented to your Grace by my right Rev. brother the Bishop of London, be now taken into consideration, with a view, if the house pleases, to the adoption of so much of the recommendations as it may approve of, in order to their being communicated to our brethren of the South African province, as being the recommendations which we make,