

3. Previous, however, to the Bishop's return, I had devoted an anxious consideration to the whole question. I called for the assistance of such members of the Executive Council as are now in the Colony. Their opinions I have the honour to forward. I am so reluctant to oppose arrangements already approved of by the Church in England, that I particularly call your attention to the unanimous condemnation by my constituted advisers of the proposal made by the Bishop of British Columbia. Their opinion, if promulgated, would have the concurrence, I believe, of every inhabitant of the Colony.

4. Acknowledging at once the advantage which would accrue from a division of this Diocese, and the appointment of an additional Bishop, I regret to say that I think more harm than good would be done by carrying out the division in the manner proposed.

5. You are but too well aware of the jealousy existing between the two Colonies on this side of the Rocky Mountains. The merchants and owners of town lots in Victoria, in the comparatively unimportant Colony of Vancouver, have drawn nearly all the share of the profits of the gold discoveries in this Colony, which have not been absorbed in California. British Columbia, the source of wealth, has remained poor, and imagines itself neglected in every way. Its name was used as an attraction for capital, which was invested beyond its limits; its gold created a demand for a bank whose head quarters are in another Colony, for a Diocese whose See is in the rival Island. Its treasure poured forth without leaving a deposit here, and a territory of the greatest mineral wealth ran the risk of utter abandonment.

6. The feeling of injustice suffered is diminished here, since the separation of the two Colonies; yet Victoria still irritates the local jealousy by affecting, though contributing nothing to the revenue, to be the capital of British Columbia. The project of Bishop Hills, by which it is proposed that the seat of the Episcopate of British Columbia should be on Vancouver Island, with just enough of this territory annexed to justify the retention of the title, would, I feel convinced, create an amount of hostility in this Colony that would greatly impede the progress of the Church.

7. Bishop Hills himself appears to have recently held the opinion I now express. I enclose an extract from the Columbia Mission Report for 1864. His Lordship acknowledges the "rivalry" of the two Colonies, and says, "in whichever of the two is fixed the Episcopal seat, an alienation of feeling in the other will be the consequence. The best interests of religion, as well as good policy, will be served by yielding to the colonial feeling, and by gathering up all sympathies in a division of the diocese." But I enclose a portion of the Bishop's minute.

8. Until Vancouver Island is politically incorporated with British Columbia no division of the Diocese can be satisfactorily made which does not recognise and adhere to the existing territorial limits of the two Colonies.

9. I will not allow myself to follow up the subjects mooted by some of the Executive Councillors. Unquestionably, as stated, the religious destitution of the Colony is considerable, and the spirit of rivalry already alluded to leads people to count the respective numbers of the clergy on the mainland and on the outlying Island. I must, in all justice, however, with the Colonial Secretary, bear testimony to the noble results of the labours carried on, in a spirit of humility and self-denial, by the Roman Catholic missionaries among the Indians. The Reverend Fathers, however, devote their lives to the civilization and salvation of the Native races, and do not come across the miner's path.

10. New Westminster, though it may possibly feel that the Episcopal seat of the Diocese of British Columbia should not be in another and not over-friendly Colony, has little to complain of as regards the attention bestowed on it by the Church of England. The clergy and laity have worked energetically together, and as high a sense of honour and morality, as sound a tone, exists in this young town as in any with which I am acquainted.

11. But in Cariboo, the source of wealth, the centre of life of the two Colonies,—the real British Columbia,—this winter has seen a great festival. The three towns on Williams Creek were dressed in flags, and the population turned out into the streets, for it was announced that several sleighs loaded with squaws were on the road.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P. (Signed) FREDERICK SEYMOUR.
&c. &c. &c.