

The Government having declined to appoint a day of fasting in respect of the visitation of the cattle plague, the Primate addressed a letter to the Bishops calling upon them to request their clergy and congregations to observe some convenient day during Lent for that especial purpose. Several of the Bishops at once did so.

Lord Russell has made an explicit statement that the Government do not propose to offer a provision to the Irish Roman Catholic clergy, and do not contemplate appropriating any part of the revenues of the Irish Church Establishment to educational purposes.

One of the effects of the late decision in the Natal case, is to cause uneasiness as to the tenure of the Endowments. Miss Burdett Coutts having endowed the three bishoprics of Capetown, Adelaide and British Columbia, fears that under present circumstances the funds provided by her for the endowment of the respective Colonial Sees, may possibly revert to her or to her representatives. She requests that steps may be taken to give legal effect, if possible, to the arrangements which Her Majesty's Letters Patent were intended to sanction, but which are found now to be of no effect at all.

Amid all the perplexities which have arisen from that decision, the feeling is every day gaining ground that the Colonial Church must act entirely for itself, and be freed from those impediments which the Ecclesiastical law of England has been hitherto supposed to throw around it.

The formal excommunication of Dr. Colenso took place on Sunday the 7th of January, at the Cathedral of Maritzburg, at the early service, when the Dean read out the sentence as follows:—

"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—We, Robert, by Divine permission, Metropolitan of the Church in the province of Capetown, in accordance with the decision of the Bishops of the province, in Synod assembled, do hereby, it being our office and our grief to do so, by the authority of Christ committed unto us, pass upon John Wm. Colenso, D. D., the sentence of the greater excommunication, thereby separating him from the communion of the Church of Christ so long as he shall obstinately and impenitently persist in his heresy, and claim to exercise the office of a Bishop within the province of Capetown. And we do hereby make known to the faithful in Christ that, being thus excluded from all communion with the Church, he is, according to our Lord's command, and in conformity with the provisions of the Thirty-third of the Articles of Religion, 'to be taken of the whole multitude of the faithful as a heathen man and publican.'—(Matt. xviii. 17. 18.) Given under our hand and seal this 16th day of December, 1865.—R. CAPETOWN."

The "Colonial Church Chronicle" contains a notice of the first meeting of the Synod of the Diocese of Colombo. The "Declaration of Principles" passed by the Synod is identical with that of the Diocesan Synod of Capetown, except that the declaration of Colombo makes provision for the alteration of the Canons "by the Synod of this province, lawfully convened, in which this diocese shall have been fully represented." It is worthy of remark that the Synod of Colombo desire that the declaration be henceforward subscribed by all clergy to be ordained in the diocese, by all who, from England or elsewhere, shall, by the Colonial Secretary or by any other persons, be nominated to any ecclesiastical office in Ceylon, and also by future Bishops of the diocese before their enthronement.

Bishop Whitehouse has consecrated the British cemetery near Madrid (Spain), in the suburb of Caravanchel, about one mile out of the Toledo gate. The Bishop acted at the request of the chaplain of the British Legation, "and a very interesting and impressive ceremony it proved to be."

UNITED STATES—The Bp of Honolulu sailed on 1st March for his distant diocese, taking with him two clergymen for the service of the Church there. On the day of his