

They deprecate any legislation giving increased coercive power to those in authority, and express their opinion that the Prayer Book meets all difficulty of interpretation by providing that on doubtful points "the parties shall always resort to the Bishop of the diocese, and that if he be in doubt he may send for the solution thereof to the Archbishop." They express the hope that his Lordship's influence will be directed against any alteration in the present law, or any limitation of the present liberty, whether such changes be proposed in Parliament or in the Houses of Convocation.

To the memorial, the Bishop answered:—"I shall be obliged by your stating to the clergy of your deanery that I have received their address with very great pleasure; that I entirely agree in their views, and that my hands will be strengthened in resisting any such changes as they deprecate, by my knowledge that I have their support."

We noticed in our number for November that there was good hope that the re-union of the Northern and Southern Dioceses would soon be consummated. That hope has as yet been but partially realized. Several of the Southern Dioceses hold themselves aloof. The following extracts from a letter addressed by Bishop Wilmer, of Alabama, to the presiding Bishop, Bp. Hopkins, of Vermont, will serve to shew the feeling that exists in the South on this subject:—

"The Southern deputies themselves may very naturally be supposed to have some sentiment in this matter. Their sons and brothers lie in bloody graves—their lands are desolate, and strangers devour it in their presence—their emancipated slaves garrison their cities—they live themselves, as yet, under the ban—their representative man, no guiltier than themselves, is in bonds, and may have to die an ignominious death. The whole Southern people, therefore, are at this moment awaiting trial in the person of their representative head; they are denounced as felons, and a shackled press is forbidden to speak a word of vindication or remonstrance.

"Your own heart, good Bishop, will tell you that men in such a condition are in no mood to join in jubilate over a restoration which is sealed by their degradation. The peace for which *Te Deums* will be chanted is purchased by the loss of their inheritance, and they are now sitting in the deep valley of humiliation."

"The men of the South have no desire to prolong the hopeless conflict. They accept the failure of their effort as a fact, and, as Christian men, will render a faithful allegiance to 'the powers that be,' for God's sake; but it is asking too much of them that they shall swell the pageant which celebrates their subjugation.

"Some time, Bishop, must be given to the heart to school itself. Our people are in no mood for joyous congratulations. They are not yet out of mourning for their dead. It is easy for you to come together and to join heartily in laudates for peace and re-union. Yours is the victorious section. It is easy for him who triumphs to forgive; and from your stand-point you can thank God with a full heart. We are trying to forgive and forget, and, lifting up our hearts to God from the dust, we are trying to say, 'Thy will be done.'"

The General Council of the Southern States assembled at Augusta, Ga., on Nov. 8, at which place full delegations attended from Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. The Council passed a resolution changing the name of the Church to "The Protestant Episcopal Church of the Associated Dioceses of the United States;" prayers were authorized for the President of the United States, and wherever "Confederate" occurred in the Prayer-books, it is replaced by "United." The resolution intended to seal the re-union was passed with scarcely any opposition, and reads thus:

*Resolved*, That in the judgment of this Council, it is perfectly consistent with the good faith which she owes to the Bishops and dioceses with which she has been in union since 1862, for any diocese to decide for herself whether she shall any longer continue in union with this Council.