

reported that his refusal has been made on personal grounds, and not because the diocese of Natal is not considered to be vacant. It is understood that the Archbishop of Canterbury is in favour of an early consecration, inasmuch as there are no legal difficulties to be surmounted; the new bishop will be consecrated as the bishop of a free and voluntary body in communion with the Church of England, but not in communion with that body of which Dr. Colenso claims to be the chief pastor. The only possible difficulties lie in the necessary provision to be made for the new bishop, and in the possession of the Churches and other properties in the colony. It may be that these may remain for a time at least in possession of the Colensoites, but there is not in this fact a sufficient reason for not appointing a bishop, who shall keep together the scattered flock of Christ, and preserve them from the wiles of the arch heretic.

At a meeting of the Leeds Church Institute, which was held on the 6th of November, the Earl of Carnarvon, who in his late position of Colonial Secretary rendered by his speeches such important aid to the Colonial Church in the matter of Letters Patent, made an excellent speech on the present aspect of affairs in the Church of England. He spoke plainly about the evils of sectarianism, and the tendency it exhibits to subdivision; and he told his hearers, what many among them, perhaps, would do well to lay to heart, that there is no rest to be obtained among dissenters; they are incessantly changing, incessantly subdividing. The Baptist sect has divided into five sections; the Wesleyan denomination (to quote the speaker's words) after an existence of scarcely a century, has divided itself into nine. And as it ever is that when some ancient and stately forest tree is cut down, there spring up in its stead an endless diversity of wild flowers, gay and attractive and brilliant, yet lasting but for a brief space, and then decaying and dying away, so it is true that if the true Church of Christ is weakened or perishes, then spring up an endless variety of sects, transitory by the very terms of their foundation, soon to die and give place to others, or leave the ground utterly barren, a home for misery and sin. But it seems to us that the speaker erred very grievously, when he expressed his view that the noble tree of which he spoke, the Church, the Catholic Church of England, would be cut down by being disestablished. None can doubt the loss, the loss to the Church, and the yet greater loss to the nation, which would be gained by such a step; but her best and heartiest members, nay all her members who are so in any and every degree of sincerity and truth, do not belong to her because she is established, but because she is a real and true and living branch of the One Holy and Apostolic Church, founded by our Lord and Saviour upon earth. All such would still abide in the Vine, which would not by being deprived of its state emoluments and position, be thereby severed from the one stem and root. Nor would the differences of opinion, which now exist in the Church of England, necessarily rend her one whit more were she disestablished; the result might be rather the contrary, that her members would be drawn more together, as in the presence of a common danger. How otherwise does the Church hold together here in Can-