

Bishops, rendered powerless to correct the most flagrant abuses. The issue we now see in that lamentable want of discipline, amounting almost to anarchy; and the Church which boasted so loudly, and built so largely on her theory of uniformity, now presented to the world as utterly bewildered in the attempt to harmonize her ritualists.

I earnestly trust that I shall be supported by both Clergy and Laity in perpetuating our own immunity from excesses which only spring from transgressing the laws laid down for our guidance in the Prayer Book, and if these rules be broken, either by omission or addition, that the discipline of the Church should be vindicated with firm impartiality, will be the verdict of "all sober, peaceable and truly conscientious sons of the Church of England."

COLONIAL BISHOPS' BILL.

A most important Bill was introduced in the last Session of the Imperial Parliament by the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney General, styled the "Colonial Bishops' Bill." This bill was submitted by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to a Committee, of which the Bishops of Oxford, Gloucester, Grahamstown, Adelaide, and Ontario were members. With some modifications it was approved, and I have no doubt would have become law, but for the resignation of the late Ministry. Some legislation evidently became necessary in order to relieve Colonially ordained Clergymen from disabilities to which they became liable in consequence of the recent judgments of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. By an Act passed in the 59th, George III, Cap. 60, it is enacted that "No person ordained Deacon or Priest by any Colonial Bishop, not having Episcopal Jurisdiction within some Diocese, and residing therein, may hold Ecclesiastical preferment anywhere in Her Majesty's Dominions, or officiate at any place, or in any manner, as 'Minister of the Established Church of England and Ireland.'" Now, since it has been decided that Episcopal Jurisdiction was not conferred (as was intended) by the Letters Patent, all those who have been ordained by Bishops in such a position seem to be subject to these disqualifications contrary to the intention of the law, and to the very serious injury of both themselves and of many other persons. The chief object of the bill is, therefore, to give validity to appointments and ministerial Acts in case of Ordinations by Bishops not having Jurisdiction in the place of their residence, and I have good hope that the bill may become law. That some legislation on the whole question of the status of the Colonial Church will take place I have no doubt, because the authorities at home are beginning to see what I ventured to affirm a year and a half ago, "that the whole tendency of recent decisions in England is to make us drift into the status of the Episcopal Churches of America and Scotland in our relation to the United Church of England and Ireland." In fact there is a disintegrating process going on in the Church of the Empire. Many persons in England view this state of things with concern, not so much because on Scriptural and Catholic grounds they ought to work in favor of Unity, but because they fear that the spectacle of independent Colonial Churches may prove an inconvenient precedent and react on the Established Church of England; others again anticipating the time when, what are now Colonies, will contain more members of the Church, both Clerical and Lay, than England herself does at present, are naturally