

DIVISION OF THE DIOCESE—GOVERNOR SEYMOUR'S OPINION.

The Bishop hoped on his return to England, to have furthered the division of the Diocese, but he has not seen his way to press the subject. Nothing has proved so effectual to cause increase of clergy and means in any colonial district, as the establishment of the Episcopate. A permanency is imparted to the work, which gives confidence to all concerned. A leader of experience is secured, who brings helpers with him. More local aid is called forth. The young Church is fostered in its early stages with more constant care and oversight. Not having to be away for many months on long journeys over a vast and widespread diocese, the Bishop can bestow more attention upon central religious objects in the chief town, where he resides.

A subdivision of British Columbia and Vancouver is required on account both of their *extent* and *rivalry*. They are as large as France and England. They have never drawn willingly together. The Imperial Government have recently yielded to this feeling, and sent out two governors in place of one, with entirely separate administration. The difficulty of uniting the two colonies in one diocesan action will be greater than before. 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.

Governor Seymour, in his address to the Legislative Council of British Columbia on the 8th of April, 1864, thus speaks of the importance of separate administration of the two colonies:—

“And now I must notice your resolution of yesterday's date: protesting against any union with the Colony of Vancouver, I shall forward that resolution to his Grace the Secretary of State, and strongly express my opinion that British Columbia has grown too large for a return to the old system to be possible. Whether union under other conditions might hereafter be acceptable, I am at present unable to say. I would however observe, that from my short experience I am inclined to think that an efficient administration of the affairs of British Columbia alone would be enough to require the whole attention of a Governor.”

Vancouver and Columbia being distinct colonies, with two Governors, should now have also their two Bishops. The fostering and organization of the Church, and the religious welfare of the people, are at least as important as the secular interests of the State. No time should be lost. The following step has been taken. At a meeting of the Colonial Bishops Council,