

England in the Colonies in the completeness of its order and discipline to be one of the distinctions and privileges of his Episcopate.

The declaration, however, of the state of the law which is to be found in the report of the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council upon the case of the Bishops of Cape Town and Natal, has drawn my attention more particularly to the fact, that the conditions upon which I undertook to make provisions for the endowment of a Bishop's See at Cape Town have not been [fulfilled by Her Majesty's Letters Patent, as I find, with the most painful surprise, that the Bishop nominated to the See of Cape Town is declared in that report not to have any effective Ecclesiastical jurisdiction; and my anxiety is increased by the advice which I have received from eminent counsel that the Letters Patent of the Crown, purporting to erect the Sees of Adelaide, of British Columbia, and Vancouver Island, with jurisdiction over the clergy in those Colonies, may prove to be equally ineffectual with the Letters Patent of Cape Town.

I had considered it probable that I should receive some communication from your Grace on the part of the Committee of Archbishops and Bishops respecting the course they might deem it expedient to pursue, in order to secure that due effect should be given to our common intentions, and I have hitherto abstained from troubling your Grace with any inquiry upon a subject involving many interests, and necessarily requiring very careful consideration. But as the Session is now closed, and as life is uncertain, I think it advisable not to delay any longer applying to your Grace for information upon this subject, and more particularly to inquire whether your Grace and the Committee have received any communication from the Ministers of the Crown. I am informed that if no further measures are adopted to give legal effect to the arrangements which Her Majesty's Letters Patent were intended to sanction, and were supposed to have sanctioned effectively, the funds provided by me for the endowment of these Colonial Sees may possibly revert to me as founder, or to my representatives. It will, therefore, be my duty to provide for such an eventuality; and as my position has so unexpectedly become one of responsibility, anxiety, and suspense, may I request your Grace to communicate this letter at your earliest convenience to the Committee of Archbishops and Bishops, and to place it upon their records.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ANGELA GEORGINA BURDETT COUTTS.

His Grace

The Archbishop of Canterbury.

No. 19.

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COPY of a LETTER from MISS BURDETT COUTTS to the Right Honourable
EARL RUSSELL, K.G.

MY DEAR LORD,

Ehrenburg Hall, Torquay, December 28, 1865.

THE recent interpretation of the state of the law given by the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council in the case of the Bishops of Cape Town and Natal has, no doubt, already attracted your Lordship's attention, both from the gravity of the general principles involved in it, and its reactive consequences, as regards the ancient jurisdiction of the Crown in this kingdom over the State Ecclesiastical throughout its dominions. But its more immediate effects upon the position of the founders of certain colonial bishoprics purporting to have been erected by Letters Patent of the Crown may not hitherto have been prominently brought under your notice. I beg, therefore, to enclose to your Lordship the copy of a letter which, as founder of the Bishoprics of Adelaide, Cape Town, and British Columbia, I addressed, in the month of July last*, to the Archbishop of Canterbury, as Official President of the Council of Archbishops and Bishops which, with the sanction of the Crown, arranged the measures which led to the erection of those Bishoprics. I am still awaiting information as to the measures which that Council may propose to adopt, in concert with the Ministers of the Crown, in order to fulfil the intentions of those persons whose monies they hold in trust for the specific objects which the Letters Patent of the Crown were supposed to have effected. Meanwhile the progress of circumstances has not tended to diminish my anxiety as to the situation in which I have found myself unexpectedly placed. A letter has recently been made public, on the part of the Bishop of Cape Town, in which the Bishop assumes to be irresponsible as regards the Crown, and seems prepared (if funds should be forthcoming) to appoint a new Bishop of Natal. The five Bishops of New Zealand have also combined to surrender their Letters Patent, and have constituted themselves, with the concurrence

* Page 20.