

Melbourne, June 4, 1850

No 2

My dear Bishop of Sydney,

I will not add any more upon this page to what I have said upon another about the very painful matter of Mr Ruse, but proceed at once to other topics.

Your remarks concerning the bill which Mr Moor has been preparing are very just, and, upon receiving your letter, I lost no time in communicating with him upon the subject. You will remember, that when my thoughts were turned to the necessity of a Church Act for this Diocese, I had no idea of it extending beyond my own Ecclesiastical jurisdiction. Afterwards however Mr Moor expressed his intention, as an independent

The Right Rev
The Lord Bishop of Sydney.

Members of Council to make it
applicable to the whole Colony; but
at the same time he said, that
he would send copies of it previously
to your Lordship's Registrar, and to
the Registrar of the Bp of Newcastle,
so that ~~he~~ might receive any
alterations, or additions, which
either of you might suggest. They
the matter rested; but when I said
him the other day, he told me, that
he and Mr Whelan, whom he had
consulted about it, thought that
the bill had better be limited as I
had at first proposed: but he is de-
sires to pass it through the present
Council; both to save time, and
also because he does not know
what obstacles he might have
to encounter in a Port Phillip
legislature.

I have spoken of "a bill"; but there
are in fact two proposed to be intro-
duced; one for the Maintenance &
Church Discipline, which is founded
upon that of Victoria - and in force
at home; and the other in lieu
of the present Church Act. The former
is ^{that which} Mr Moor at first Anticipated
only, ^{but} extending to the whole Colony. The
latter contains one clause, which
I ~~was~~ very anxious to introduce,
but which may occasion much
difference of opinion. Its object is to
impart the right of nominating the
Minister of a Church, whenever a
vacancy may occur, upon the Church-
wards for the time being, subject
to the approval of the Bishop. The present
system, according to which the right of
making all clerical appointments
is claimed by Her Majesty's Government,
while it is practically exercised by the

Bishop, is most unsatisfactory and
insecure.

I have to thank your Lordship
for the copy of your letter to His
Excellency the Governor relative to
the precedence granted by Earl Grey
to the Bishops of the Church of Rome.
I need scarcely say, that I heartily
concure in the representation, which
you have requested His Excellency
to make to the Lords of State for the
Colonies; those vague and in-
curate language is, if I may
use such an expression, altogether
unpardonable.

My time is just now so fully
occupied, that I must hasten to
subscribe myself, very Dear
Bishop of Exeter, your M^{ost}
affectionate brother in the Lord,
C. Melbourne