

Tuesday Jan 7 1851. Special general meeting of land-purchasers called for the purpose of electing a new council.

Previous to the transaction of the special business ~~of the meeting~~, the Bishop of New Zealand, who had been waited on by a deputation ~~of~~ from the council to request his attendance here, addressed the meeting. He explained the reason why his consent had not been obtained to the severance of the diocese of New Zealand in order to create Dr. Jackson Bishop of the Middle Island - because he had never had official notice of the intention of the Canterbury Association to demand such an increase of territory for their own bishop. Besides it was in opposition to his cherished idea of founding three bishoprics in New Zealand - one for the Government settlements, one for the ~~Canterbury~~ Company's in Cooks Straits, and the other for the district south ~~of~~ and inclusive of the Canterbury Settlement, to Stewart's Island. As it was probable therefore that Dr. Jackson would arrive unconsecrated he was for the present their diocesan and he ~~therefore~~ accordingly desired to consult with the body of land-purchasers as to the best mode of carrying out the religious and educational part of the scheme designed by the Canterbury Assoc.n. He had formerly in a published letter recommended for this colony as a cure for inevitable dispersion the system of parochial associations and that each little community though separated from others might have its pastor and its church. He would therefore desire to know on his return in about three weeks whether the minds of purchasers had been in the interval sufficiently made up as to where they wd. settle to enable him to apportion the clergy to each, according to the wishes of each community. He then recommended voluntary aid to be given by the Ecclesiastical Fund until land-sales should swell that fund, as the remuneration was far lower than in the neighbouring settlements, and much too low. He also recommended the colonists to take into consideration the question of ecclesiastical and diocesan synods, a subject which was then occupying the minds of the clergy of the Australasian colonies. His Lordship concluded by expressing his cordial sympathy with the scheme and the individual colonists, and assured them of his earnest cooperation on their behalf.

*The colonists in assistance of the small stipend paid out of the*

Mr. Fitzgerald after moving the thanks of the meeting to the Bishop for his kind attendance at their meeting, explained to the satisfaction of his Lordship that the proposed alteration in the limits of the jurisdiction of the new Bishop of Lyttelton had been insisted on by Government and was opposed to the views of the Assocn.

Mr. Brittan secd. the motion and confirmed Mr. Fitzgerald's statement.

The immediate business of the day was then proceeded with. The Secretary received the voting papers from all present. Some discussion then took place as to the right of holders of duplicate land-orders for selection merely to vote for the owners represented by such land-orders.