Private
RBC2-19-d-7
BC151 C10.4 #4
FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
SIR GEO. GREY'S COLLECTION
AUCKLAND.

4

Capetown, 20 October
1863

My Dear Sir George,

To day the ship Brothers Pride, Capt. Glendinning, for Canterbury, will take this letter together with a parcel, containing among other things, a manuscript copy of the rough Catalogue of the portion of your Library received from England. It includes also the poem "Ye fighte for ye Weddinge Cake" and the Cape translation of the Confessions of a Missionary.

This

BC151 C10·4

This translation has been made by Mr. A. de Smidt Junr., as I may tell you in confidence. Things are indeed greatly changing at the Cape, and the progress of more enlightened views is great during the last few years. I just looked in this morning at the sitting of the Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church, – in which it was to be decided what is to be done in the case of the Revd. J. J. Kotzé, son of the Member of Parliament for Capetown. He had asserted last year in the Synod, that a passage in their Catechism was contradictory both to common sense and to the meaning (intention) of the Catechism itself, as expressed in other passages. This created a violent commotion, and he was called upon to retract his words, and otherwise threatened with suspension, and ultimately with deprivation. But at that time the sudden termination through a lawsuit of the sittings of the Synod interrupted the proceedings taken against him. This year, however, the matter has again been taken up by the Synod, and is likely to end in a lawsuit, the final issue of which will probably be determined by the Privy Council.

The Bishop of Natal's case is to come on here on November 17th.

He

He has, however, no intention of appearing in person, but he will only send a letter, which he wishes me to deliver formally as his representative to the Bishop of Capetown's Registrar. In it he will deny firstly the Bishop of Capetown's jurisdiction, and secondly in case proceedings are taken in spite of this denial, to assert that the publication of the passages quoted in the charges do not constitute any offence against the Laws of the Church of England. In fact in England it is generally

under

BC 151 C10.4

understood that the decision in Mr. Wilson's (the Essayist's) case will be entirely on his side, overthrowing all Lushington's condemnatory judgment and leaving only the wide door open, which his favorable conclusions gave to the party of progress for future operations. If this should be so (and I hear from good authority that the Bishop of Oxford has told the Bishop of Capetown in a late letter that he knew for certain already that Wilson would win his case),

BL 151 C10·4

then it would be ridiculous for the Bishop of Capetown to call the Bishop of Natal to account. The very charges brought against the latter are in all their main features identically the same as those against Messrs. Wilson and Williams. I do not know whether you have seen Mr. Wilson's speech, a most able and important document?— Should the Bishop of Capetown, however, persist and proceed to find the Bishop of Natal guilty, and pronounce sentence upon him, then the latter wishes notice of Appeal to the Privy Council to be given.

The fourth part of the Bishop of Natal's publication will probably appear in November. It will be limited to an Analysis of the first ten chapters of Genesis, with remarks on the Creation, the Fall and the Flood. This promises to be a popular book. The latest accounts from Holland mention the arrival there of the Bishop of Natal, who met with an enthusiastic welcome in the Universities. He was also to visit Ger-

Germany.

Of Cape news I may mention that Murray has left the Argus, which is now entirely in Solomon's hands. Murray is about to establish a new paper at Grahamstown, called "the Great Eastern."

The book cases for your Library are nearly finished, and are being put up now, - so that shortly I shall be able to go to work there, catalogueising, &c.

I have an idea in my mind of trying to start a publication society, for the purpose of publishing the many valuable manuscripts in your Library. It appears to be such a pity that for

BC 151 . C10.4

for want of funds we shall hardly be able to publish anything here at the Cape; and the circumstances are such that we cannot well expect any increase of funds in this Colony. But I believe that we should find in England enough support for such an undertaking. It would, however, be necessary to be at the spot; and if I can persuade the good folks here to let me go for this purpose, I hope to be in England in June next for a few summer months. -

Regarding my Hottentot Fables, I am sorry to say that

Trübner

BC 151 C10.4

Trübner seems very dilatory. Three Mails already I have looked in vain for a letter from him announcing the arrival of my Manuscript. I hear, however, that he was on a visit to Germany for sanatory purposes.

I am in very good health; I was lately in some little anxiety regarding my wife's health, but I am glad to say that she is now doing better. Our daughter is very well and strong.

We follow with great interest all the New Zealand news, and trust soon to hear that though the strong arm had necessarily at last to be resorted to against those who would not appreciate your long forbearance, - yet these sad necessities will soon be over for you. We should be so gladly if you had again leisure for more peaceable pursuits.

With our joint best wishes, and my love,

believe me,

most faithfully

W. H. I. Bleek.

His Excellency

Sir George Grey K. C. B.