

## Report, No. 12, of Committee on Canons.

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### ON A MISSIONARY EPISCOPATE FOR THE COLORED PEOPLE.

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The Committee on Canons, to whom was referred a proposed Canon for erecting a Missionary Episcopal jurisdiction over associated parishes of the colored race, respectfully report :

Even if this church were prepared to recognize by law the difference between its white and colored members, and provide for their separate organization either into parishes or Episcopal jurisdictions, we think that the mode of doing so, as provided in this proposed Canon, would be for many reasons inexpedient, and that it could be properly and efficiently done only after a change in the Constitution.

While we do not absolutely assert that the proposed Canon would be unconstitutional, yet it trenches so closely on Article IV. that for this reason alone we would deprecate its adoption. But, waiving for the present the constitutional objections and those founded on the proposed line of distinction between the white and colored races, we are of opinion that other and fatal objections present themselves in the proposed Canon.

1st. If we had the right to provide by Canon for the erection of a Missionary Jurisdiction within one or more organized Dioceses, with the consent of the Bishops and Conventions of the respective Dioceses, yet the difficulty, if not impossibility, of obtaining any such consent, which on change of views could not, and on death of the Bishop would not, be withdrawn, and the many complications which would almost certainly arise under such a change of views, or under many other supposable contingencies, should deter us from adopting the system here proposed for solving a problem the inherent difficulties of which we all fully recognize.

2d. This Canon proposes an Episcopal jurisdiction "*in personas*" within the territorial jurisdiction of another Bishop. We think that such a proposition antagonizes the history and traditional policy of the Church, and the essential elements of Episcopal jurisdiction which, from the first, has been territorial and not personal.

But the real and essential question which meets us at the forefront of this whole matter, and which we think the Church should first determine before discussing plans and modes of procedure, is that first alluded to in this report, namely: Shall the Church, in its law of parochial or diocesan organizations, draw or recognize a line of distinction between its white and its colored members? We think this should not be done, and we therefore, for this reason alone, and without reference to those founded on unconstitutionality or inexpediency, recommend that the Canon be not adopted, and present the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Canons be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

By order of the Committee,

DANIEL R. GOODWIN,

*Chairman.*