

Dec. 1857.

TRASPASO de Jurisdiccim

until recently belonging to the Kingdom of Spain, and the said Missions and the clergy serving in them have been under the control and episcopal direction of the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Antigua for the time being, and the church buildings and other church property have been purchased or erected chiefly from funds collected or obtained in Great Britain by the Bishop of Antigua and the missionary clergy serving under him, and the said buildings are lawfully held by the Bishop of Antigua and other trustees and custodians to be used for the purposes of the Church of England Mission aforesaid; and

WHEREAS, the Islands of Porto Rico and Vieques have recently by conquest been annexed by the United States of America and no longer belong to Spain; and

WHEREAS, there is in the United States a fully organized Church designated the Protestant Episcopal Church of America, which is in full communion with the Church of England, and the said Church is able, willing, and desirous to undertake the responsibility of the Missions of the Church of England in the aforesaid islands now belonging to the United States, and to extend the mission work of the Church in the aforesaid islands, and it is probable that the said branch of the Anglican Communion in the United States will be able to provide more fully for the spiritual needs of the aforesaid islands than it has been heretofore or is probable in the future to be possible for the Bishop of Antigua to do, having regard to the resources in men and money at his command, and it is undesirable that there should be missions of our communion in those islands under separate jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Protestant Episcopal Church of America has undertaken to pay the Bishop of Antigua the sum of \$750, for the purpose of covering outstanding liabilities for the aforesaid Church buildings and property, and of refunding for use for other purposes of the Church of England in the Diocese of Antigua monies which have been diverted from such purposes to the benefit of the Missions in the said islands, but not to refund any other monies given for the purposes of the said buildings and property;

Be it known to all Christian people, that for the reasons above set forth, the Bishop of Antigua hereby withdraws any right which by custom, use, or law, he has had, or has, or may now have, to episcopal jurisdiction in the Islands of Porto Rico and Vieques aforesaid, and hereby transfers his rights of jurisdiction and his rights over the buildings and property aforesaid to the Protestant Episcopal Church of America; and as regards the said buildings and property, he promises to execute any legal document that may be requisite, so far as he is concerned, to give full and legal effect to the intentions and purposes herein expressed, and if there be any other persons who, as trustees or otherwise, have rights in or over the said buildings or property he will request them to become parties to such further deeds of transfer as may be needed as aforesaid.

[Signatures.]

[SEAL]

Bishop of Antigua.

I approve for and on behalf of the Provincial Synod of the West Indies; and so far as in me lies, I confirm the transfer of jurisdiction, buildings, and property aforesaid.

[SEAL]

Archbishop of the West Indies.

I accept the transfer of jurisdiction, buildings, and property aforesaid on behalf of the Protestant Episcopal Church of America.

[SEAL]

Bishop of

On behalf of the Protestant Episcopal Church of America.

On motion, the Bishops went into Council.

The Council having risen, the House resumed its session.

The Bishop of Albany, from the Committee on Increased Responsibilities, presented the following report [see pp. 22, 26]:

The Committee on Increased Responsibilities reports that it has met and considered various matters which relate to the duty of the Church in Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands.

They respectfully recommend to the House of Bishops that the House accept the proposed agreement between the Archbishop of the West Indies, the Bishop of Antigua, and the Presiding Bishop; provided that the payment of compensation for Church property in Porto Rico do not exceed \$750.

And they would further recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. Resolved, That the Islands of Porto Rico and Vieques be constituted a Missionary District of this Church.

2. Resolved, That this action be communicated to the Board of Missions, together with the instrument proposed to be signed by the Presiding Bishop in connection with the Lord Bishop of Antigua and his Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies, and that the Board of Missions be asked to instruct the Board of Managers to pay the amount agreed upon in the instrument presented herewith.

3. Resolved, That the House recommends to the Presiding Bishop that he sign the proposed instrument by which jurisdiction over the Islands of Porto Rico and Vieques is transferred from the Church of England to the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

The Committee also recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

4. Resolved, That the Philippine Islands be constituted a Missionary District of this Church.

WM. CROSWELL DOANE, Chairman.

The question being on the first resolution recommended by the Committee, it was adopted; and, on motion, the Secretary was instructed to communicate this action to the House of Deputies and to the Board of Missions.

The question being on the second resolution, it was adopted.

The question being on the third resolution, it was adopted.

The question being on the fourth resolution, it was adopted; and, on motion, the Secretary was instructed to communicate this action to the House of Deputies and to the Board of Missions.

[Action on the first and the fourth resolutions communicated to the House of Deputies by Message No. 9.]

The instrument or agreement to which reference is made in the foregoing report is as follows:

To all Christian People to whom these presents shall come:

WHEREAS, Missions of the Church of England have been established and for many years maintained in the islands of Porto Rico and Vieques,

until recently belonging to the Kingdom of Spain, and the said Missions and the clergy serving in them have been under the control and episcopal direction of the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Antigua for the time being, and the church buildings and other church property have been purchased or erected chiefly from funds collected or obtained in Great Britain by the Bishop of Antigua and the missionary clergy serving under him, and the said buildings are lawfully held by the Bishop of Antigua and other trustees and custodians to be used for the purposes of the Church of England Mission aforesaid; and

WHEREAS, the Islands of Porto Rico and Vieques have recently by conquest been annexed by the United States of America and no longer belong to Spain; and

WHEREAS, there is in the United States a fully organized Church designated the Protestant Episcopal Church of America, which is in full communion with the Church of England, and the said Church is able, willing, and desirous to undertake the responsibility of the Missions of the Church of England in the aforesaid islands now belonging to the United States, and to extend the mission work of the Church in the aforesaid islands, and it is probable that the said branch of the Anglican Communion in the United States will be able to provide more fully for the spiritual needs of the aforesaid islands than it has been heretofore or is probable in the future to be possible for the Bishop of Antigua to do, having regard to the resources in men and money at his command, and it is undesirable that there should be missions of our communion in those islands under separate jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Protestant Episcopal Church of America has undertaken to pay the Bishop of Antigua the sum of \$750, for the purpose of covering outstanding liabilities for the aforesaid Church buildings and property, and of refunding for use for other purposes of the Church of England in the Diocese of Antigua monies which have been diverted from such purposes to the benefit of the Missions in the said islands, but not to refund any other monies given for the purposes of the said buildings and property;

Be it known to all Christian people, that for the reasons above set forth, the Bishop of Antigua hereby withdraws any right which by custom, use, or law, he has had, or has, or may now have, to episcopal jurisdiction in the Islands of Porto Rico and Vieques aforesaid, and hereby transfers his rights of jurisdiction and his rights over the buildings and property aforesaid to the Protestant Episcopal Church of America; and as regards the said buildings and property, he promises to execute any legal document that may be requisite, so far as he is concerned, to give full and legal effect to the intentions and purposes herein expressed, and if there be any other persons who, as trustees or otherwise, have rights in or over the said buildings or property he will request them to become parties to such further deeds of transfer as may be needed as aforesaid.

[SEAL]

[Signatures.]

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