Sept. 16, 1923
Mountain Lake, N.J.

My dear Bishop Colenso,

As I told you in my last letter written from New York I was fortunate enough to have a conference with Dr. Wobbe and was happy to see that in him we have a very good friend and real interest in the welfare of the Church in Porto Rico.

He said, however, that owing to the recent catastrophes in Japan the Board would be unable to do as much for us as they wish. Still he was hopeful that we should not have many months to wait.

It seemed to me best to state clearly to Dr. Wobbe that was in my mind and what I thought would be the best for the Church in Porto Rico—avoid complicated procedure, and yet be in conformity with present laws and sanctioned by practice. This is that the Church of Jesus with its full ministry should become a part of the Episcopal Church, and therefore necessarily within your jurisdiction; that the Board of Missions accept the responsibility at once with the approval of the Presiding Bishop which can be confirmed by the concurrence of the Bishops.

The ecclesiastical status would become automatically that of Bishop Conjugator, unless the Church assigns the jurisdiction somewhere else.
I can see, my dear Bishop, how clear the matter is if you accept the Church of Jesus with its clergy. You accept both priest and bishop. The bishop cannot be deprived of his office except by ecclesiastical power, and cannot exercise his office in the jurisdiction of another, unless as authorized by the bishop of said diocese.

A bishop attached canonically to another diocese becomes necessarily coadjutor of the diocese.

This arrangement could continue permanently or could be changed later on if the Church so desires.

It occurred to me that Dr. Wood was very favorably impressed with this suggestion, so he immediately authorized me to write you as I did, advising that I should delay my going to Padre Rico until you should come north so that we might arrange to take the transfer of the property and all other details in time for them to be presented at the meeting of the National Council, which takes place, believe, Oct. 1875.

With regard to Probate and any other arrangements, be free to do what you think best. I will take care of the Church of Ponce if you so desire, and transfer the property here, and when we return hold a special convention to communicate what has been decided to the clergy and organize the parishes and the work.

In other words, your plan of putting Melleo to temporarily in Ponce and Dictor in Debrada Siquén meets my approval. It only depends on whether...
In view of coming changes you think best to do it now, or leave it for afterwards.

We expect to take Euletta to the Connecticut College tomorrow, and return here.

Mrs. Ferrando joins me in inviting you to come to us. When you come North, and if Mrs. Colman is coming with you, we shall be delighted to have her as frequent visitor. We have just received word from Mrs. Ferrando's brother that her father is rapidly failing, and the end may come at any moment.

We are all very glad to know that your health is not suffering as much as we had feared - and all join in good wishes and greetings to you and Mrs. Colman and her family.

As ever, cordially and faithfully,

Manuel Ferrando