

LETTERS PATENT creating the  
Diocese of Nelson New Zealand.

VICTORIA by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith TO all to whom these Presents shall come Greeting WHEREAS in and by certain Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Our said United Kingdom bearing date at Westminster the Sixteenth day of November in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and Forty and in the Fourth year of Our Reign We did erect the Islands of New Zealand and all other the Islands adjacent thereto and lying between the Thirty fourth degree thirty minutes North to the forty seventh degree ten minutes South Latitude and between the One hundred and Sixty sixth degree five minutes to the One hundred and Seventy ninth degree of East Longitude (reckoning from the Meridian of Greenwich) into a separate Colony AND whereas We did also in and by Our Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Our said United Kingdom bearing date the Fourteenth day of October in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and Forty One and in the Fifth year of Our Reign Erect Found Make Ordain and constitute the said Colony of New Zealand into a Bishop's See or Diocese and did decree and ordain that the same should be styled "The Bishopric of New Zealand" and did nominate and appoint George Augustus Selwyn Clerk to be the Bishop and ordinary Pastor of the said See so that the said George Augustus Selwyn should be and be taken to be Bishop of the See of New Zealand and might by virtue of Our nomination and appointment enter into and possess the said Bishop's See without any let or impediment of Us Our heirs or successors for the term of his natural life Subject however to such provisions as to his resignation as in the said Letters Patent are more particularly expressed AND whereas the said George Augustus Selwyn (having been first duly consecrated thereto) took upon himself the Office of and became and was Bishop of the said See so as aforesaid constituted until his resignation thereof herein after set forth AND whereas by Letters Patent bearing date the Thirty first day of July One Thousand Eight hundred and Fifty six and in accordance with the provisions of a certain Statute made and passed in the Parliament held in

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the Fifteenth and Sixteenth years of Our Reign entitled "An Act to remove doubts as to the constitution of the Bishop of Christchurch in New Zealand" and to enable Her Majesty to constitute such Bishopric and to subdivide the Diocese of New Zealand We did erect found make ordain and constitute certain portions of the said Colony into a District and Seperate See or Diocese styled The Bishopric of Christchurch AND whereas in and by the aforesaid Letters Patent of the Fourteenth day of October *in* the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and Forty one We did express our Royal Will that if the said Bishop of New Zealand or any of his Successors should by Instrument under his hand and seal delivered or sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury for the time being and to be by him accepted and registered in his office of Faculties resign the office of Bishop of New Zealand such Bishop should forthwith cease to be Bishop of New Zealand to all Intents and purposes AND whereas the said George Augustus Selwyn heretofore Bishop of New Zealand hath by an Instrument under his hand and Seal bearing date the Twenty sixth day of November in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and fifty seven delivered or sent to his Grace John Bird by Divine Providence Archbishop of Canterbury and by him duly accepted and registered in his Grace's said Office of Faculties fully simply and absolutely resigned yielded up and surrendered his said office of Bishop of New Zealand and hath thereby ceased to be Bishop of New Zealand to all intents and purposes whereby the said See or Diocese is now vacant HND whereas it hath been represented unto us that the said See or Diocese so as aforesaid constituted and so vacant as aforesaid is *of* inconvenient extent and that for the due and spiritual care of the Inhabitants thereof and for the maintenance of the Doctrine and discipline of the United Church of England **and** Ireland within the same it is expedient that the same should be divided into several distinct and seperate Sees and Dioceses and that one of such Dioceses should be styled the Bishopric of Nelson NOW know ye that We taking the Premises into our Royal consideration Do by these Our Letters Patent under our Great Seal of Our

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United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland erect found make ordain and constitute All that portion of the Middle Island otherwise called New Munster and the Islands adjacent thereto as lies to the Northward of a Geographical line drawn across the said Island at the parallel Forty three degrees five minutes of South latitude being the Northward boundary of the Diocese of Christchurch into a distinct and seperate See or Diocese and do declare and ordain that the same shall be styled "The Bishopric of Nelson" saving nevertheless to us Our heirs and successors the power of altering from time to time with the consent of the Archbishop of Canterbury for the time being if the said See be vacant or otherwise of the said Archbishop of Canterbury and of the Bishop of the said See of Nelson for the time being the limits of the said Diocese of Nelson and of the Jurisdiction of the Bishop thereof AMD We do further by these Our Letters Patent ordain and constitute the Town of Nelson in the Province of Nelson to be a Bishop's See and the seal of the said Bishop and do ordain that the said Town of Nelson shall be a City AND We do further hereby ordain and declare that it shall and may be lawful for the Bishop of the said Sea and his Successors Bishops of Nelson by any writing or writings under his or their hand or Episcopal Seal to make and constitute any Church now erected or hereafter to be erected within the said See or Diocese to be the Cathedral Church and See of the said Bishop and of his Successors AND to the end that this Our intention may be fully carried into effect We having great confidence in the learning morals and piety of our WellBeloved Edmund Hobhouse Clerk Master of Arts Do name and appoint him to be Bishop and Ordinary Pastor of the said See of Nelson so that he the said Edmund Hobhouse shall be and be taken to be Bishop of the Bishop's See of Nelson and may by virtue of this Our nomination and appointment enter into and possess the said Bishop's See as the Bishop thereof without any let or impediment of Us Our heirs or Successors for the term of his natural life subject nevertheless to the right of resignation hereinafter more particularly expressed MOREOVER We do by these Our Letters Patent ordain that the said Bishop shall be a Body corporate and do constitute him to be a Perpetual Corporation and to have

perpetual succession **and** that he and his Successors be for ever hereafter called by the Name or Title of the Bishop of Nelson and in that name shall be able and capable in law and have full power to purchase have take hold and enjoy all manner of real and personal property whatever and to sue and be sued implead and be impleaded in all our Courts upon all causes as well spiritual as temporal and in all other matters whatsoever and shall and may have and use a Corporate Seal and the said Seal shall and may from time to time break alter or renew as he or they may deem expedient MOREOVER We do by these Our Letters Patent ordain that the Bishop of the said See of Nelson and his Successors shall be subject and subordinate to the Archiepiscopal See of Canterbury and to the most Reverend Father in God John Bird by Divine Providence Archbishop of Canterbury and his Successors and to the Bishop of New Zealand Metropolitan of New Zealand and his Successors in such and the same manner as any Bishop of any See within the Province of New Zealand is under or subject to the authority of the said Archbishop and Bishop respectively according to the respective Jurisdictions of the said Archbishop and Bishop respectively AND We do hereby further will and ordain that every Bishop of Nelson shall at the time of his Consecration take an Oath of due obedience to the said Archbishop of Canterbury for the time being in the words or to the effect following viz. I "A.B" appointed Bishop of Nelson do profess and promise all due obedience and reverence to the Most Reverend Father in God \_\_\_\_\_ by Divine Providence Archbishop of Canterbury Primate of all England and Metropolitan and to his Successors so help me God through Jesus Christ" which Oath shall and may be administered by the said Archbishop or Bishop ministering at such consecration or any one of them AND We do further will and ordain that the said Bishop of Nelson and his Successors shall be suffragan Bishops to the Bishop of New Zealand and his successors and shall be subject to the Metropolitan jurisdiction and authority of the See of New Zealand in the same manner as the Bishops of Christchurch Waiapu and Wellington are now subject thereto subject nevertheless to the actual superintendence and revision of the Archbishop of Canterbury for the time being and subordinate to the Archiepiscopal See of the Province of Canterbury

AND to the end that all

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the matters and things herein may have their due effect We do hereby signify to the Most Reverend Father in God John Bird Lord Archbishop of Canterbury Primate of all England and Metropolitan that We have created and founded the aforesaid Episcopal See of Nelson and have named and preferred the aforesaid Edmund Hobhouse to the said Bishopric and have appointed him Bishop and ordinary pastor thereof requiring and by the Faith and Love whereby he is bound to us commanding the said John Bird Archbishop of Canterbury forthwith to consecrate the said Edmund Hobhouse Bishop of Nelson in manner accustomed and diligently to do and perform all other things appertaining to his office in this behalf with effect AND We do by these presents give and grant to the said Edmund Hobhouse and his Successors Bishops of Nelson full power and authority to admit into Holy Orders of Deacons and Priests respectively any person whom he or they shall upon examination deem duly qualified especially for the purpose of taking upon himself the Cure of Souls or of officiating in any spiritual capacity within the limits of the said Diocese of Nelson and residing therein AND We do by these presents will and ordain that a declaration of such a purpose and a written engagement to perform the same under the hands of such person being deposited in the hands of such Bishop shall be held to be a sufficient title with a view to such ordination and that in every such case it shall be distinctly stated in such Letters of Ordination of every person so admitted to Holy Orders that he has been ordained to the cure of Souls within the limits of the said Diocese of Nelson and that unless such person be a British subject he shall not be required to take the Oath of Allegiance to Us AND We do further ordain that the said Bishop of Nelson shall have the power and authority to perform all the functions peculiar and incident to the Office of Ordinary and Diocesan within the limits of the said See of Nelson AND for a declaration of the spiritual causes matters and things in which the aforesaid authority and Jurisdiction may be more especially exercised We do by these Presents further declare that the said Bishop of Nelson and his Successors may exercise and enjoy the full power and authority by himself or themselves or by the Archdeacon or Archdeacons or the Vicar General or other Officer

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or Officers hereinafter mentioned to give institution to Benefices to grant Licenses to officiate to all Rectors Curates Ministers and Chaplains of all the churches or chapels or other places within the said Diocese wherein Divine Service shall be celebrated according to the Rites and Liturgy of the United Church of England and Ireland and to visit all Rectors Curates Ministers and Chaplains and all Priests and Deacons in Holy Orders of the United Church of England and Ireland resident within the said Diocese as also to call before him or them or before the Archdeacon or Archdeacons or before the Vicar General or other Officer or Officers hereinafter mentioned at such competent days hours or places when and so often as to him or them shall seem meet and convenient the aforesaid Rectors Curates Ministers Chaplains Priests and Deacons or any of them and to enquire and visit as well concerning their morals as their behaviour in the said offices and stations respectively subject nevertheless to such rights of review and appeal as are hereinafter given and reserved AND for the better accomplishment of the purposes aforesaid We do further give grant and declare that the said Bishop of Nelson and his Successors may found and constitute one or more dignities in his Cathedral Church and also one or more Archdeaconry or Archdeaconries within the said Diocese and may collate fit and proper persons to be the Dignitaries of the Cathedral Church and one or more fit and proper person and persons to be Archdeacon or Archdeacons of the said Archdeaconry or Archdeaconries respectively and may from time to time by writing under his or their hand subdivide and alter the boundaries of such Archdeaconries as to him and them shall seem meet PROVIDED always that such Dignitaries and Archdeacons respectively shall exercise such Jurisdiction only as shall be committed to them by the said Bishop and his successors and the said Bishop and his Successors may also from time to time nominate and appoint fit and proper persons to be the Officers hereinafter mentioned that is to say to be Vicar General Official Principal Rural Dean and Commissary either general or special and may also appoint fit and proper persons to be Registrars and Actuaries PROVIDED always that the Dignitaries and Archdeacons aforesaid shall be subject and subordinate to the said

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Bishop of Nelson and his Successors and shall be assisting to him or them in the exercise of his or their jurisdiction and functions AND We will and declare that during a vacancy of the said See of Nelson by the demise of the Bishop thereof or otherwise the Dignitaries and Archdeacons and Vicar General and other officers respectively appointed as aforesaid shall continue to exercise as far as by Law they may or can the jurisdiction and functions delegated to them and that the said Registrars and Actuaries shall respectively continue to discharge the duties whereunto they have been appointed until a new Bishop of the said See of Nelson shall have been nominated and consecrated and his arrival within the limits of the said Diocese shall have been notified to such parties respectively AND We further will and do by these Presents declare and ordain that it shall be lawful for any party against whom any judgment decree or sentence shall be pronounced by the Bishop in person or the Vicar General or any of the said Archdeacons or other Officer or Officers of the said Bishop or his Successors to appeal to the Bishop of New Zealand Metropolitan of New Zealand and his successors subject nevertheless to a further appeal to the Archbishop of Canterbury or his successors who shall finally decide and determine such appeals PROVIDED always that in such case of appeal or Review notice of the intention of the party to make such appeal or demand such Review shall be given to the Bishop or Subordinate Judge by whom the sentence or decree appealed from or to be reviewed shall have been pronounced within fifteen days from the promulgation thereof AND We do further by these Presents ordain that in all cases in which an appeal shall be made or review demanded as aforesaid a copy of the judgment or sentence in such case promulgated or given setting forth the grounds thereof together with a copy of the evidence on which the same was founded shall without delay be certified and transmitted by the Bishop or Subordinate Judge as the case may be to the said Bishop of New Zealand Metropolitan of New Zealand or to the Archbishop of Canterbury as the case may require MOREOVER it Is Our Will and pleasure and we do hereby decree and ordain that nothing in these

Presents shall extend or be Construed to extend to repeal vary or alter the provisions of any charter whereby Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction has been given to any Court of Judicature within the limits of the said Diocese or Colony AMD for removing doubts with respect to the validity of the resignation of the said Office and dignity of Bishop of Nelson it is our further will that if the said Bishop shall by instrument under his hand and seal delivered or sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury for the time being and by him accepted and Registered in his office of Faculties resign the said office of Bishop of Nelson such Bishop shall from the time of such acceptance and Resignation cease to be Bishop of Nelson to all intents and purposes but without prejudice to any responsibility to which he may be liable in law or equity in respect of his conduct in his said office AND lastly to the end that all things aforesaid may be firmly holden and done We will and grant to the aforesaid Edmund Hobhouse that he shall have Our Letters Patent under our Great Seal of Our said United Kingdom duly made and sealed IN Witness whereof we have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent WITNESS ourself at Westminster the Twenty seventh day of September in the Twenty second year of Our Reign \_\_\_\_\_

BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN'S SIGN MANUAL

C. ROMILLY.