

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 27/12/1841

My dear Coleridge: Having written to you so recently as the 4th inst. by the Ship 'Ann', I have not much at this time to add. Nevertheless I will not let the brig 'Jack' depart if I can help it without a few lines to inform you of my having shipped thereby two boxes for you: the one containing a few fossils, the other some skins of birds, which I have been, not intentionally, a long while in collecting. The fossils have been arranged and packed by the Revd W B Clarke (whose name is not unknown in that department of science) and he speaks of them as not being ill adapted to give a correct view of the structure of this part of our continental island. The birds have generally been named, and the colour of the eyes, noted, by Mr George Macleay, whose family have a general turn or genius for the pursuit of Natural History. I shall be much gratified if these humble collections reach you safely and correspond with your wishes. If my new Zealand requisitions should be ever compiled with, I may have some addenda yet to forward. I really had not sufficient time remaining so much as to read over my last long letter to you; and have therefore but a dreaming recollection of what were its contents; and a sort of instinctive dread that it might be full of solecisms and blunders: but I think that the probability of the birds and fossils being sent was noticed in it. Should this Letter reach you before any news of them is received from other quarters I should recommend you to enquire by means of a broker for the 'Jack' (our nautical nomenclature is not always classical) the name of the Captain being Cumberland.


Since my last despatch I have had Letters from England in reply to some which were written on the subject of old Mr Moore's death and disposal of his property to the service of the Church. I am therefore in hopes of receiving news from you of the arrival of the Copy of his Will, which I forwarded to you by the 'Andromache', last February; hoping that you

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might be able to procure for me a hint or two as to what course it would be advisable to make if the Statutes of Mortmain were brought to bear upon us. I am sorry to learn that the old gentlemen has left a brother and sister in very narrow circumstances, for whom we trusted he had made provision; which indeed he might have done without at all impairing the amount of his bounty to the Church. His relations are desirous of obtaining a copy of the Will; and the Exors here are anxious that they should have it: and therefore I shall be glad if you can send to them the Copy which you have: it being I presume of no farther use to you now. If there be any reason for your wishing to retain the document may I request you to forward it to Mr Francis, 5 Angel Court, Throgmorton Street, Bank, who will cause a copy to be made, and return the original to you. Moore's family are in communication with the Revd Archdeacon Scott, Whitfield Rectory, Haydon Bridge, Northumbld and with the Revd George Fielding, Bishop-Auckland: through either of whom the papers might be conveyed to them: most readily I believe by the latter. I must not admit to inform you that your communication to me relative to Mr & Mrs Sconce (from Miss Repton) has been fruitful in consequences. On the receipt of your Letter I wrote to him at Melbourne; and not to trouble you with intermediate circumstances, he was ordained Deacon by me on the 19th inst. That same afternoon he preached a Sermon which they who heard it (for I myself did not) speak of as excellent both in matter and delivery. His previous examination was very satisfactory to me, as it was also to Mr Allwood, an able scholar and divine, who acts as my (honorary) Examining Chaplain. I have sent him (that is Mr Mrs & Miss S.) to Penrith & South Creek: which is, I think, one of the best pieces of preferment that I have to give: the value being, I hope, £300 p.a., the

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neighbourhood good, and a tolerable ('good' erased) house building. They mean I believe to go to live in it as it is, and allow it to be gradually finished around and above them. To say the truth, at the present season with us, if a house do but keep out the water, the more air it lets in the better; and living as we do in an honest country the want of doors and windows is of no consequence. I was pleased however with the spirit of so young a woman; making no objection of any sort to all the roughnesses which, at first, they will have to encounter. I told her I was sorry that the four acres of ground  on which the house stands were altogether in a state of nature; when she replied quickly 'O I am so glad we are to have the laying of it out in our own way'. I thought this a pretty specimen of the hereditary turn for landscape-gardening. So I begged her to take care of the girls in the school, and lent her two books of Psalmody which she seemed particularly anxious to have well conducted, and sent her off as happy a parson's wife as it is to be met with in the Universe. They will be I hope very useful, and very contented; as you may tell Miss R. if you ever meet her again and have the opportunity.

I wish it were in my power to suit myself as easily with a house; but we are in sad perplexity. If I remain here, the new landlord will cut off nearly all the land, and by selling it in what are called here 'building allotments' surround us with brick tenements shutting out the prospect from our eyes, and filling our ears with the sounds of squalling children, or may be worse: besides raising the rent to £300 p.a. which is more than I can afford. On the other hand I do not know where to find another house, for (as the vulgar saying is) either love or money: and my poor wife wld be as doleful as Eve at leaving her roses and honey-suckles: to say nothing of the annuals from Hartley which have been so splendid and beautiful as to cause quite a sensation among all who came to visit us. Altogether, I am in a strait, and know not

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what to decide for the best. Were it even practicable to borrow money for a few years in the manner which I spoke of in my last letter to you, I do not know that it wld be quite wise on my part to build. If my life were sure to last 7 or 10 years longer it wld no doubt be to my advantage: but if I shld die earlier than that, it might involve my family in loss or difficulty; and really I have not found my profession so lucrative as to justify me in running a risk of that kind. Upon the whole therefore I do not very well know what to do: but as I have often found matters come right if treated patiently, I live in hopes that when I write again to you, the appearance of things may be improved.

Some time ago you asked me what the Australians thought of Lord Jno Russell's suspension of the Transportation system; and I might then have said that current of opinion was so strong in support of it that if there were adverse they were so few as not to venture to speak their mind publicly. Latterly however the want of cheap labour, and indeed almost of labour of any kind, has pinched the flock-masters so much that their condition has become very deplorable. It is therefore hardly to be wondered that some of them should begin to turn back their faces with a longing-desire for the restoration of the flesh-pots of Egypt. Mr James Macarthur announced himself a convert in the Legislative Council last week. But I almost think he would waver in any opinion if he found the maintenance of it adverse to his interest. As you take some little interest in the matter I send you two recent newspapers: which will enable you to judge how opinions among us stand, an what is the tone of ← castigation among our censors, in matters of political default.

I am beginning to look for a Letter from Dr Keate, to whom I wrote by the Palestine 23rd March/41; and again by the Giraffe 20th August. The new

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Rectory I presume is complete: and all things I trust are proceeding with them as happily and satisfactorily as usual. We talk and think very often about Anna: and are earnestly desirous to hear again. Your own family I hope are also quite well: and that Mrs Coleridge will be pleased with some of our pretty birds, as I suppose your son Charles wld be with the ugly and savage. I shall not forget his penchant for Hawks in case any come in my way. Wld you like to have any handsome live parrots sent: the variety here is endless. I do not think however that Mrs Gould (whose death I have just seen announced) had exactly hit their character. With kind regards and affectionate remembrance to you all, I am, My dear Coleridge, Your very sincere friend, W.G. Australia.