

Broughton to Coleridge, 15/8/1850 (Syd)

In my last Letter to you I mentioned having in contemplation to appropriate to the service of the Church in my Diocese a further sum from my own income: to which I was led by a deep sense of duty, under the total exhaustion of all public resources for the maintenance of more clergymen, and providing generally for the service of religion throughout this vast Diocese. Even with the utmost in my power, to spare and with the utmost that can be done by the people themselves (whose ability and inclination I wish were greater) there must still be a most sad deficiency if the S.P.G. should be altogether disabled from lending any further aid. It seems to be implied that they can do little more for us than assist in the support of a decreasing number of clergymen. Upon this I have been obliged to make an appeal to them: for there really are so many things required to make the services of clergymen effective, and to give the first impulse where contributions are required from churches to be newly established in the remote parts of the country, that a bishop's hands will be very much tied unless he can obtain £300 or £400 p.a. to meet such demands. The only ground (independently of a general feeling of love to the brethren) on which such an application can be addressed to the Society, is the extent of Immigration going on year after year. These poor people can do nothing at first to supply their own spiritual necessities; and the rest of us cannot do all; so that I think there is a fair claim for some help from the people of England who encourage immigration as a measure for the national relief. If your good word can help with the S.P.G. I am sure it will not be wanting. With regard to the particular contribution which I am myself desirous of making, I purpose to give £500 p.a. if I can: but £400 at all events. Of this however £100 p.a. must go to pay for an additional insurance of my Life for £1500: which as mentioned in a former Letter seems to me a measure of equity to my dear children which ought to precede every other; neither shall I act further in the undertaking until I can hear that this is accomplished. I have written to my brother in law, Mr Francis, who will communicate with you. He is aware

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of all necessary particulars; and will be able to manage the business part without troubling you except upon one point. In order to simplify the payment of the first premium (to the Rock Office) which I calculate will be £100 or thereabout, I purpose asking the Society to advance it, on my engagement to discharge the claim to them by paying here the like sum to their missionaries in 1851. If you will have the kindness to help in forwarding this arrangement with the Soc. on my behalf I shall be very thankful. I shall then have left about £1000 p.a. and, if Mr Gladstone's arrangements for a house can ever be carried out, shall live rent-free as long as it pleases the Almighty to continue life.

It is not very great preferment certainly. But if I may look forward at the last to placing my children above want, it will be enough. I am now old, and solitary. My daughter Emily was married on this day week (the 8th) to George Crawley. You know who he is: for you introduced him to me. I am quite satisfied with the connection: the more so as it had the entire and warm approval of her ever dear mother; whose wishes, even now, so far as they can be known, I feel it my chief happiness to fulfil. They will return in 10 or 14 days, and will live with me for the present: for indeed I am not equal to the trial of living quite alone.

My excellent presbyter Allwood (whose wife and children are gone to England) stays with me while they (I mean Mr & Mrs Crawley) are away, but he is very unwell: so debilitated that he can do no duty at all. Yesterday and the Sunday before I preached twice for him; and most thankful am I to say never had less physical infirmity at any period of my life. It is a very striking visitation (for so I cannot but regard it) which has overtaken us in the disability falling on so many of our clergy at once; in fact upon all in Sydney. Allwood I have already spoken of. My good Walsh (who was with my dear wife in ? ←

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dying hour) has broken down in an instant; and has gone to England in search of recovery. Poor Naylor went on that very same day last year; and only went to die at sea. Another, Mr Grylls, is also at home in a very feeble state of health: and the locos tenentes of all these, it so happens, are not of a constitution to bear hard work. Alfred Stephen whom you know (and a very worthy young man he is) is nearly the most vigorous. Ab uno, Disce omnes. The only incumbent at his post, out of the five, is my strenuous Archdeacon Cowper. He is 73 years old: but in truth he and I can still work harder than any of the younger men.

You will have heard from the Abrahams I do not doubt an account of their visit to us. I could do but little for their entertainment: but that I did with hearty good will. They seemed pleased: and my only regret was that they could stay no longer. Very great satisfaction have I from possessing their acquaintance; I hope friendship too: for we coalesced in an instant. They will both live in my recollection all my days. She in particular is amiable mild intelligent and sincere in a degree which one does not often meet with. But then, we may say what we will, but it always is so: I mean that the women are so superior to us. Not that I would imply but that we in our way may be well enough; but the comparative inferiority is too plain to be disputed, as I dare say you may have discovered. I have made a special note of your remarks, or rather monitions, on this perplexing Gorham case, because my eyes are open to the full importance of it; and because I have now the expressed assent of all my bishops to assemble here on the 1st of October. I do hope that God's Blessed Spirit may assist our consultations; and that we may do something (little though it be) for the security of the Church in this day of peril and necessity. It strikes me that in England you may find it objected that the case was allowed without remonstrance to go before the Judicial Committee; and now a protest is entered against the decision by parties who find the judgment

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unsatisfactory. In thinking on the subject it has occurred to me that were I an opponent of the Bishop of Exeter, this is the ground I should take: and it is quite clear to me how the objection can be disposed of. Why did not somebody get up before the Court of Appeal sat, and say I object to this tribunal: whatever Acts of Parliament may have decided it is not competent: and let its decision be what it may I protest against it. Why did not somebody do this? But though the difficulty hence arising may be felt by you, it will not affect us: for here, I assume, the decision of the Committee, even in law can have no force or operation. We shall be quite free, as an assembly of bishops, to consult immediately upon the theological question and to make such declarations, and to establish such rules, as we may think needed for the security of our own Churches. Prudent and thoughtful men here are looking also with something like amazement at what Parliament is doing, or has probably done ere now, to settle our political constitutions. You know what I said years ago as to the necessity of laying some foundation of aristocracy in our institutions. It was not done: nothing was done; and now I fear it is too late. We are consigned over to democracy unmitigated. Without any hope of escape. I send you by this post (19 August) a newspaper containing a Petition which I have drawn up to be signed by myself and clergy against the renewal of transportation. If you can have the ear of Mr Gladstone for 5 minutes pray point out to him that paragraph of it, which urges that a country in which there exists such a deadly division of opinion as prevails here must be ipso facto unsuited for a penal Colony. If convicts are sent, it will lead to civil war and bloodshed, to say nothing of endless animosities: and will run the country besides involving England itself (as I might have added) in turbulence, and trouble and expense and loss of character beyond all calculation.

Pray remember me most kindly to your brother Sir John C. and to Mr Robt Keate (sic). To each of them I owe a Letter, and will pay the debt soon: but my

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hands are at present very full. Give my love to your wife, and Hartley friends; and all whom I know and love that may fall within your circuit. The list of these goes on diminishing in extent from year to year: but I shall still think that so long as I may retain you, my dear Coleridge, I have still a host; and am thankful to be able still to testify to this effect in calling myself, Your very sincere friend, W.G. Sydney.