

Broughton to Coleridge, 1/2/1851 (Syd)

I have fallen into such a habit of irregularity in keeping account of my Letter writing, as not to know exactly the date of my last to you. But I am conscious it cannot but be remote. It is long also since I heard from you or from any friend. Sometimes I cannot help fancying that my dear friends from Hartley must have failed to receive the Letter which I begged Mr Allwood to write (and which he did write I know) to Dr Keate in September 1849 giving them an account of my dear and ever regretted wife's death; which I myself was quite incapable of announcing to them. I have not heard from them, and but little of them since: but they are not forgotten any more than you and yours, who were very dear to the heart of her who is gone. I have often heard her say that from the day of her first seeing Mrs Keate at Hartley, now I suppose some seven and twenty years ago, she loved her better than almost any one she knew. It is these remembrances which have so crushed my power and inclination to write to any with whom I have been so connected.

Letters on mere business I can accomplish without an effort: for they call up no images. But in all other things, that is things connected with feeling and not with duty I am sadly shaken in mind. Even at this moment my dear child Phoebe is staying with me, and her three children with her; and when I see them and hear their innocent voices, they bring back so the memory of her who would most have rejoiced over them, that like Joseph I am often obliged to seek where to weep. However this is all weakness, especially in writing it to the exclusion of many subjects of more importance. I write it however not to trouble you vainly but to account for the infrequency of my correspondence during the past year and (a) half.

I believe you would receive from me, perhaps about this time or sooner, a Letter which I forwarded through California, containing a Statement of the questions which were proposed for consideration at our episcopal conference. You will

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also hear very shortly of the happy way in which we met and associated together in sweet counsel, and separated in brotherly love; and how all the Trajectitii have returned safely to their respective Sees. You will also receive the Minute of our proceedings, which will shew that we went into most of the subjects proposes; and I hope have so expressed our sentiments upon many of them as to do good.

The event, however, fell short of my expectations in that, upon full and careful of (sic) investigation, I felt satisfied, so did we all, that by the terms of our Subscriptions in acknowledgment of the Royal Supremacy, we were really inhibited from assuming the character of a Synod lawfully assembled. Certainly this did check, to some extent, the energy of our declarations on points of doctrine and discipline both. But my perusasion was that we should effect more, and do more good, finally, by shewing the chain by which we were bound, and seeking release from it by quiet representations than by acting upon an assumed right which might be questioned, and so might stir up angry feelings which might indefinitely postpone relief. I have forwarded our Minute, with a Letter in to the Abp which I have calmly enforced that which appears to me the right view of the question. My wish would have been to send you a Copy of this Letter: but I did not know how it might be taken that such a communication should be made of the contents, and therefore did not. But as it will be known that such a Letter has been written I presume there will be no difficulty in obtaining the Abp's consent to its being seen if you should think that any public benefit would arise from it. I have also taken advantage of a rude attack MADE by Dr Wiseman to print a short Letter to him; of which I have sent you a Copy through Mr Francis. My chief inducement was that it enabled me to say something on the principle of the Supremacy, which I hope will not be disapproved. As soon as we were assembled in October we sent to the Bp of Colombo and yourself Letters congratulatory and fraternal under the joint hand of all the bps. I cannot doubt that it will be pleasing and satisfactory to you.

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We had, I think, but one single drawback upon the result of our intercourse: that was in the (as I think) unsound and injurious [^] taken by one of our body ← ? upon the great and engrossing question of the day. In writing to him I am about to say that I am convinced it cannot rest here; but that the C of E at home and in all her branches throughout the world, must pronounce a decided opinion, and not be Laodicean any longer. At the same time I must in fairness say that in the outset I did not find myself in agreement altogether with another of our body: and it was only after considerable discussion that I was able to induce him to admit what is said in the Minute as to the assurance which at the time of baptism ought to be given that the receiver of it shall be taught, or educated in the faith of Christ. This was the Bishop of New Zealand, but I am more and more satisfied every time I go through the subject that this is the right expression of the intended sense of our Lord's words; and is necessary to keep us aloof from the real opus operatum, which our adversaries are so ready falsely to impute to us the encouragement of. The dissenters were in a furious way: and preached much against us, and threatened to do more: but stopped short; only drawing severe contrasts between the five Puseyite and the one Scriptural Bishop. The Roman Cs exult in our variance: and still more in our bondage under the Crown, which they contrast (I must say not without reason) with their own freedom at Thurles. I have received a Letter from Mr Hubbard with a Copy of the Protest and Petition of 23 July: with which I have declared to him my concurrence, but with the reservation that Mr Gorham, it appears to me, was not the only one who ought to have been examined. The evident perfidy of Mr Maskell, and the all but idiocy of Lord Fielding, do make one alternately storm and weep to think of the ruin they are bringing upon a holy and righteous cause. I remember telling you seven years ago that if things continued to go as they were going, the consequences must be a schism more terrible than that of Wesley: and every day since has confirmed my worst apprehension. To a certain point I could go as a Tractarian, but no further;

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because it was always to be seen that they had some views absurd and wrong and certainly papistical in their tendency. Now these views are being wrought out by so many unreasoning men, who seem to argue that rather than continue in a Church which is disunited upon some points of truth, they must go over to one which is at unity in itself upon almost every point of error. Mr Maskell's two pamphlets, which I sat up three parts of the night to read, are assuredly the acme or essence of artifice: and though I feel and admire his talent as a writer, yet in my conscience I am sure he cannot have been honest for years, if he ever were so.

In my diocese things go on but indifferently, owing to many causes. We have no more money; and as to men, the number of sick and disabled is quite astonishing and appalling. You have seen my friend Walsh, no doubt, and know how he has broken down. Poor Naylor is dead. Alfred Stephen, whom you saw in England, has not a day's health and can hardly go through a day's duty; two others are as feeble if not more; and last week the clergyman of the next parish Mr Cary had a seizure which has quite disabled him; so that I have his two full services every Sunday, and his five pupils to teach every day except Saturday. My hands are literally full and the moment I gain a little liberty I am anxious to set out on a journey of 1200 miles out and home again, in the hope of placing a clergyman, if I can find one, in a District where none has ever been; and, if not, to preach the truth to them once at least by my own exertions: and then to wait in faith until more labourers can be sent forth into the vineyard. But these things are all very trying to flesh and blood. As Elihu says, so is it most true, that "Days should speak and multitude of years should teach", and at this I aim. But it is hard work.

I begin to see that infidelity is no more than the rear rank of indifference and fires over its shoulders. The system of government here, constantly directed

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for twenty years past to promote liberalism in religion, has leavened the whole mass. We made, notwithstanding this, a good rally on the New Caledonia Mission, and gratified our good brother very much, by raising £1000 which I hope will be applied to purchase him a vessel somewhat better fitted for his work than the little Undine. But it may surprise you to hear of how few persons this was the work. Deducting the collections in Churches and Public Meetings, the sum of £600 was raised by not more than 100 people. And yet, taken as a whole, the thing was well and nobly done.

We have more difficulty in making any such effort for our own services. As to the College we can get nothing done. The Leg Co have voted £5000 a year for a University upon the godless plan. I have refused the seat in the Senate which was offered me: whereby the Governor is offended. Not that his personal alienation would do us much harm, for he has never done any thing for our support: but Regis ad exemplum etc is a law here as well as elsewhere: and so it does us much harm, by influencing others.

I trust St Augustine's prospers under its new Warden. Thank dear Mrs Keate for thinking of me on the lamented vacancy: and you too for your expression of good will. But if [^]were ever equal to it, it would not do now. Canterbury would be to me a place of ghosts.

My quotation of the words of Elihu reminds me of the Book of Job. Pray allow me to ask you, before concluding, whether among Hebrew scholars, of whom you must know many, you could find one who would be prevailed upon to look over some lucubrations upon which I have been from time to time, very interruptedly, engaged for some years past. I cannot but think that a great deal of light may yet be thrown upon the design and interpretation of that Book. But I am a poor self-taught Hebraist, and have no confidence in my own judgment. If anyone who

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undertook to look at my essays should utterly condemn them, I should not very much wonder, object or grieve; so the exercise of criticism, even the severest, would be very safe for the acceptor of it. With my kind love to Mrs Coleridge, and all her relatives and yours....

P.S. I owe letters to your brother Sir John C and Mr Rbt Routh. Pray offer my very kind regards to them and say I am preparing to write: also to Mr Watson and excellent George Gilbert. I do not know whether to wish or not, that you may safely receive the photographic portraits of the six bishops. They are so bad as a work of art that as an amateur you will be disgusted, and yet they are in a certain way provokingly like.