

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 11|9|1844

My dear Coleridge: Mindful of your kind desire that no ship shld be allowed to depart without at least a few lines from me, I sit down to comply with that wish by writing at, literally, the eleventh hour: for at eleven this day the Mail by the Haidee is to close, and it is now past ten.

By this same conveyance you will receive two or three newspapers conveying longer reports than you will be able to read, of proceedings here on the subject of General Education. We have made our stand: and there has been no backwardness, except in individual cases, and among the worldly wise, in answering the call. We shall have not fewer than 15000
our petitions. But the Council! what will that do? It is beyond my power to say exactly. But the prevalence in it of a shocking spirit of democracy and sectarianism makes me dread the worst. It is a fearful thing to contemplate what is termed a Conservative Government establishing a power upon such principles in any British dependency. it is very plain that the Executive has not an atom of power. They are defeated upon every point: sometimes upon five or six divisions in one evening. And 'the people love to have it so': and already talk of resistance and rebellion; and calculate how long it will take to give them the requisite power. The latest and now favorite calculation is fifty years. The wish is father to the thought: and if the propagators of such opinions cld do as seemed them good, it wld be accomplished before the termination of fifty days. There is nothing to stem the propensity: and so we seem to be handed over, without hope of recovery, to a system of government which will abolish monarchy and then turn its fury upon the Church. However, you and I have something more important to think and talk about than local politics. Indeed they wld never extract a word from me did I not too plainly see

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their necessary connexion with the fortunes of that cause which I hold to be the sacred cause of truth. You will be gratified by learning that your late influx of bounty, the fruit of piety, has relieved me from every pressing difficulty and enabled me to resume several undertakings but lately in abeyance. Of these I shall have further reports hereafter to make. From New Zealand I have not a line since the receipt of those which have been forwarded to you. Our intercourse with that Colony, owing I believe to their inability to purchase articles of consumption from this port, and to the dread our merchants have (as burnt children) of trusting anybody. But we are every day looking for an arrival. By the St George yesterday we had news from England to 26 May: but I cannot hear that the 'Rajah' had then arrived with my Letter to you by Lady Franklin. By the 'Jane' and the 'Constant' you wld have heard: and subsequently to that there will have been I trust, no such intermission of correspondence as you can again complain of. By the next Ship the Ceylon I purpose sending a box for Mrs Coleridge containing some fac-similes (for such they really are) in wax of a few of the indigenous flowers of this country: which I trust she will accept as a token of the sincere attachment of a very old friend. I have also a model (indifferently executed) of our intended Cathedral, which I hope to send to you, if there be any possibility of packing it securely to endure the voyage. It is not worth your acceptance: but I thought it possible there might be among those who have so generously contributed to our welfare someone who might like to have it as a curiosity, and to whom it might gratify you to be able to offer it. Pray tell Dr Keate that Mr Shore went to Melbourne 700 miles off: or else I shld most readily have shewn him any attention in my power. We are all quite well: and have at present my dear child Phoebe on a visit to us, while her husband is gone

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far away to shear sheep and sort the wool. If you can read any of the speeches in the newspapers let it be Allwood's. He is an excellent person, as I hope the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol who introduced him to me may have been informed. Believe me to be Yours most truly,
W.G. Australia.