

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 9/4/1845

My dear Coleridge: I lately read in an English newspaper an announcement that the rate of postage from the Colonies had been lowered: which, taken in connexion with your manganimous declaration once committed to paper that you 'do not mind postage', makes me bold to send you yet one more missive by the 'Herald'. Yesterday your note dated St Andrew's Eve came to hand, accompanied by Mr Formby's Letter of 30th Sept which, as you observe, places the matter for the present in abeyance. I wrote to him instanter, explaining minutely and candidly the nature of the employment which I had in view for him, and every other attendant circumstance. At the same time I wld not advise him to accept it: but left him to determine for himself whether he wld account this such an indication of the will or Providence as he looks for to guide him.

At the moment your Note came I was writing to the B. of N.Z. against time, as the common expression is: and not having a sufficient interval to copy any of it I forwarded the original: not knowing what might be the date of their latest news from you. We are doing pretty well for the cause here. Last Sundway was unfortunately a pouring wet day: and our collections for the benefit of the sufferers were diminished in consequence. In three of the Churches the Offertory (collectively) produced £50. In St James' I postponed making the special collection, owing to the small attendance: and the same was done at Trinity Church. We rely on getting at least another £50 next Sunday and are accordingly remitting flour which we hear is likely to become scarce and dear at Auckland, and money to purchase other articles of comfort and necessity: the whole being entrusted to the disposal of the bishop (sic), or in his absence, to that of Archdeacon Brown and who is now in charge at Auckland. On behalf of my clergy and people I hope it may be said with truth: Non obtusa a deo etc, Nectam aversus equos and so forth.

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With all my writing I have forgotten hitherto to mention one thing to you; namely that I had furnished Dr Wallace, a medical man of this place who is on his voyage to England, and Invalid in search of health, with a few lines of introduction to you. He was one of the ever kind and attentive advisers of poor Whytehead; he attends all our clergy and their families gratuitously: and he rendered professionally assistance to Mrs Agnew during her confinement. These things I am sure will win your regard towards him: and he is so modest and unassuming that you may feel quite secure a very moderate degree of attention from you will quite satisfy him.

You do not mention ever having met my clever liberal friend lady Franklin. She wld tell you more of the Bishop of Tasmania than almost any one. I am sorry to find he is getting into much hot water with several of his clergy. My fear is that meaning himself to do all that is upright and fair, for the good of his flock, and in discharge of his own obligations to them, he may by too much impetuosity expose himself unguardedly to the stings of a nest of hornets. You know he is in the midst of persons whose most intense delight it wld be to do him a shrewd turn. I must try to allay matters: for experience teaches me that a single act of rashness of his part might inpair if not ruin his usefulness forever.

I am sorry you think the portrait stern: though I believe that was the general impression here. Perhaps nine added years and many anxieties may have given me more of that air than formerly: but really I do not feel so. You may tell Mrs Keate if I were to see her I shld brighten up just as I used to do when she came over now and then to spend the day at Hartley some four of (sic) five and twenty years ago or not much less. A good Scotch servant girl, when she saw the picture, shook her head saying 'Aw-w-w that isn't

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so pra-ty as our master': by which she meant I suppose just what you do.

I have received Emma's Letter. Tell her I will write to her. I pledge myself.

Today I am a little perplexed and anxious about my dear child Phoebe: not having heard from my wife as I expected and ought to have done. But I pray to God all may be well. Yours very affectionately, W.G. A. (sic)

P.S. Pray have the goodness to present my respects to Sir J.T.C. and thank him for his efforts on my behalf. I shld also be very much obliged if you have an opportunity to procuring for me a sermon by the Revd Jas Duke Coleridge, of which I had a Copy, but unadvisedly parted from it. You will identify the Sermon by the fact of its having an Appendix on the sens₌ of the term aiones ←? (Gk) which bears upon a theory I have long held that revealed religion was from the outset always Sacramental: and this I am disposed to think is asserted and maintained in Heb. X1 1-31. W.G.A.