

Broughton to Coleridge, 25/2/1839

My dear Mr Coleridge:

On my return about three weeks ago from a voyage which I had undertaken to New Zealand and Norfolk Island (both rendered interesting and memorable by the visits of Captain Cook) I found awaiting my arrival your Letter of the 11th August 1838. I had, I am sensible, a threefold claim upon my consideration; as written from Hartley; on the anniversary of a most auspicious day, and by a friend of unparalleled energy and kindness; whom God would seem to have raised up to assist me in the feeble efforts which I am here striving to make in his service.

In replying I will follow at least in the outset, the order which you have adopted: and this brings me first to the disposal of the money so liberally contributed in England in reply to your appeal on our behalf. I have it is true abandoned, and I believe finally and altogether, the scheme of investing the proceeds in real estates (sic) and property for the permanent support of the Church by means of the income to arise from it. My reason for this does not however correspond with those which you state in opposition to the project. Having studied the circumstances of this country attentively, my thoughts continually turn upon the expediency of securing some permanent provision for the Church. I am not so worldly in my views as to assume that the cause of Christian truth cannot be supported without endowments: but neither am I on the other hand so visionary as to expect that if we neglect all measures of worldly prudence and foresight, miracles will be wrought to bring in and maintain such a succession of men, as by competency of learning will be duly qualified to defend the cause of religion against the cavils (?) of unbelief and to set forth its doctrines and duties with earnestness and effect but without fanatical admixture. What indeed would the Church of England itself have been but for that constant succession of great men who accomplished these

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objects for us? A mere parochial clergy will not suffice; and least of all such an one as the voluntary system which we are threatened with would be likely to establish. On this view of the subject I did and do think it most important that a foundation should be laid early in this country for a settled maintenance of the clergy, who can never devote their talents with steadiness and effect to the higher duties of their profession if harrassed by apprehensions of wanting bread, or of being dependent on a precarious subsistence to be doled out to them at the will of one or more capricious people who may be able, from wealth or other circumstances, to take the lead in every parish. This is the evil which I contemplate, and against which I was anxious to provide. Nor do I think that the difficulty of management or risk of failure would have been great. Very few of our chief proprietors see their estates flocks and herds above once or twice a year. They are in the management of overseers: and so far may this be carried that I believe even you, if you possessed much property, might derive a very regular income from it, sitting all the while quietly in your study at Eton to train up those who, the chances are, may hereafter be called to legislate for this very country. However, not to weary you with reasons in support of a purpose already abandoned, I will give you one all-sufficient explanation of my change of intention by saying that I found the sum to be expected would not suffice for all the demands to be made upon me, and also leave a surplus to be employed in the way I had contemplated.

On every side, I find fresh and fresh claims opening upon me for £100 to ensure a Church here, or £50 towards building a parsonage there, and moreover the whole and sole charge of schools (except those upon a very liberal system) will soon be thrown upon the Church and its followers: and therefore uniting all these heads of expenditure in this Colony, in Van Diemen's Land, Swan River,

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King George's Sound, South Australia, and, proportionably, in the other members of this vast Diocese, I find that my funds will do no more than meet the most urgent of present demands, and will not suffice to provide also for the wants of future generations. I go on therefore contributing to the best of my judgment to promote all useful works of the above descriptions (sic) which come before me with well supported claims; and shall continue so to do as long as I have the means of command. I strive not to be anxious for our successors, saying what shall they eat, or what shall they drink, or wherewithal shall they be clothed: for though, as I have said before, the impression is very strong upon my mind that we are not at liberty to omit the precautions of a reasonable prudence and foresight, yet if we seek first to extend the kingdom of God and devote to that end, and to the best advantage, such means as He gives us to enjoy, we may rely on the assurance that in some way or other those things will all be added. In support of this persuasion I have had one very remarkable instance already, which, knowing what interest you will take in it, I will relate.

In the town of Liverpool about 20 miles from Sydney, lives an old gentleman named Moore: indeed I may say he has lived in the town longer than it has existed; as he was employed by Governor Macquarie about 26 years ago to clear away the timber and mark out the streets on the site of the intended township. He was, I believe, of humble origin: indeed he has enjoyed few advantages of education, but has good sense and good principles. He followed the sea many years: but I do not know in what capacity. I presume a subordinate one. When I, as Visitor of the public schools, had the control of the Male Orphan School which is near Liverpool, I used occasionally to stop at his house and he was very kind and hospitable in giving me a clean and comfortable bed as often as I pleased.



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His wife had been, I believe, once a prisoner of the crown and not of very good character: however from the time that I first saw her she was an inoffensive old person and behaved with the greatest respect, and therefore I never thought it necessary to go back into former histories: not always a pleasant enquiry even in the best of places; and here peculiarly ticklish and dangerous. Well: to proceed. Old Mr Moore was found a very useful man by Governor Macquarie, who shewed him much favour; making him a magistrate and bestowing upon him sundry valuable grants of land and other benefits. His mode of living being very quiet and expenses small, he naturally grew rich. He frequently during my former residence in this country even, threw out hints of his wish to make some disposal of property for the benefit of the Church: in gratitude, as he very becomingly expressed himself, to God who had given him all. But as he had a wife living and she had a son, I did not think it right or advisable to encourage any alienation of his property, even for a good purpose, from those who seemed to have a natural claim upon him. So it happened however that last year the son died, and, within a few months after, old Mr Moore also. The old man then spoke to me more anxiously than ever upon the subject; and as they in whose favour I had formerly held back were now removed, I thought I might justifiably enter in the question; and after consultation with Mr Justice Burton I put Mr Moore in communication with a legal adviser who could give effect to his wishes. To make short of the matter I may say, he has executed two Deeds of gift conveying absolutely to me and my Successor Bishops of Australia, a freehold estate in Sydney now producing a rent of £420 p.a. to be applied towards the building and maintenance of the Cathedral Church of St Andrew. By the Second Deed he conveys also to me and my Successors about 6700 Acres of land near Liverpool called the Moore-Bank Estate. About 2200 Acres with the dwelling house are to be for the perpetual use and occupation of the Bishops of Australia. The remaining portion of about 4500 Acres is to be let, and the produce applied by

← MRS ?

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the Bishop towards the better maintenance of the clergy in the Colony in sums of not more than £50 in one year to any one. I should observe that the Bishop's portion of this munificent gift if let on lease for 21 years: at the expiration of which time much less than 2500 Acres will suffice for me! But still putting my personal interests out of the question, it is a most providential security for the continued maintenance of a Bishoprick in this country, which if trusted to the good will and liberality of the government would probably have failed altogether. The reserve for the clergy will also I hope in time be productive for their benefit. At present the returns will be very limited. This however is not all that Mr Moore has done. He has made a Will which I have not seen (as both it and the Deeds of gift were executed while I was absent) but I hear that he bestows all his property first to found a College in Liverpool; and then the residue (which is very considerable) to be appropriated in equal shares to the better maintenance of a (sic) clergy, to make provision for their widows and orphans, to endow the Diocesan Committee here of the Society for P.G. and for Promtg C.K. and FINALLY TO GRANT certain allowances to old and disabled persons of good character, being members of the Church of England. It is a most singular and unexpected interposition in favour of a cause which I had so earnestly sought support for, without being able to see or conjecture, when I left the shores of England, from what quarter it was likely to proceed. Your animated and successful exertions at home, the cordial support afforded me here by the Diocesan Committee (whose Reports I trust you have duly received) and now this unexpected provision for our permanent support offered by Mr Moore, have shewn me very satisfactorily that, where the cause is good and the intentions pure, we may lawfully and safely go forth in a calm dependence upon God's Providence, without having our way at once made so plain before our eyes as to enable us to see from the very outset what the termination of it is to be.



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I assure you my hopes are unshaken, and so, I thank God for it, is my health; though at times I do feel the multiplicity of affairs a little oppressive. For, independently of the weighty care continually urging me as I contemplate in the mass the extent of the charge which is laid upon me, the requisite attention to details absorbs so many of every day as to be extremely harrassing. My clergy, though full of good intention and disposition, are generally young and inexperienced and my lay-associates have not so much confidence in their own judgment as to act independently of me; so that literally every thing passes through my hands; to the determination even of the shape of a Church window, the fitting up a school-house with benches, and often the letter of a seat in a pew. I take all this however in very good part, and should be ungrateful not to do so, as I cannot but feel that the confidence in me which these perpetual references imply, may be turned to the very best account. It enables me to give unity and a good direction to all our movements; and so to introduce a good system which I hope, when I am past the age of any longer working it, will have learned to work by itself.

I trust, however, that instead of fatiguing you with a long detail of particulars which may be tedious, and must have the fate of all written communications in being nevertheless imperfect, it will be in my power to introduce you to the acquaintance of one who, as he knows all my proceedings and intentions, will afford you precisely that kind of information in which you would take most interest. Mr Justice Burton who on the bench shewed one of the noblest dispositions in moral integrity and courage, by singly denouncing the evils of our social system, whose private character and example have been always in striking consistency with his Christian profession, and who by the bountiful support which even to his own hindrance he gave to the Church, and by unwearied exertions in her cause stood in the front rank among

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her friends, is now on the point of departure for England by the "Eweretta" which is to sail on the 5th of March. Whether he will ever return amongst us appears extremely doubtful. His wife's ill health and aversion to the place are powerful reasons against it; and he has allowed himself (I think rather unwisely) to be soured and annoyed by ribaldry of the newspapers, which can be met in no other way successfully than by treating it with disregard. However if he can effect any kind of exchange with common prudence, I am persuaded he will do so rather than come back: and a severe deprivation we shall sustain. He goes however with a determination to promote by all means in his power while in England the cause to which he has so warmly devoted himself while resident here. I am therefore anxious that you and he should communicate; and I have rendered him most favourably disposed to this by shewing him, which I hope you will pardon, your last Letter to me. He read with joy and great admiration. If you should be in London at the same time with him, which you could ascertain at the Colonial Office, I am sure you will oblige me by seeing him. But as I have told him your engagements render this improbable, my recommendation is that he should go to Eton, which, (thanks to steam) is but a step, and introduce himself to your acquaintance. When he is there he could easily take another step to Staines, and so to Hartley, as I am sure it would give our dear friends there great pleasure to see a man as true-hearted as they themselves are, which is saying a great deal who can give them the most recent and accurate information regarding us and our proceeding. Independently however of any such private motives I am anxious to bring you and the Judge together, as your co-operation would hugely (as Jer: Taylor says) forward the purpose which I know he entertains, of keeping up a continuous public attention to the spiritual necessities of this vast country. No man has studied them more profoundly, or feels them more acutely than he does.

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In connexion with that subject I should inform you that a question of vital importance to us is likely soon to be raised, relative to the disposal of the Church and School Estates, comprizing upwards of 400,000 Acres of Land. This was originally granted for the perpetual support of the Church of England and its schools: but a liberal Secretary of State (I am concerned to say a so-called Conservative, the Earl of Ripon, if even Sir George Murray did not set the example) took advantage of a clause in the Charter of Incorporation, and threw the whole open to the service of general religion and education, Presbyterian. Popish, Methodist or Unitarian, it matters not. Just before my embarkation for New Zealand our Governor informed me that he had directions from the Secretary of State to offer for sale all the Church lands; but on my enquiring as to the application of the proceeds, no satisfactory answer was forthcoming. Having no time to spare, I did what appeared for the best under such an emergency by protesting civilly against this measure as contrary to the very terms of the Charter under which they hold these lands; and I also forwarded Petitions to both Houses, to the Archbishop of Canty and Sir Robert Inglis, wherein I urged strong objections against such a sale (which would be real sacrilege) and, having been advised that no fresh Title to such lands could be made without the authority of Parliament, the prayer of my petition is that Parliament will not grant such authority without first having secured a suitable and permanent provision for our Churches and Schools. In the present temper of the world I cannot hope to roll the stone uphill again so far as to recover possession of all that we were unjustly deprived of and therefore, as an act of prudence, I confined myself to petitioning for an equitable measure of support, urging only my persuasion that conformably with the principles of the Act of Settlement the Queen could not be advised to grant lands held by her in right of the Crown, for the support of any other than Protestant institutions. There is now in hand a Petition much to the same effect from the lay members of our communion, which originated with Mr



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Burton, I believe, without knowledge of what I had done: as in consequence of the pressure of affairs just previously to my embarking I had not time to communicate with any one. Indeed I think it as well not to involve others, more than is unavoidable, in the responsibility of measures distasteful to government as I find that sooner or later means are found of bringing it home to them. However if this Petition proceed and be so signed as to give it weight, I shall advise the parties to it that they should apply to Mr W.E. Gladstone, who is a friend of yours I believe, to undertake the presentation and support of it. There is no possibility of this being done before next Session: i.e. 1840, previously to which I may have time to forward such further information as circumstances may call for.

I must not forget to acknowledge with very sincere thankfulness the arrival of the Books procured by Thorpe; and for which I trust both clergy and laity of this Colony will have reason during many ages hereafter to unite in thankfulness as sincere as mine, to yourself and the other liberal contributors to this inestimable acquisition.

I sometimes fear lest I am attempting too much in desiring to see the foundation laid of every Institution essential to the maintenance of pure religion - Churches, parsonages, Schools - a Cathedral, a College (added) and a Library. But by the blessing of God, all are in progress or in promise: and if not completed by me, will at least be in a favorable condition for my successors to give them the finishing stroke. With regard to the Library I am every day more and more convinced that familiarity with ancient literature, generally diffused among the clergy, will alone render them able defenders of the evidences of revealed religion against Deists, and of its doctrines against Unitarians; and moreover that we must carefully study those monuments of

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ecclesiastical antiquity with which you have supplied us, if we wish to find and keep the true path of the Church of England; which directs us to preserve our distance from Geneva without running, as some seem half inclined, back to Rome! We have not yet opened the cases: for indeed, as was once said in a less allowable sense "I have no room where to bestow my fruits:" and am having some shelves put up in my own house that they may be released from captivity, and placed in security from damp and dust. Surrounded as you are by conveniences of all sorts, in literature as well as in every thing else, you would be tempted sometimes to smile if you could witness the shifts and contrivances which we are reduced to, to bring things into any decent order or arrangement. Up to this time I have not been able to afford to fit up a room for my own books, which lie therefore in a confused heap: authors soft and solid, fiery and frigid, lucid and opaque (sic), sacred and profane, like Lucretian atoms, all mingled together; and I scrambling one after another out of the chaos as I happen to want them: which, with the Thermometer at 92, as it has been, affords exercise for body as the books themselves do for mind. Indeed I often feel experimentally the truth of Augustine's saying "Episcopatus non est modus transigenda vitae"; if transigere vitam mean, as I suppose he intends, "to lead an idle life without anxiety." However we are now paving the way for those who are to come after, and their road I hope will be smoother. It is not perhaps strictly untrue to say I hope so: but it is still a trembling hope, sometimes almost overpowered by opposite misgivings: for what ominous appearances are around us.

I am perfectly in accordance with you in deeming it improbable that the Lord should forsake his Church at the very moment when it is showing itself most active for the accomplishment of the great purposes of its institution. But then, admitting all this activity to proceed from motives which God approves -

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in very many instances I fear it may not be so - still the very fruitfulness of the branch is set forth as the reason of His pruning it that it may bring forth more fruit. And He may subject us to very severe trials in order to purge out the insincere portion which still adheres to the Church, and to render the remainder, as being more pure, more equal to the tasks which is ultimately destined for it. For I do most sincerely think, and have thought for years, that Popery is so deep a mystery, as Jacobinism is of political iniquity, that when they come to coalesce and to be united against the truth, nothing can prevent their carrying all before them like a torrent for a time: and the final preservation of every better interest may depend on the fortitude and patience with which the adherents of it sustain the ill usage and ruin which attend the abettors of a forsaken and unpopular cause. It may be the very position of the Church of England to stand in this gap: and I frequently am under an impression that it is. Not that this apprehension is to make us relax in our efforts: quite the reverse. Nor is it to make us unhappy or dejected: for we must be well satisfied that happen what may, nothing can really injure us if we are firm in the good cause. Only when we regard things in this light, we see how possible it is that while the Church is most active and animated (as I acknowledge her at this time to be) in asserting the cause of her Divine Master, she may nevertheless by his appointment be standing on the verge of very awful trials. Every one of us I think should take all possible care to satisfy himself that the principles which we support are true; and then we shall be better prepared, if we should be put to the proof, to stand up bravely in defence of them. I would only add that I do not profess to decide that these things are to come to pass in our time, or even in our children's, or at any particular era: but that I think I see in the signs of this time, preparation making for such events: and that at some time before the close of all things such a period of trial will occur.



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I am afraid you will see cause to regret my having had today the enjoyment of more than usual leisure; as it has run me into this long discussion, which has disabled me, without adding yet another page, from saying one word about family and personal affairs.

With regard to your own, I rejoice sincerely to hear of the marked and well-earned success which attends your labours. It is my hope and prayer that your health and strength may continue equal to them and that you may long and happily enjoy the independence to which your exertions must conduct you. My engagements from this date to the time of Judge Burton's sailing will scarcely admit I fear of my writing by the same ship to Dr Keate; but the "Alfred" a very fast sailer is to start for England about one week later, and by that opportunity I shall make every effort to write to him. Both his Letters have reached me, and the Portrait; which is much approved. I am happy to hear that some satisfactory arrangement is likely to be made regarding Hartley; though, to the scandal of my comprehension, I must own that after twice reading over Dr Keate's account of the manner in which it is to be brought about, I am as devoid of any distinct idea as any post (?) can be. I must try, before I write, to sharpen my faculties, and by a third reading to penetrate into the arcana of the relation of Ellis to Hawley, Hawley to the Chapter, the Chapter to the Duke, the Duke to Lefevre, and all to Dr Keate, or I fear my worthy friend may think me either woefully stupid, or unkindly inattentive: and I am sure if the choice between them lay with me I should greatly prefer, in any relation to him, the former to the latter imputation. I regret very much not having received your Letter previously to my departure for New Zealand; as I might possibly from that Volcanic Soil have been able to add somewhat to your infant Museum. But I will not spare solicitations, there or in Australia, to such persons as I think may be able to pick up specimens suitable to your

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wishes. The only article I have BROUGHT away is not of the description you refer to; but I think extremely remarkable. I therefore send you by Mr Burton a small box containing some caterpillars or grubs, which appear not to undergo the transformation usual to that tribe; but either before or after the death of the reptile, or it may be operating to occasion it, a seed or bull-rush springs out of the head; and the entire substance of the body appears to be lignified, if such a word there be, the external form being still accurately preserved. These are, I have no doubt, plenty of specimens in England: but it is nevertheless pleasant to have things of one's own. Concerning my own family, I have little to communicate; so little, worthy of notice, happens to vary the uniformity of our way of life. Society we have very little: but enjoy so much satisfaction among ourselves that we are not forward in making acquaintances. I sometimes have my secret fears whether my wife's health is quite so sound as it used to be in England. She does not complain, but is thinner even than she was, and at times the heat of the climate evidently oppresses her. But for the present year that is over: and a very delightful season is opening upon us, which I trust will refresh and revive her. My two girls are light hearted innocent and good in disposition and principles; and are a great blessing and comfort to us. The life they have been compelled to lead during the last ten years has prevented their acquiring many accomplishments but their friends we hope will make allowance for this defect; for such I admit it is.

I have allowed so much space to them that I must confine your household to a mere corner. But assure Mrs C. my regard for her and all of you is not to be measured by the dimensions within which I send our united love to her: and find room to add that I am, Your faithful and obliged friend, W.G. Australia.