

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 12/10/1846 (Syd)

When I wrote to you on 1st by the Ganges the Bill of lading of the box of books by the Berkshire had reached me, but not the box itself. Since then it has come; all safe and dry. Very good books they are and truly am I obliged to you, or to whosoever it may be that confers the benefit: for a benefit it really is to have a few fit books to give to those who are prepared to profit by them. A few days after this, arrived your Letter of 29 May, the very sight of which, as coming from you, rejoiced my heart; and the contents filled me with thankfulness. It is difficult to determine wherewith to make a beginning in reply so many and so inviting are the topics. But my first endeavour must be to set you quite at rest as to the many letters which you have received from me since your last was written. That I have regretted on my own behalf the long interval which had elapsed, and the many ships which had arrived without bringing me direct news from you I may candidly confess, while assuring you that no such impression was ever made on my mind as should kindle any such feeling in you as that of "self-reproach". Indeed my dear Coleridge I am too sensible of what your time is worth, to require or expect from you regular replies to my many letters. You may recollect that some few years since, I continued (not voluntarily) longer than usual without writing: and in referring to this you begged me in future to write by every ship. This I have not done literally; but even taking your direction cum grano, I have written every often; oftener perhaps than was necessary; but at any rate more frequently than I could in reason or justice expect you to write in return. Only do your best, which I am sure you will, to keep me informed that you are well and what you are doing for us, and you need not look for complaints for (sic) me. Nil mihi rescribat ....ipsi vale. That is the best substitute I can make for the veni which is impossible. But mind, you will not take the nil quite literally.

With respect to the most astonishing communication which you make to me as to the foundation of the two bishoprics by one individual, I really of the opinion

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that the less I say about it the better; for I could not duly express my own feelings on hearing of this most extraordinary circumstance, and should perhaps only injure the effect of your description. But I cannot help saying that we must acknowledge in all this something beyond and deeper than a casual or happy concurrence of events. We know assuredly that there are special and decisive moments when all things work together in a way which human skill or industry could never have brought about exactly at the time when such an effect is needed. I cannot but believe that we witness such an operation here: for it is truly (Greek) *eis agadon*, and who beforehand could have hoped to witness such an effect, or the concurrence of such causes to bring it to pass?

As to my own Diocese, my anxieties appear now to be wholly removed; and the Cape: - why should I not say as much even for the Cape? upon the principle "that all the members should have the same care one of another, and whether one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it." I have written as you desire a long letter to Miss Coutts, and have put it under cover to you in charge of Captain Ferguson of the "Rajah". Therein I have given a very measured but sincere encomium for her munificence: falling indeed far short of (that) which I really feel and might have said. But judging from myself I should think that to persons who have the ability and the disposition to act the part she has done, it must be a most irksome thing to have much fuss made about it. Still I hope that nothing ungracious has fallen from me. If it have it belies my heart: which is filled with admiration, and with true respect which is far better, towards one who has not in vain had the example left her of going about to do good. There is nothing in my letter which should prevent her shewing it to you: and if you think it defective in warmth you can infuse some addition from what I have now said, and really without fear of exceeding the limits of truth.

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As you desired I have named our College: which is in actual and I may say active operation. Allwood takes the labouring oar: and my province is to lecture on the 39 Articles. My sixth is to be delivered the day after tomorrow. My intention was to have spared you any trouble on this subject: with which view I have written to Archdeacon Harrison. But now I cannot get away from you: and in a later part of my letter will tell you all about our proceedings. As to means, according to the plan I have prescribed for the present we shall not expect or require much. If our friends in England can furnish £200 p.a. we shall be able to go on, though I will not deny that £300 would put us much more at our ease. We shall move into the house we have engaged before the end of this year. It is called Lyndhurst; and is in all points good and desirable, as the Bishop of Tasmania whom I took to see it, can tell you. I have written also to Mr Alexr Hope about the Ecclesiological Socy and to Mrs Milward: whom I have referred to you upon all points, assuring her that you possess my entire confidence, and that she cannot do wrong in following always the course which you point out.

On the merits of St Augustine's I have quoted a strong passage from one of the Archbishop's letters which will have more weight than anything I could say of my own; unless it were that I quite agree in her sentence that "we have suffered dissent and disunion to break down the walls of our blessed Church, and now the opposite extreme is the natural consequence." There are her ipsissima verba.

Now I must come to the chief point: the partition of the Diocese. Already I have returned thanks most heartily to the Archbishop, to Mr Gladstone through him, to your brother, and to yourself in separate letters. These are I believe the only, or at any rate the principal parties concerned in setting forward my proposal. Yet I ought not to forget or to omit Mr Ernest Hawkins. To one and all of the above, in case you should see them, I can but request you to

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express most sincerely on my behalf, the very deep sense which I entertain of the unanimity and earnestness with which they have combined to accomplish this extension of the Church. As to myself, I have really not a single wish upon the subject unfulfilled; nor an expectation which has not thus far been gratified. Thanks to Mr Gladstone the colophon has been affixed with a celerity which makes the gift doubly valuable. And thanks to I scarcely know whom, but I presume to him, the work is finished at much less expense to me than I ever contemplated as possible.

You know of course that I take the produce of 40 Acres of land in part for my income. Some questions have arisen as to the power of leasing. Upon this point I have personally requested Sir George Gipps to see Sir John Coleridge if he can; and a little of his good advice will I trust remove all doubt and difficulty regarding the legal questions.

You lead me to suppose that the new Sees will be erected without waiting for my Report, which however I have forwarded to the Archbishop in compliance with his Grace's desire. It is not to be apprehended that any serious difficulties can arise from your proceeding without this further communication. The boundaries of the Port Phillip District are perfectly well known, having been officially defined, and the bishopric I presume will be contained within the same limits. In the north the question is not quite so clear. The only definite separation is by the boundaries of the counties, which may not be known in England; or, if known, may not be looked at. I am sending Home by this vessel to Mr Hawkins as many Maps as I can obtain; but they will probably arrive too late. The only risk of error arises from the circumstance of some places being easy of access from one side, but extremely difficult from the contrary direction: so that without local to guide a person in drawing the line of

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separation, he may give to each bishop portions of the territory which ought to belong to the other. Another point, certainly of minor importance, is the title of the northern See. I have fixed Morpeth for the archdeaconry, hoping that means might be found to continue that dignity in existence, even in addition to the bishopric which would be founded under another title. I have suggested Newcastle or Maitland; but these are not satisfactory. Neither these nor Morpeth are ever likely to be of importance enough to carry the rank of an episcopal city. But I must hope for the coming of a humble-minded man who will not be of a disposition to despise his Tasmina (?). You speak of my becoming Metropolitan. Respecting that also the Archbishop had enquired; and I answered him by saying that in my opinion the measure of creating a metropolitan (sic) might be in itself desirable: but that I felt personally a degree of disinclination to undertake such a dignity which led me to express a wish to decline it in favor of some more suitable man.

Another communication I had also to make to His (sic) Grace, apprizing him of Allwood's refusal of the Archdeaconry of Morpeth, which I then expected to have established, and of his determination to remain with me, and devote himself to the work of the College. I can interpret your expressions in no other sense than that he is destined for the See of Melbourne. You may be assured of my sincerity in saying that the only self-sacrifice for which I can assume any credit to myself in this whole transaction is in having put forth Allwood's claims in a way which was likely to lead to their being duly recognized; because to lose him is nothing short, to me, of parting with my right hand. It is impossible to overrate what he has done and is doing here: and I could find no words to describe him more accurately than those which you have used in speaking of the Archbishop, whom he resembles in all the leading features of character which you have traced. I felt it due to him and due to the Church to place him where such properties might have full room for their exercise.

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TEMANITE



But now I may adopt the words of Eliphaz the Timanite (?) and say to myself "it is come upon thee and thou faintest, it toucheth thee, and thou are troubled:" for literally I have no resource in any one else to supply his place. In his parish, in his weight and influence with all classes, in his uprightness and ability as an adviser, I may say "none but himself can be his parallel;" but in the College above all, which is quite as much his creation as it is mine, and at present is more immediately under his superintendance, his removal will create a vacancy which almost threatens ruin.

Upon this point therefore I must write urgently. The only resource that I can see is for myself to undertake by myself the sole charge and direction of the institution until you can procure me some helper. This of course is not an employment which at my years I can feel much disposition towards, nor, to speak the truth, can undertake without much inconvenient interference with my other duties. Nevertheless it is my firm resolution so to do, if Allwood must leave me, rather than witness the dispersion of those very hopeful and worthy young men whom we have collected around us. The pecuniary aid which would be required from England during the next two years (Oct 46-Oct 48) will not exceed £200 p.a., so that I do not apprehend there will be difficulty on that score. But what can be done to find a man of learning, temper, judgment, and weight of character such as the one we are about to lose; and above all so disinterested; and yet more difficult still to be found, a man who can maintain the highest and most truly catholic principles without giving occasion to the timid or censorious to cry out (as they do even against me) that he is bringing in popery. At one time I had formed a notion that Mr Formby might be such another; but it is plain to me now that he had not the force of mind and superiority to trifles which would have made him suitable. What an escape too have I had, I could not help saying to myself, when in looking very lately over

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a list of those who had followed that fatal example of declension into Romanism, I found his name included in it. No one who has that tendency would be for our purpose. Yet it is odd to be thus talking, of who will suit and who will not, in this somewhat imperious style, when we are in fact beggars and therefore not entitled to choose. But really the truth is that unless we could have an effective man it would be better to have none, and to allow the institution to drop. But I do form my plans, and after what we have seen and known cannot help forming them, upon the hypothesis that there are others yet remaining like

→ Allwood, who will engage in <sup>U</sup>such a work for its own sake, and not shrink from a laborious life and a narrow income; when the sum is to provide a succession of the ministry in so wide-spreading a branch as this is so of the tree which sprang but yesterday from its grain of mustard-seed. The S.P.G. has allowed me up to this time to appropriate from their grant £150 p.a. to A's use which with his colonial stipend gives him £350 p.a. and a house. For this he does the work of a large parish (having a curate to assist him) and fills the office of a College Tutor. If the Society will continue their allowance, of course his successor would have the same. With respect to the endowment of the College, or any provision whatever for its maintenance, I will candidly express my belief, even at the risk of being thought exorbitant, that it is not only better, but altogether indispensable, if we wish it to go upon sound church-principles, that we should obtain assistance from without, until we are so firmly set up as to be able to go alone, and insist upon having our own way. I do not think the people of the Colony would give much towards the erection and maintenance unless every one who gave might have a voice in appointing the system according to which a College should be founded and regulated. In most cases peoples' presumption would be in the exact ratio with their ignorance of the subject: and I could not face this with any hope of doing good. Your mention of Miss Burdett Coutts' favorable disposition towards such a design has

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encouraged me to hope for such aid as may keep me, at starting, independent of any other; excepting £1000 which good Dr Warneford has already placed in Trust for such a purpose. If we can thus go on and establish our own rules, and then merely have to ask people to come and enjoy the benefit if they will, the effect may be even more important than we first contemplated: for there is a design much encouraged just now of opening the Bar for candidates to be called, who have been educated here, and have not belonged to any of the English Inns of Court. Should this take place, we should, I am sure, have the taks of ← TASK educating by far the greater number of such candidates; and so obtain means of influence for good with a profession which I am sorry to say does require most sadly the introduction of religious belief and principles among the members of it 'here' (added). But this hold we can never have upon them if the College is to be started by means of funds to be collected here: and if, as would necessarily then follow, it must be moulded a ccording to the will of a colonial ← ACC public, gone mad almost with the intoxicating influence of what are called liberal principles. (N.B. however, South Australia is far worse.) My letter to Miss B.C. is forwarded under cover by Captain Ferguson of the ship Rajah: and within that cover I have given a description of three sites, and the probable expense of obtaining them: so that I need say no more upon that head; but if life and health are given me, I engage to carry on the College until I hear again what may be practicable. My scale of operations is extremely moderate and humble at present, whatever it may expand to hereafter; my principles being the very wise one of "non fumum ex fulgore etc". From what Mr Johsua Watson has said, I think that Archdn Harrison would be a willing cooperative. From his connection with the Archbp you must of course know him.

These urgent matters have occupied so much time and space that I cannot venture to say much upon that matter in which your last Letter (gratifying in all points)

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is above all others satisfactory to me: that is in disclaiming such sympathy with Mr Newman as one or two expressions in former letters had led me to dread, not that you were going to indulge, but that you had difficulty in suppressing. You know what the Apostle says "I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy." The apprehension of any evil is always in proportion to the sense of what its *it* → bitterness would be if it should occur: and hence arose my sensitiveness upon hearing what you stated as to the opinion of "some of the holiest and best of men" that Rome was the centre of visible unity, and that we had wandered from it; leaving me almost to infer that such was not far from your own conclusion. I am now perfectly satisfied that I misconceived the tendency of your observation; and can but hope you will pardon an error which arose only from my sense of what would be the stunning effect upon the prospects of the Church, and upon mine in particular, if the defection of Mr Newman were to win many to follow him. In the many thoughtful and enquiring hours which I have spent upon the subject, I have come more and more heartily to embrace the conviction that whatever else may be right, the Romish system is wrong; fundamentally and irretrievably so. I am most truly thankful therefore that such a man as Mr Keble (and in his own walk who can equal him?) does not mean to go away from us. Yet I think the grounds of his determination to stay are not so solid as *?* → they might have been. The too, as to his saying that if God's Providence has cast his lot in the Church of Rome, he believes it would have been his duty to have continued in it: What! even if he had seen, as he now sees that the tenet of the exclusive authority of the B.V. Mary as a channel of prayer was held authoritatively by that Church; and if he had known as he does now that it is a tenet contrary to the will and word of God: would he then have thought (it) his duty to continue? If so we may well ask what is meant by an earnest contending for the faith once delivered? And why too does he so studiously speak of our Church as the Church of Andrewes, Ken, Wilson etc? I have no objection to cast in my lot among these venerated confessors, and can only say

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God grant that I may be permitted so to do. But why does Mr K. so studiously exclude Ridley, for example? Does he mean that he will have no common cause with R. because his lot was cast in the C of R. in which according to Mr K's theory he ought to have continued: and if he then others: then all whose lot was so cast: or in other words we ought to have had no Reformation; and so we come back to the system of Mr Froude; whom, speaking with the reverence due to the dead, I have ever been compelled, with pain to myself, to regard as the evil genius of the whole moment. As to the objection that by leaving the Romish communion we should say in fact that all our own relations and predecessors in the Church were so and so, Mr K. does not require to be told how Hooker has treated that question feelingly and tenderly, but resolutely; and if Truth require us to say that of our relations, why say it we must: and not continue in a known error out of compliment to them. I am my dear Coleridge, Your sincere and affect. friend, W.G. Australia.