

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 4/9/1846 (Syd)

My dear Coleridge: Having so recently written to you by the Ship Margaret, which conveyed the Bishop of Tasmania from these shores, I have nothing very important to form the subject of a letter. But it is necessary I shld at any rate inform you of my having forwarded by the "Stains-Castle" a package containing the Picture which I described to you on my last. Lest however this communication shld outstrip the former I may say, even at the risk of troubling you with a twice told tale, that Mr Conrad Martens an artist, and really a well-affectioned Churchman, informed me he had no money to give towards the erection of our cathedral; but if I cld turn qa picture into £10 he wld gladly paint and present one. My reply was that I thought many persons wld willingly give such a sum for such an object, and for the sake of a person at the same time. Accordingly he sent me his performance which is now forwarded to you. The Bishop of Tasmania declares it to be well worth the price demanded; so that I am sanguine in my hope that you will obtain it.

C → Some years ago, when there was much talk in England about persons who had been once convicts obtaining incomes of £8000 or £10000 p.a. (which was after all mere moonshine) somebody mentioned this to Sir Robert Peel, whose reply was, What do the fellows do with their money; do they encourage the arts; do they buy pictures? If he shld ask you, you may say, Not much: but if you can recommend this picture for Sir Robert's own purchase, we shall be proud to take his money. Should you obtain that sum, pray be so good as to pay it in for my this year's subscription to St Augustine's: and I will make good the same amount to our Cathedral fund. We have raised nearly £1600 this year, and mean (as many of us at least as live so long) to continue the same during four year succeeding years which we hope will bring our work to a state nearly of completion.

By the 'Margaret' I wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury on the partition of

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*check.* → the Diocese; also to the Revd Edw. Coleridge, Revd Ernest Hawkins, and Mr Justice Coleridge on the same subject. I trust you will send as my co-adjutors two zealous men, strong in mind and body, 'without partiality and without hypocrisy'.

My College is going on well. Encouraged by promising appearances, I have ventured to engage (but only from year to year) a most excellent and appropriate house at a rent of £150. It is my hope and trust that we may obtain that sum from friends in England. The remaining expense, about £200 p.a., we shall raise among ourselves. We have 12 or 14 students, and all very promising: St Augustine's will be our model: therefore pray he be so ← ? kind as to send me from time to time detailed accounts how matters are to be conducted there. Most sincerely do I hope you will see Sir George and lady Gipps, who will come of course to Eton to see their son, and afterwards to Canterbury where his mother resides, and they are in the midst of his relations. He never flinched from his duty; and pretty nearly broke down under the incessant labour and harrassing attacks which he had to endure. But there was in his case that which reminded me of the Apostle's words "though our outward man perish, yet the inward is renewed day by day". In moral feeling he improved surprisingly. Fierce opposition on the part of others begot amenity in him; and he left us cured of many of his radical impressions, 'a sadder and wiser man'. lady Gipps is one of the most amiable and excellent of persons. From them, if you shld see them, and from the Bishop of Tasmania who will come to you as soon as he reaches England, you will hear all about us; how we are, and what we are doing. I have lately conversed with a Mr Purchas who tells me he had seen you in good health last March; but with that exception I have had no news from or about you since August 1845. Believe me to be most truly your affectionate friend,  
W.G. Australia.