

Rev. E. Coleridge
Elton College
Mendon.

Breg. Emma. at Sea.
2. December. 1850.

My very dear Friend,

By this time I hope that a Synodical Letter from the Bishops of the Australasian Province is far on its way towards you. This is to be followed by a Photographic representation of the Conclave, for which we have all sat to the sun, who has not flattered us, but has duly depicted the strange defeatures which time has written on our faces. It is the general opinion that Mr. Bambridge has not done me justice, but that I am much less worn and weatherbeaten than he represented me. Of course I am no fudge; being content to have gained a signal victory over Sarah, who has hoisted her white flag before I have a single grey hair in my head. Your admirable portrait has looked down upon our assembly in the Bishop's dining room, with that benignant scrutinizing & σπουδαγόμενος look of yours which Richmond has caught so happily. Would that you could have been present among us in body, as you were in spirit; and have seen the joy which Churchmen feel when they really meet for conference. After many days spent in discussion upon such hampered questions as the Queen's Supremacy, Primacy, Convocation &c., when we had almost begun to thank our stars (the Pleiades of course) that we were six instead of seven, lest the Romanist Attorney General of Sydney should have found a precedent for impeaching us, you may imagine with what joy & conscious freedom we escaped into the Mission Field, and without one word of hesitation passed a Canon for the establishment of an Australasian Board of Missions,

and the appointment of the Bishops of Newcastle & Newcastle
as Missionary Bishops. Think of my satisfaction in having
my old (No 7), in the Lady Margaret again associated
with me; and Richmond again united with Kew. It is
not happy; and such a conclusion as I could scarcely
have expected, when I punted him across the river
at midnight at Surley Hall, and swam across myself
after taking back the punt. This story of my knegit.
country, the good Bishop has duly published; so that
Sarah & he & I, are connected in the gossip of the good
people of Newcastle. I had a very pleasant visit of
ten days to his Diocese, and preached in 7 of his Churches;
one Evening I spent with Mr W. Boydell, the Bishop's
eldest daughter. Her husband is a quiet gentlemanly
man, but not, I fear, thriving in business as a settler. The
younger daughter has lately married Mr. George Crawley,
who is now beginning business as a Merchant. This also
will be a doubtful undertaking; and I fear that the good
old Bishop will not find much comfort in the thought of
the stability of his family. We thought him a good deal
broken by the loss of Mr. Broughton & by his late illness, but he
is still wonderfully strong, and rallied wonderfully as the
conference proceeded, which acted as a tonic to his
mind. There is some thought of his visiting England, not
strictly as a deputation from our Synod, for we could
not agree to depute any one; but to confer with the
Head of the Church, especially on his own position as
Metropolitan, which seems to require to be further & more clearly
defined. We cannot understand what is meant by his

subordination to the see ^{of} Canterbury, expressed in some vague words, such as "general direction & supervision". If it means that any question carried before the Bishop of Sydney as Metropolitan, may be again carried by appeal to Canterbury & so to the Court of Arches, & thence from Court to Court, till it reaches the Priny Council, we should be inclined to rebel. Our ^{own} Metropolitan, with the ordinary check of the Colonial Courts to guard against any flagrant injustice, would seem to be quite sufficient as a final appeal. This with ^{the} Bishop's question, if he should return to England; and his presence will afford the opportunity of much personal inquiry and explanation on the subjects of our Conference.

I have written a special letter on the subject of the Lyttelton Bishopric, to explain the feelings with which I have watched the careless & unsatisfactory manner in which this business has been conducted. It was strange enough to me, that the proceedings should have gone to the extent of an alliance with the Sengamine Cadaver of the N. Z. Company, before any official reference was made to the person, without whose consent one main feature of their plan could not be carried out; but it is still more strange that certain persons unknown, should in a printed document proceed to partition my diocese, without asking my consent, or in any way enquiring of me where I would consent that the line of demarcation should be drawn. If this proceeding ends, as I believe it will, in a delay of the consecration of the new Bishop, the persons guilty of this neglect, will have themselves, & themselves alone, to blame for the delay. Again, I am not at all

pleased by the entire suppression of my public letters to
Captain Thomas, in answer to the resolution referring the
question of site to the Governor & me; while my private letter
to you has been published, as if that, and not the other,
were my consent to the plan. My consent was a very
sounded & qualified balance of opinion upon the whole
question of connexion with the company. Least of all are
we edified by the exhibition of the Bishop of Oxford &
Dr. Jackson at a tavern at Greenwich, with the steady
adversary of all Colonial Bishops, Joseph Hume, and
a set of so called Colonial Reformers, to hear a
Sydney Demagogue, Mr. Lowe, abuse Lord Grey for
selling land ^{dear} according to the theory of E. G. Wakefield
(himself also present) & to hear Lord Lyttelton say that
the Canterbury scheme was in accordance with the
views of the said Colonial Reform Association, including
I presume, the views of J. Hume, Lord E. G. Wakefield
&c. So serious are the misgivings which these monstrous
combinations have caused in my mind, that it would
not take any great additional argument to
make me suspend my consent to the Lyttelton
Bishopric till I am better satisfied of the wisdom
and prudence of the projectors of the scheme. If I
consent at all, it will be in great measure owing
to the unexceptionable character of the man who
has been chosen. The secrecy with which all these
things have been carried on have filled me with
misgivings, where otherwise I should have hailed the
plan with delight. I see from the Bt of Oxford's speech that
he has retired from the Committee? Have all the independent
members done so? all these are for your private eye, but
you should think me pretentiously uncooperative. I hope
to be amongst them on New Year's day at Port Cooper, & see &
hear for myself. ^{Dear Colman, children, Keating, Derfords, Chappin,}
Your faithful & affectionate G. A. Meadland