

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERSBroughton to Coleridge, 13/9/1839 (Sydney)

My dear Coleridge: I have to thank you, as for many other acts of friendship, so for the great kindness of your Letter brought to me by Mr Crawley. The Mail by the Lady Fitzherbert is to close tomorrow, which has obliged me to sit up late to conclude my Letters to the Societies, and now leaves me little qualified for discharging the duty of a good correspondent to yourself and many others; including your worthy father in law, his brother Robert, and several others. To them and their families pray remember me with great regard and also to your dear wife who causes so many olive branches to flourish round your table. However as the table is, and by the bounty of Providence I trust will continue to be, very amply spread, the addition of more mouths will not be a very serious misfortune to you. I have received all the remittances of money; though the sums named by you, and those communications from the Bank, differ generally in some very inconsiderable amount. But I shall write to you more fully upon this subject when I have more time on my hands.

My last Letter to you was by Judge Burton, I think. You have received it let me hope, and seen the worthy bearer, whose absence causes a terrific chasm in our Society. But wherever he may be I am sure he will be at work for the service of the Church. From him you will have learned much that relates us to his departure from the newspapers and you will have had intelligence of events subsequent which I have from time to time forwarded to you. One of the latest contained a Report of a Meeting held on a Sunday in the Roman Catholic Chapel, their Bishop presiding, at which some stringent Resolutions were passed. One of them was for the presentation of a Memorial to the Marquis of Normanby, praying him to remove the Protestant Bishop from his seat in the Executive and Legislative Councils. You will have seen all about this in the papers; and therefore I will not recapitulate: but it appears to me worthy of attention, on the part of those at home who view with alarm the present

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pretensions of the Romish Church, how early and how perseveringly the adherents of it have taken up the business of agitation here, and of denouncing from their very altars all who venture to oppose in any way their growing power. Last year it was Judge Willis they aimed at; this year at me: whom it may be their pleasure next to denounce it is impossible to conjecture. One thing is very remarkable that while they style me no more than "the Protestant Bishop" or even "Dr Broughton", the Bishop of their Church assumes, as (and?) is by them recognized under, the title of "John Bede by the Grace of God and the appointment of the Holy See Bishop, Vicar Apostolic of New Holland etc." This is something: as shewing that, putting religion out of the question, they place the authority of the Pope above that of the King, who specially declares me to be "The Bishop of Australia". This they studiously decline acknowledging, in their Memorial to the Secretary of State: while the nominee of the Pope is invested with the all but regal attribute of being "Bishop by the Grace of God." This, united with the attempt to put a Bishop by clamour our of a Seat in the Legislative which he occupies under the King's authority, renders the whole proceeding curious; perhaps important. They charge me with attempting to destroy the civil existence of their Bishop. This refers to an objection which I raised in 1837 and have this year repeated, against the reception by the Governor at the Levee on the Queen's birthday of Dr Polding in the habit of a Bishop, or in the capacity of a Bishop: for I maintain that while we are by law required to swear that no foreign prelate hath (de jure) or ought to have (de facto) any jurisdiction within H.M's realm, this reception and acknowledgment of one who derives his order from the Pope's jurisdiction alone, is on the part of Government a virtual acknowledgment of that which they require me to swear neither does nor should exist. If they receive such Bps avowedly as Bishops, the Oath of Supremacy ought to be abolished; for the Pope then has jurisdiction acknowledged by the Government within Her Majesty's realm.

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I have sent copies of my Letters to Sir Robert Inglis; and through him to Lord Lyndhurst; and if I had been acquainted with your friend Mr Gladstone would have done the same to him. But of course he can see the correspondence, if he should wish, in the Colonial Office. My wish was expressed, and still continues unchanged, so far as concerns my personal feelings, that I might retire from the Legislative Council: but I do not know what to say as to being expelled through the influence of a posse of Romanists. My being there has lately been of some importance; i.e. when the debate took place on the Governor's Resolutions about public education. A more flagrant and shameful attempt to destroy our Church never was made. However we made a fair fight; and compelled the Governor to give way. We therefore retain our Schools until 1st Jan. 1841; and we must endeavour to get them in the interim firmly established; so as to last as long as this is a country. The Speech which I made in opposition to the British and For: School system has been published in a separate and more correct form. I have requested my brother in law, Mr Francis, to whose charge it is sent, to forward to you 20 copies: which you will I am sure put into the hands of those who may do us good. I shall need all the support that can be given me from home; otherwise though I may do my own duty, I can hardly hope to maintain the Church. I have to add only that we are all quite well. I have a Letter this day from Chapman who introduces to me a Mr Pilleau: I have not yet seen him but will do all in my power for his service. My wife and daughters are gone to a Ball otherwise I am sure that they would unite in kindest regards to all at Eton and Hartley with Your very sincere, faithful friend, W.G. Australia.