

Broughton to Coleridge, 9|7|1844

My dear Coleridge: Scarcely had I dispatched my Letters to you by the Jane Goudie (?) last week, when the gratifying arrival took place of your Letter of 10 Feb. with the boxes, for us and New Zealand, containing Books and the Prints of Mrs Selwyn, for which we are all thankful indeed. It is a nice picture: but as to likeness I think the bishop has taken all his own and half his wife's share: for another such resemblance as that print bears to him is not to be met with I fancy upon earth. The boxes and letter for them shall be forwarded by the first Vessel sailing hence to the Bay of Islands. We have no intelligence from them since the date of his Letter which I forwarded to you. The Achilles they tell me sails for London at day-break tomorrow. It is therefore not in my power to write to you very fully now; but you shall have another Letter or two by the Ocean Queen (Thetis I presume is her name) who is to follow Achilles on Thursday.

The cause of my being behind hand is one which I trust will not displease you: namely my having been engaged in writing separate Letters of thanks to each of the individual donors whose names are included in the List which you kindly furnished me with. By working away tonight I trust it may be in my power to complete what I feel to be the least and lowest return that I can make for such acts of kindness and munificence towards us, from so many strangers to us in the flesh. I shall forward them to Mr Francis, and request him first of all to put on stamps for free transmission by post, and then to send them to you; trusting that the same kind hand which has so fairly written out the list of benefactors will, as kindly, undertake to add the proper directions on the Letters: for I am ignorant of the greater number. As to yourself my dear Coleridge you desire me not to thank you: and it is well you do so; for I should

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not know even how to attempt, much less how to effect it worthily. But I am filled with gratitude and with no less wonder at your having accomplished such an undertaking. No one else living cld have done it. I assure you it gives rise in my mind to deeper thoughts. But for the arrival of at least £1200 I do not see how it cld have been in my power to satisfy importunate claims, or to preserve some of our truest friends from the extreme of inconvenience and loss. it came at the most critical season I have ever experienced: and the consciousness of having been the instrument of averting so much mischief will most satisfactorily reward you - much more than my thanks if I cld utter them cld do - : while to me the whole carries the appearance of a providential interposition to save the Church by putting this design into your thoughts and enduing you the powers to carry it through. I hope I am not superstitious; but this is my fixed impression. Pray thank Mr Grant, with whom I presume you have frequent communication, for his Bampton's Lectures of which I have as yet had time to read more than the Introduction which is very sensible and judicious. At other parts, and the body of the work, I have only peeped cursorily between the leaves. But what he says, or you say, of my Protest is very satisfactory to me as it appears to shew that persons or judgment do not consider me as having done a captious or silly thing. I gave it my best consideration: and finally made up my mind to the step at Church on Sunday March 12 while reading the 64th Psalm which seemed to me, at the moment, to be very applicable. On the day of my consecration 14 Feb I read the 71st with a similar feeling of its suitableness to my case: and do so still as often as it occurs. Others wld not see it: but that does not disprove the reality which is conveyed to me. By the next Vessel I will write again. In the meantime pray do not doubt, my dear Coleridge, the grateful feeling with which I am always yours, W.G. Australia.