

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Broughton to Coleridge 11|12|1843 (William's Town)

My dear Coleridge: The place from which I am enabled to write to you is one of which, most probably, you have never before heard the name. It is however the Piraeus of Melbourne to which place no ship of burden can approach nearer than this. I had a twofold purpose in remaining a day or two stationary here: first that I might officiate yesterday in a place where there is a total destitution of the ordinances of religion, and secondly might be near the 'Midlothian' in which I am returning to Sydney. We expect to sail tomorrow. Most fortunately and to my sincere gratification, scarcely had I settled myself here when a Vessel came into port having Sir John and Lady Franklin on board, on their way to join the Ship 'Rajah', on board of which I last wrote to you, and by which they are to proceed to England. They passed two days here, and chiefly with me: and last night returned to their Vessel which sailed shortly after. You who have undergone it will understand the solemn feeling which accompanies parting from those we esteem and value, without any human probability of ever seeing them again on earth. When I looked out this morning, and saw the spot vacant where their little Schooner had lain yesterday, I felt all that the writer of the Book of Wisdom conveys by his expression 'the remembrance of a guest that tarrieth but a day'. This Letter is to be conveyed to England in charge of Lady Franklin; and the first object of it is to make the parties known to you and Mrs Coleridge. I will not offer any apology as if this were taking a liberty; because the reputation of Sir John is such from his arduous and successful services in the Polar expedition, that to a mind like yours it will be gratifying to know him. lady Franklin is a person of indefatigable research, as you will not fail to discover after the first half hour's conversation, But that probably which may most interest you will be what she has to relate concerning the Bishop of Tasmania and his proceedings. She can

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tell you also somewhat concerning the other Bishop who is now writing to you. In the expectation of your becoming acquainted we talked volumes yesterday about you and all your labours for us, past present and to come: and she is prepared to reciprocate with you in every sentiment respecting those persons and those purposes in this hemisphere on behalf whereof you feel so deep an interest. They are accompanied by Miss Franklin, the daughter and Miss Cracroft a niece, of Sir John, who can each of them contribute a very respectable portion of information upon the subject just referred to; but most particularly as to the Bishop of Tasmania and his Archdeacon.

At the present moment I can do little more than acknowledge the receipt of your short but important note of 25th June, which Mrs Broughton sent down to me from Sydney. The longer communication which had arrived by the 'Clara' I have not yet seen; nor can I have the gratification of reading until I land (if God permit) in safety at Sydney. It is a subject of very great regret that my absence from home just at this time shld prevent my shewing to Mr Jones and Thomas Hutton that attention which I regard as strictly that due of every one who may come with your recommendation. Much also do I regret to have missed the opportunity of seeing Captain and Mrs Fitzroy (sic), who with General O'Brien have been at my house, and realize, Mrs Broughton writes me word, everything that you have said of them. She with her two girls was going last Saturday to meet them at dinner at Government House, and the same tomorrow at Sir Maurice O'Connell's.

Upon the really important part of your Note I will not touch at present any farther than saying that the final conclusion at which you have arrived accords most precisely with that from which I set out. In my Letter to you I expressed (did I not?) my strong persuasion that in your present position you both enjoyed and exercised ability to benefit not merely one Colonial Diocese but all; which important advantages it appeared to me wld be surrendered if you were placed in the See of South Australia. But, I proceeded, if you were

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to undertake any episcopate in this hemisphere it shld be the oldest and central one; as my successor but with extended powers. if this were not ← *appe Case ??* expressed in my Letter to you it certainly was very strongly in my communications to the B. of N.Z. It is however, I must repeat, as clear to me as the light of the sun that your proper place, for the advantage of us all, is where you are now. With respect to myself, I can with full sincerity of heart assure you of the impression upon my thoughts, that I am not doing so much as some other, coming with fresh means at his command, and with the impulse of a fresh mind, might accomplish. Candidly also I acknowledge my personal inclination wld be the same with that which Dr Arnold expressed in his dying memorandum - 'to step back': for to myself it has always been matter (sic) of surprize how I ever came to be placed in a station so prominent, as well as (Believe me) a burden to me to bear authority, when I wld much rather have been myself under command. But whatever my own feelings may be, you may be assured that I hope and intend never to be guided by them in any resolve that I may make upon this subject; but to follow, as I have hitherto done, the course which God prepares for me; and to make myself an instrument for carrying out (so far as my ability admits) the designs of those who are, with yourself, engaged in laying a sure foundation for the Church in the Colonial empire of England.

I am reminded by this turn of observation to mention to you my having written to the Archbishop, now some months ago, making a tender of my services to visit episcopally the new Settlement of Honkong (sic), and to place in order and activity the Mission which I had understood the S.P.G. was preparing to institute there. It is a most important measure, the consequences of which it is quite impossible to calculate: and I am quite prepared to go, if difficulties shld in the first instance attend the appointment of any one else. You will have the goodness not to mention this to any one (unless it be Mr Joshua Watson) except you shld hear it spoken of by others: as I left it in the power of the Archbishop to pass the proposal by, sub silentio,

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in case it shld not recommend itself to his sense of expediency.

To return however to my own immediate Diocese, I shall employ myself immediately on arriving at home, in drawing up a full account of the state of affairs in this District of Port Phillip, and of its urgent wants: suggesting what is necessary, in my opinion, for their removal if means can be found. But that will be difficult I fear. You have heard most probably of Archdeacon Hales' Plan, or Crochet, as he tells me it is termed. My persuasion is that may be usually applicable here: and I shall write to him, and strongly recommend the experiment to be made.

By this time let me hope you have received the Portrait. My wife was not pleased with it. I do not know why: but I hope Mrs Coleridge will be better satisfied. As if to verify the saying that it never rains but it pours, there is another portrait of me going home by the 'Rajah'. The artist is a lady (Mrs McGrae) of Melbourne, and the execution, so far as I can judge, is much superior to the other. The occasion of its being painted was this. St James' Church at Melbourne was built at a heavy expense: and though not half finished is much in debt. With a view to contribute to the reduction of this in some degree, this lady wrote to request I wld sit to her, with a view to having the portrait engraved in England, in the hope of raising, by the sale perhaps of a few copies there among friends and of a few more here, a certain number of pounds which the Church was to have the benefit of. Whether, when the expenses are defrayed, there can be any surplus I have not knowledge enough of the subject to judge. But there cld be no doubt I felt assured of your readiness to forward the design: and therefore said that if her friend 'Jas John Cummins Esqr 34 Abchurch Lane London' to whom the portrait is consigned, cld communicate with you, there was every probability that the praiseworthy design of the kind artist wld be much promoted.

I must not omit to say that to meet the Franklins I had Capt and Mrs Bunbury, whose acquaintance I owe to your introduction, as friends of

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Miss Repton. Shld you ever again meet the latter I beg you will say that having no seel all the parties of whom mention was made in the short note which you forwarded to me from Farley Hill, I can conscientiously testify that there was no exaggeration in the portraits, however favorable, which were drawn of them by her pen. In truth, if thy portrait were engaged (engraved?) I shld be much gratified in sending her a copy in acknowledgement of the benefit derived from the services of her brother in law Mr Sconce for which I am indebted altogether to her introduction. Captain Bunbury this very moment comes in to say that our Vessel weighs and sails at twelve tonight. The sands of the glass are therefore running low: and in order to be ready I must now conclude (as it is time I should) with saying may God for whom Check each of you entertain affection. Your most obliged, and ever affectionate friend, W G Australia.