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Sydney. 26. January 1847.

received 14 June 1847

My dear Mr. Watson

Without keeping any artificial record of the state of my correspondence, I have a sort of inward monitor which informs me with tolerable accuracy how the account stands. I have just been looking at your latest letter and that of your most kind and esteemed Secretary; and find that yours bears date 16 June 1846 and Miss Watson's the 13th of the same month; and therefore as it is high time for me to reply to one of the party I have made choice of you; though I know not what the Secretary may think of that. But should I live and continue well, I propose writing to her by the "Sir George Seymour" about the 1st (or thence to the 7th) of March. Believe me I derived very sincere satisfaction from your letter; as the cheerfulness of its tone and the regularity of the hand-writing confirmed me in the belief that you continued up to that time well in mind and body. Let me assure you that your continuance in that happy state, so long as it shall please Him in whose hands is the disposal of us all, is one of the considerations by which my satisfaction and contentment are now very much affected. It is not my disposition to look in a querulous spirit upon the

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The existing state of the world. In many respects I acknowledge
gratefully there is great improvement since you and myself
were young. But I cannot help being conscious of this: I look
those whose sentiments on the most important of all questions
are congenial with my own, much more rapidly than others
rise up to replace them. It might have been so, tho' perhaps
not to the same extent, even if I had remained in England.
Even then however it would have happened. My firm personal
conviction is that the world is changing. You are not to think
that I am desponding as to the Church. My conviction of
its indestructibility is as firm as the rock on which it
is built: and you do but re-echo my exact feelings in
saying there is more for us to hope than fear on her account.
But is it not (to borrow a little from devout H. Leighton)
"Hope amidst Pillows."? (see Ps. xlii. 8) Perhaps I may err in
my conception of the designs of Providence (for it is almost
presumption to seek to scan them) but my persuasion is
somewhat of this kind: - that the Church of England may have
been sustained by the countenance of the temporal powers,
(with one or two severe abatements) from the time of Elizabeth
to the time of Geo: 3 in order to afford time for the accumulation
of that vast and marvellous body of evidence against Papists,
Infidels and Schismatics, which our Divines faithfully employed
their leisure in accumulating. I think it allowable to say Deus
probiis hae ostra fecit: for to the end of time, they who shall
seek for argumentative defenses against the three evil spirits
above mentioned, may find them in our inexhaustible storehouse.
May

(3)
May not Divine Wisdom now reverse the scene; and as it gave
them our prejudices, ^{our prejudices} cast and comfort to supply the world with a record of good
principles, may it not now suffer to expose us to the opposite
experience of trouble and discomfort in order to prove the
sincerity of our adherence to these principles? Perhaps the
time is coming when sinist quæstiones may be the general
motto of our calling. Indeed my dear friend I am not
cast down by the prospect: neither do I languish ill for the
cause of the Gospel. Quite the contrary. But still, when
"men's hearts are failing them for fear, and for looking
after those things which are coming on the earth" (which is
my case at this crisis) I do not see how one can avoid
a feeling which saddens even if it do not discourage.
Twenty years ago and upwards I remember saying that
the only cause of regret I felt in having children was the
anticipation of the troubles times they might live to witness.
and now having grand children I say it with double
energy: yet with no murmuring. Here my weakness is
very great from want of supporters: I mean the want of
a sufficient number among the clergy who are at once
honest earnest and judicious. Still my endeavour is
to provide such. About a month since I forwarded to
you and many other friends in England a newspaper
containing a Report (as accurate as newspaper Reports
usually are) of our proceedings on the close of the last
Term of 1846 at our inipicent College. I pray that it may
do

do good. But if I am to lose Mr. Allwood (as indeed on his own account and for his own worth I ought to lose him for one or other of the new seeds) it is in vain to attempt to conceal that I lose my right hand, and cannot replace it. I am now beginning to think of the applicability of good Dr. Warmford's donation; and have written to him a respectful intimation of what ^{are my} purposes. I have also written to the S. P. G. in charge of whom the money is placed; and can be appropriated only with the consent in writing of the Bp. of Canterbury and yourself. For the present I have hired a good house at the rent of £150 per ann: and shall not be precipitate in proceeding any farther in building, or in outlay for any purpose, until a moderate experience shall have shown what success we are to look for in our undertaking. My apprehension is that we have not, and cannot have, a sufficient supply of youths, educated in the Colony up to that point of advancement which is necessary to qualify them for admission to a college: and I am disposed to uphold the true import of the word, and ^{not} to suffer an Institution bearing that name to sink down into nothing better than a great school.

Knowing your anxiety about Mr. Allwood, I have never ceased to make all possible enquiry, and once I understood I had traced him to South Australia: but it proved to be another person of the same name. The other day ^{however}

however meeting a person who came out by the same
 ship in 1836 I questioned him, and from the clue thus
 obtained was led to believe that the career of this object of
 your past kindness and present solicitude had had a
 disgraceful termination, in his having been convicted
 of some offence for which he was transported. I requested
 my secretary Mr James to endeavour to ascertain the
 truth of this statement by searching for the record of any
 such conviction, and making other enquiries. This he
 has done; and you will see with what success by the
 enclosed extract of a note which he sent to me yesterday.
 Should I receive any further information on the course
 of the day it shall be included. If not, it shall be sent
 by the earliest opportunity, as I have no doubt we shall be
 able from the traces now obtained, to follow up the
 enquiry with success: and as to anything which may
 have occurred in Van Diemen's Land I can obtain any
 information from Adm. Marriott. I think it was formerly
 mentioned to you that out of the sum which you placed
 in my hands for (as he had drawn £4 before he disap-
 peared; and that the remainder lying unclaimed I
 appropriated to the purchase of the Benedictine Edition
 of the Works of Bigen, for the service of our Theological
 Library. The four volumes are now in my sight: a most
 magnificent Copy: & probably the handsomest Books in the S. hemisphere.

I have read with great interest your observations on the
 form of ecclesiastical regimen to be established in these Colonies.
 We missed undoubtedly the proper course, and the proper oppor-
 tunity of constituting an Archbishop of Sydney, and allowed the
 R. Ath. to seize upon an advantage which we can now never
 recover. But then, together with this persuasion and quite as
 firmly, I hold the opinion that I was not the proper person for
 such a dignity. But a proper person surely might have been
 found. My views in other respects go entirely with you
 unless it be perhaps upon the one point of retaining for the
 Archbishops of Canterbury the primacy over us, for the sake
 of the political consolidation of the several branches of the
 empire. I am not sure at the same time whether this be so much
 the suggestion of your own thoughts, as the expression of the
 views which ministers of state may be supposed to entertain.
 My objection to it however is this: that the papal supremacy
 appears to have been engendered out of some such diversion
 of the influence of the Church to an improper object. When the
 emperor Gratian threw into the hands of the chief bishop
 that universal jurisdiction which was given by making him
 the centre of all appeals. I think he was influenced less by a
 religious than by a political motive. And the world has
 paid, and still has much to rue from the issue of that decree.
 So if our Primate have a corresponding privilege, it will be
 difficult to make the world comprehend that we mean it to
 be only ordine ecclesiastico, and not jure divino: and, as
 time goes on, it may be equally impossible to preserve the
 distinction in fact; so as to prevent our theory from running
 up into and becoming identified with that of the Romanists.
 Fortunately for you the end of my paper brings my dissertation
 to a close, and leaves me only room to add that I am
 my dear Sir, Your sincere & faithful friend. N. B. Australia