1 ✓ ✓ no? 145 Sept 1844

Sydney. 8th May 1844.

My dear Mr Watson

A very few days since I received the L.E.J. for December last, bearing in the address your well known characters. Many times do I remember to have said "Mr Watson writes the finest hand of any man in London"; and great satisfaction does every fresh proof of the truth of the assertion afford me. My last letter to you were dated 13. Sept^r:- October & 21st Dec^r 1843. Since then, I fear, nothing but a blank is to be recorded. My letters had one especial object, to acknowledge the receipt of the £700 which was drawn for according to your wish and instructions or rather I sought to pay the £800, including the sum subsequently received from benevolent Dr Wardlaw.) The security which I provided, and the arrangement proposed for the return of that sum, have proved satisfactory to you: except that it may be advisable to put the business into a more strictly legal shape. Really, as affairs have stood in this place during the past two years, and as they still continue, it would be exceedingly difficult to say in what manner £800

could

could be invested with security. So that I hope what has
been done is in itself the most independent of all practicable
modes of proceeding, independently of the personal relief
which has been granted to me. Upon the subject at present, and
until your answer shall have reached me, I will mention
only that the Government can now issue Debentures at 6 per
per cent per ann: secured upon the Land-fund, which is, so
far as I can venture to speak of any thing here as stable, a
very good security. Had I money of my own, this would be
the investment of my choice. My purpose is, as often as
I have a supernumerary hundred pounds, to lay it out
in the purchase of such a Debenture, and to lodge it in
the Union Bank here as a Trust-fund, to be applied towards providing a residence for my
successors. Every such deposit will of course operate pro
tanto in diminution of the charge upon the Life Insurance.
In this way the advantage to me, durante vita, will be
about £50 per ann: applicable as rent; and whether I
survive or not until the principal is thus replaced, there
is no question, I trust, that it will be secure. In matters of
account my skill proceeds very little beyond making
arrangements to meet all just demands, which hitherto it has
has been in my power to do, and I trust in God's goodness
it will so continue to the end. My chief anxiety now is to
know that what has been thus settled meets your sanction and
approval. If not, I have only to hope that the arrangement may
be made. With respect to the £10 50 (with the disposal of which
I had no concern) you will ere now, and long ere now, have
received Mr Justice Barton's explanation. The land on
which the mortgage was taken, I am told by every one,
is of first-quality; and to the best of my knowledge and
belief is amply worth the amount advanced. At present
I certainly do not think it will yield an income, or any
other than a very small one; owing to the extraordinary
depreciation in the value of all live-stock. Very fine
sheep sell from 5/6 to 8/6 a head, and oxen weighing
700 lb. I am told, fetch no more than from 15 £ to 25 £. But
there is a good property permanently attachable to the
Lee; and considering that we have 300.000.000 Chinese,
not very far off, who eat beef and wear woollen, I do
not doubt but that in process of time, all really good
land (as this is) will be a source of advantage to the owners.
I will now turn to a very different subject. In my letters
before

before referred to you will perhaps have observed that I made no allusion to the remarks which you so kindly sent me on "the rock that followed them". It can hardly be necessary to explain that this silence arose from no other cause than my wish to look again over the argument, (which I felt was due to the kind pains you had bestowed) before I made any reply. My opinion certainly is still unchanged that St Paul is alluding to both passages (Exod XVII, 6 & Num: XX, 11) and certainly I find that St Augustin (Tractat: 26. in Joan:) does refer the Apostles words especially to the latter instance. "Bibebant enim de spiritali sequente petra; petra autem erat Christus. Inde panis, inde potus. Petra Christus in signo; verus Christus in Verbo et in carne. Et quomodo liberant? Percussa est petra de virga bis. Gemina percussio duo ligna crucis significat." However my dear Mr Watson, I must frankly own that carrying my opinion would not confirm the principle for support of which it was advanced: for the case therein, (i.e. where instance of high a lawful minister imparting spiritual grace although in the administration of the sacrament he deviated from the appointment of the Lord (striking the rock instead of speaking to it), whereas the real point in controversy was whether an unauthorized minister, conforming to the divine ordinance, administers or not, a valid sacrament to such as receive in faith. With permission of the court therefore I withdraw the plea. Another still very different subject I have to speak of, that is the marriage of my eldest daughter, on which, while I write, I feel all the tender interest and sympathy with which you will allow your feelings to expand towards me and my wife on such an occasion as this. Persons come in crowds, and with kindness truly moving, to congratulate us; and an occasion of congratulation it certainly is: for she has married according to her own choice, a man of excellent character, of small but unincumbered property, and strongly attached to her. They will have, I trust, as Lord Sydenham truly describes the best life, a plenty of the necessaries of life but no money: "till I feel the void; and, in my selfishness, can not always have patience to be congratulated. Nothing however, ever conveyed to me so powerful an impression of the sheer truth of the declaration, for this cause shall a woman leave father and mother and be joined to her husband as this inexperienced young creature, who from the day of her birth until that moment had

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(To Mr William Boydell)

had never been separated from her mother for half a day,
yet able when the moment came to go under another's care,
to embark on board a steamer, and on landing to plunge
on into the desert wilderness, it was really in my eyes like that
history of Rebekah, when they asked her Will thou go with this
man? and she said I will go. My earnest prayer is, that they may
share the blessing of Isaac and Rebekah: and the accounts we
have received are very gratifying. On Thursday last I held
my Visitation, and hope shortly to have the satisfaction of
forwarding to you a Copy of the Charge. Upon the question
of General Education I spoke quietly but decidedly; stating
that the Church of England had determined with entire
unanimity against any such compromise as should take
the lambs of the flock from under the care of their proper
shepherds: or interfere with or unsettle them at all
times; according to our Lord's direction, in the Scriptures,
by the Creeds, Catechism, and Liturgy. I spoke also of the
Protest, re-affirming it, and of my ordination according
to the Anglican ritual, of heretofore presbyterian ministers:
deducing from these two occurrences my conclusion as to
the true and proper place assumed by the Ch: of England
in the subject of opinions in the Church at this moment.

Education Charge

I

have

have endeavoured to speak with a decent freedom,
and firmness, suitable to my station, and necessary also from
the tendency, even here, to run into extremes. I have desired
that a news paper should be forwarded to you containing
the Report, which is full and exact enough, except in one
part, relating to our Articles of 1563 and the Decrees of Trent,
wherein they have blundered and made the whole obscure
and nonsensical. The effect I hope has been rather good.
But to day even, I had a visit from a man of some
consideration and influence (the Speaker of the Legis-
lative Council) who shewed the clover foot, by saying
"But how are we to put the Schools under the charge
of the clergy unless the Bishop will assure us that he is
satisfied of the soundness of their opinions, which as to some
no doubt?" I knew of course what was meant: and
my reply was "All the clergy have subscribed the Articles
and declared their unfeigned assent to the Liturgy: and
so long as they continue to hold my license, that is a
sufficient proof that I am satisfied as to their opinions:
and beyond that it is not in my power to go". It is plain
what they want: that is to lay down another test, and to

Letter Vigorous

require

require a disavowal of what they call Puseyism (to which I was ashamed to see some clergymen candidates for election ship had submitted) After the Visitation the clergy assembled, and after considerable discussion sent me an address expressive of their unanimous opinion that great danger would arise from any proceeding to England to lay before the government a representation of the state of religion education and morals in the portions of the territories beyond the boundaries and some of the Bishops. The proceeding surprised and perplexed me a good deal. Yesterday I met the clergy to confer upon the matter: when I stated my view of the matter, I rather discouragingly for their proposal. Today they have met again in association with some of the laity, and after some discussion adjourned till Tuesday next. So far as matters have yet gone I shall send all the papers to Coleridge by this Post; which therefore it will be necessary for you to see if desired. Some advantage might arise from my personal communication with Lord Stanley; I do not doubt. But he can do very little I imagine, opposed and thwarted as he would be in any proposal for giving advantages to the Church of England. Besides, I do not know who can answer for the permanence of the ministry. It very often strikes me with extreme solemnity to reflect that the very men who in 1829 destroyed the Constitution under plea of averting a

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a civil war, should be now again in office, with that apprehension virtually realized, & with civil war staring them in the face, as the consequence of that very measure by which they hoped vainly to avert it. They did not know popery. Whenever the history of that period shall be written I hope that justice will be done to the solid truth contained in those petitions to Parliament which you and I and thousands of others, signed nearly every year from 1809 to 1829 against Emancipation. I cannot say the aspect of affairs pleases me. The trial of 7 Bishops gave rise to the constitution: the trial of 8 conspirators may overthrow it. I am impatient to hear the result, which must we presume have been long ago ascertained. I must not forget to express my thanks to you and the Ed: of J. C. L. which I find a very temperate sensible periodical, abounding with information, and, I think, worthy of much confidence. I grieved deeply to learn through it that Dr Pusey delighted his adherence to the principle of Tract 90. This cannot be too deeply regretted for the mischief it will do. On the other side the rash and absurdity is this Lay Address to Dr Wyatt with its 10000 signatures. Was any thing ever half so injudicious? But I must go prating on no longer. Having room only to repeat my thanks for your many acts of great kindness, and my prayers for your continuance under God's mercy and protection and to take me to be my dear friend, Your most faithful and obliged servant

W. G: Australia

SEP 16 1844

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Bk Australia
8 May 1844 ~~2nd 16 Sept.~~
England by The Caledonia

Joshua Watson Esq^r
Daventry