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Sydney 9th May 1851.

My dear (Ole) ridge

Received by the last vessel from London your most kind and welcome letter of 18 Dec 1850. The sight of your hand writing occasioned me unmeasured joy. The sight of the engraving which stands at the head of the letter a variety of emotions. The view of that glorious Cathedral connects itself with the remembrances of my earliest life, almost of infancy; with all the hopes and enjoyments of youth; with all that I have learned and all that I have felt through life; with the memory of early friends, most of them (and one of them in particular) now in the grave. But enough of this. I must not trouble you with themes like this, when I have others of so much higher import to write upon: and I strive perpetually against allowing my own feelings to unfit me for that work which I must not neglect, though I cannot hope to finish while it is day. For what season, except in eternity, can finish the building up of the Church of Christ? It is not many weeks since I wrote to you (but have omitted to note the name of the ship) and told you we had with us the Bishop designate of Lythelton and his family. So that we have had an addition made. Mr Jackson having given birth to a daughter a week ago. They are doing well; and I cannot be too thankful that it took place before they went on board and sailed for England, and that I have been able in my poor home, and much more in the attentions of my kind daughter, to afford her such accommodation and support. I do not think they will get away before the first week in June. Our new brother, that is to be, is widely an able energetic man. Not of much experience, I presume, and not perhaps duly prepared for the trials and struggles which must come upon him (or, if not upon him, upon his successors) in carrying out the great design, for great it really is, upon which he is employed. Those trials, I tell him, will not be felt nor will he be capable of judging what they actually

actually are, until he shall have, as we have here, a metropolis of 60000 people, with the force of a public opinion which it generates, an elective democratic Council with the uncontrolled disposal of the public revenue, and perpetually arrogating for itself more extended powers, and a compact resolute political Romish hierarchy established in avowed hostility to him and his, enjoying rather more than a fair share of government support and attendant influence. However he is, I believe, a good deal astonished at what he witnesses here: the number, order, and attentiveness of our congregations, the character and deportment of the clergy, and the faithfulness and liberality of the great middle class of our party. In truth I believe he has seen a greater mass of churchmanship, and of a good character too, in this single city, than he can witness in all New Zealand for the next 50 years. I have been led into saying this, because it is evident he entertained some strange notions as to our moral and social state here; and from conversations I have had with him I fear the people in England are impressed with somewhat of the same erroneous conception. I trust that the Meeting of the Bishops last October (whatever else it may fail of accomplishing) will have at least the effect of disabusing you to some extent of such personations if they have at all prevailed. The truth is that for a century to come, and perhaps for ever, the great struggle of principles in this hemisphere will be in this place from which I now write. I hope you will not fancy I am overrating our own importance: I have no disposition of that kind; but speak disproportionately from having almost all parts of all the colonies, and having for more than 20 years watched their progress. In further testimony of the spirit which lies at the heart of our Church people, I may mention with some pride and thankfulness that they have subscribed and paid down £1000 towards the purchase of the Missionary Ship. It is called "The Border Maid": but we hope to have the name changed to the "Southern Cross"; and to place at the stern an achievement of the arms of the See of Sydney. The burden is about 120 or 130 tons new measurement; the price £1200. I have also sanctioned a further outlay of £50 for necessary improvements and beautifying. I went on board last week and examined her very carefully. There are three very good sleeping cabins, and a little cuddy: so that it will

will carry the two Bishops and Mrs. Selwyn very comfortably. Poor soul we
had yesterday a letter from Mrs. Abraham conveying a sweet touching picture of
her calm resignation under the loss of her last-born child, of which without doubt
you will have heard. I expect the Bishop of Newcastle to join us on the 17th and
after remaining here a few days he will proceed with the Vessel to Auckland,
and thence on their Mission. May God's blessing go with them; and enable
them to bring forth much fruit; and may their fruit remain. But to finish
what I have to say as to the Schooner, we paid out £1000: and I drew for
£250 on the Bishop of N.Z. pro tempore to be advanced out of your
English subscriptions (upon the amount of which I most cordially
congratulate you) and to be replaced by £125 to be supplied from
each of the Dioceses, Melbourne and Newcastle. I then proposed that
whatever may be furnished from Tasmania and Adelaide may be applied
to sailing expenses. Thus we hope that your English contributions will
remain intact for the purposes of the next and following years.
The day before yesterday I had the singular satisfaction of presiding
at a Meeting of our Mission Board, when a Resolution was proposed
and unanimously adopted, making a free and absolute conveyance of
the Schooner to the Bishop of N.Z. and his successors for the purposes
of the Mission. I am truly grateful to you for your generous desire to have
a clear and decisive statement in detail of the wants of my own
Diocese. The fact is we have already had so much that I scruple always
at the thought of asking for more; and the vast extent of the country
renders it almost hopeless to expect that we could obtain what is
sufficient. In truth, as I said to the Bishop of New Zealand, my
mission is not to convert heathens to Christianity, but by God's
help to prevent Christians from lapsing into heathenism; and to
fight the battle against bad principles of every kind: papal
schismatical, rationalist, socialist and infidel: for we
have them all here developed or developing. I want to finish the Cathedral,
to institute a College, to build a house for my successors, to spread Churches
over the country, and, above all, to provide ^{them} with faithful and true pastors;

pastors; men who many have common sense as well as zeal and ear-
nestness; not such as you describe, yearning in their hearts after the irreligious
embraces of the great harlot; and flying to them under pretext of disunion
faction with their own mother, which even if well founded would supply them
with no sufficient excuse. Surely Mr. Allies must perceive that it is better
to have true doctrine and false preached from two adjoining pulpits, than
that false doctrine should be preached from both, which would be the
inevitable result of a general imitation of what he has done with a view
to establish uniformity. I do not apprehend anything more of that kind
here; but there seems to be a little storm brewing in the other ultra quarter,
which I must watch carefully, and not flinch from facing if it should
burst. Have you read any account of the proceedings of the clergy at Adelaide?
I hear our good brother Short has not shown all the wisdom of the serpent.
At what you say of Archdeacon Manning I lament, yet bitterly lament, with
wondering. It lowers my estimate of his mental powers immensely. I do
grieve indeed: for his sermon "On the sleep of the faithful departed" has gone
more home to my heart than almost any piece which I ever read of human
composition. May he ever yet be preserved to us. But this diverts me rather
from one chief purpose of my letter; which was to call your attention to the
concerns of our recently created Sydney University. It is godless in its
constitution; but having obtained £5000 per ann: from the public funds,
and being favoured and encouraged by the Government, is a most frightful
and formidable instrument of evil. It will attempt and tend to undo,
and may to a great extent succeed in undoing, the good which you are
striving to do at Auckland and Canterbury. It will be the great comporium
of false and anti-church views in this hemisphere. It is ruled by a Senate
of 18 or 20. Roman Catholic, Unitarian, Wesleyan, Presbyterian, and the lowest
of Churchmen: Edward Hamilton, I regret to say, has accepted the office of
Provost. They offered me a seat in this Senate; and indirectly I have since had a
higher bid: but I will not have anything to do with it. Providentially, I may say,
the first fruits of their attempting to get together has been a disagreement as to
the appointment of lecturers and Professors. They will not elect any of those who
are in the colony supposed to be qualified: but are sending some tempting proposals to
Oxford and Cambridge: and have written, I hear, though I cannot imagine upon
what grounds, to Lord Lyttelton, to request him to forward their views. Cannot you
take any steps to arrest the evil until the arrival of Bishop Jackson, by whom I will
write to you more in detail upon this subject, and upon the other connected with the
land which I have already spoken of. I am with grateful affection yours W. G. Sydney