

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 2/4/1850 (Syd)

After an absence of four months, with the exception of one fortnight's interval, I returned to my now solitary home of 23rd March. Among my first efforts is to write to you. It is long since I have done so, or indeed have been able to write much to anyone. The reason you will too sadly conjecture. Thank God I have been able to carry on my duties, although I could do little more. Do not however think that I murmur or complain. It is not so indeed. I still suffer deeply; but recognize and acknowledge the hand of God, his wisdom and his mercy, in every thing; and can and do say daily from my heart "Even so Father, for so it seemed good in Thy sight." I will write to you again very soon, when I hope it may be in my power to do so in a more suitable spirit and with more composed thoughts. I have wished and do wish very much to write to both Dr and Mrs Keate: and shall be sorry and disappointed if it be not shortly in my power to do so. I have to thank you for several Letters: the first from Hawarden Castle, the next via Belgium; on the subject, principally, of the Bank case; the third by Mr Houghton enclosing Miss Palmer's. I was far away when the young man arrived: but wrote to him immediately, and will do all that I can for him.

ABRAHAM
? → Your mention of Mr and Mrs Anraham, as I trust I may be this time call them, reminded me to make arrangements for their reception: and when they arrive (whether in August or at any other time) they will find my house prepared for them during as long a time as it suits them to be my guests: or even if perchance I should be away they will find everything no less prepared for their accommodation: "Vilis amicorum ^{est} ets annona, bonis ubi quid deest". You will be gratified and thankful to hear that the alarm on the Bank account has terminated. Their Solicitor has written to mine to say that the suit is withdrawn upon the understanding that each party pay their (sic) own costs. To this I have assented: and so the actual loss to me will not be ruinous: though to poor men all losses are inconvenient. But I return hearty thanks to God for delivering me from what at one time seemed to be a state of impending and overwhelming ruin.

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Broughton to Coleridge, 2/4/1850 (cont 2)

Pray express my sincere thanks to Sir John Coleridge for the very able and encouraging advice which he forwarded. It served to support me when I was almost sinking: and he shall have ere long my personal acknowledgment direct from myself. I cannot say more at present. I am lonely and alone. My children I have not seen since last November. Previously to that we spent two sorrowful months together, and then separated: Emily going to stay with her sister while I was employed in the Visitation I have just concluded. She will return to me I trust the day after tomorrow if the weather permit. For some time I was under great uneasiness on account of my dear Phoebe. Within less than a month after her much/loved mother's death she lost her own youngest boy: a promising little fellow whom I very deeply regretted. This twofold distress visibly affected her: but I have assurances from herself and others that he looks and her health are quite restored. For this, and for my own recovery (which so far as bodily health is concerned I may now describe as perfect) I am sincerely thankful. God grant that you and yours may have continued exempt from such trials and sufferings as during the year that is past have fallen with accumulated weight upon, Your sincere and obliged friend, W.G. Sydney.

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