

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON PAPERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 3/7/1846 (Syd)

By the 'General Hewitt' on 17th ult. I wrote to you, and forwarded seven paintings by the same artist whose productions you once expressed yourself pleased with. They were carefully packed and I trust will arrive safely, and be as much approved by you as the former were. It begins to seem very very long since I heard from you. But you have without doubt between Eton and St Augustine's, and 20 other scenes of duty and exertion, more than sufficient to occupy the hours of the day, and often perhaps to require a loan from those of the night. My own faculties and powers are also, as you may well believe, heavily taxed enough. The work I do not mind at all. Indeed it is a great happiness that by merely changing from one description of occupation to another, and not persevering too long in any one in particular, I can go on incessantly and not feel exhaustion or fatigue. This is a very enviable faculty, and I hope you possess it. The only sensation which wears me is that of not knowing how or where to find men and men as for (sic) accomplish all that I see around me still undone: and which I am aware ought to be done for the glory of God. I have written to the Bishop of Oxford; but not to touch upon that subject. But from his speech on 3 March in the H. of L. I feel confident of his support in endeavouring to
→ make up, as far as possible, for the shameful in[?] attention to things scared with which the foundations of this Colony were laid. Thanks for your noble efforts much has been done: but alas! there is almost an interminable vista before me thronged with forms, as far as the eye can reach, of the things which remain to be done: (Gk script) τα λειποντα as St Paul expressively terms them. I have written also (by the counsel of Mr Joshua Watson) to Archdeacon Harrison and in a letter to your good fellow-worker Mr Abraham, I have touched upon the point. The people here are in most cases very earnest to obtain Churches: and so I go to bldg, or rather helping to build, day by day: and have probably about 12 at this time in hand. My application to the

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S.P.G. will be for £600 to enable me to continue and finish these: and I shld be very thankful if the individuals abovenamed cld support my appeal. Under the doubt which prevails whether the extent of aid abovementioned can be granted me, I have concluded now on declining to make any more pledges during the present year: and when persons apply to me my answer is: You must wait till 1847. If funds can then be found you shall have your share. To Mrs Milward I have also sent a full account of my stewardship in disposing of her £400, which will shew her I hope that it has done good: and may encourage her to send more if she has more to spare. But as to men, my exigency is by far more urgent than even for money.

Under Mr Allwood and myself are at present 8 young men whom we are training under a very careful and we trust a very improving course of preparation for Holy Orders: and we have fifty plans for consolidating our resources by the establishment of a more regular collegiate institution. But to give you a clearer view of what we are doing and aim at doing, I will send you by Sir George Gipps, who leaves us by the ship 'Palestine' on Saturday next, a full report upon the subject. I am uncertain whether I mentioned to you before that Allwood rather demurs to undertaking (sic) the office of Archdeacon, with an eventual Bishoprick to arise out of it. He deems himself unqualified for the exercise of authority. But that is nothing more than his own humbleness of spirit: a Moses-like disposition indeed he has. No one else however will agree that he is unfitted for any station in which good is to be done. I have not pressed him upon the matter; but will obtain his final determination before the 'Palestine' sails. To speak the truth I may have some selfish feeling in not having been more urgent in trying to prevail: for most sincerely is it said, I know not what to do when he leaves me. Once I thought Mr Formby wld have stepped in as his successor: but you know most probably

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that when it came to the point he declined. I am not very sorry: for on reading his letter of excuse it was impossible not to detect it in a Reuben-^{← ?} like instability of purpose: and I had read a letter from him to the Editor of some newspaper the tone of which rather made my gorge to rise. There was in it I mean a kind of soft susceptibility about trifles, which could never make the possessor of it equal to contend with any great crisis of affairs. It may indeed be dangerous to himself. But he failing, and Allwood leaving me (if he do) I hardly know in what quarter to look for help.

As I shall have so early an opportunity of writing again it is needless to trouble you further at present about these matters. Pray be so good as to inform Dr Pusey that I ordained Mr Agnew on St John Baptist's day. He now gets £200 p.a. and I feel an assurance will be useful to me. His friends may rely on my not losing sight of his welfare. Last Monday I heard from Mrs Keate: to whom you will express my thanks for so entertaining a Letter. It is as spirited as if she were no more than 25. But I am sorry to find how dangerous a character she is become. Going about slapping elderly gentlemen on the back to make them stand up! I must take care of myself if we ever meet again: and before coming into her presence mean to have 'Noli me tangere' embroidered on the collar of my coat: which you may tell her means 'Hands off if you please Madam'. She has no objection to a little nonsense, and knows that I claim a long-standing privilege of talking it. But perhaps you think we ought to keep it to ourselves, and not make you the channel thro', which it is to pass. However, my dear Coleridge, to terminate this very undignified episode, and to return seriously to the main subject, I assure you of my earnest prayers to God that you may be supported in vigour and health of body under the fatiguing duties which you impose upon yourself in His service, and may be able to serve Him at the same time with a quiet mind amidst all the sad distractions of opinion by which you are unhappily environed. Believe me to be Your Sincere and much obliged friend,

W.G. Australia.