

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 9/5/1851

My dear Coleridge: I received by the last Vessel from London your most kind and welcome Letter of 18 Decr 1850. The sight of your hand writing occasioned me unmixed 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 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 Lyttleton and his family. To that we have had an addition made: Mrs 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 evidently 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 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

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uncontrolled disposal of the public revenue, and perpetually arrogating for itself more extended powers, and a compact resolute politic 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 laity. 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 persuasions 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 over-rating our own importance. I have no disposition of that kind; but speak dispassionately from having visited 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 230 or 130 tons new measurement; the price £1200. I have also sanctioned a further outlay of £50 for necessary improvements and beautifying.

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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 carry the two Bishops and Mrs Selwyn very comfortably.

Poor soul! We had yesterday a letter from Mr 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 this fruit remain. But to finish what I have to say as to the Schooner, we paid our £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 the £125 to be supplied from each of the Dioceses, Melbourne and Newcastle. I then propose 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

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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, rationalistic, unitarian 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; men who may have common sense as well as zeal and earnestness; not such as you describe, earning in their hearts after the Circean embraces of the great harlot; and flying to them under pretext of dissatisfaction 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 fear our good brother Short has not shewn all the wisdom of the serpent. At what you say → sat of Archdeacon Manning I lament, yes bitterly lament, with wondering. It lowers my estimate of his mental powers inexpressibly. 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".

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It is godless in its constitution; but having obtained £5000 p.a. from the public funds, and being favoured and encouraged by the Government, is a most frightful and formidable instrument of evil. It will both 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 emporium of false and anti-church views in this hemisphere. It is ruled by a Senate of 18 or 20 Roman Cs, unitarian, wesleyan, presbyterian, and the lowest 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 act 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 home tempting proposals to Oxford and Cambridge: and have written, I hear, though I cannot imagine on what grounds, to Lord Lyttleton, 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 others connected with the Church which I have already spoken of.