

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 6/3/1847 (Syd)

In a letter recently forwarded I stated to your brother my intention of writing to you by the "Sir George Seymour": but the day of sailing arrived before my Letter was ready: yet the loss of time will not be much as the "Clara" begins her voyage next Tuesday. First of all by way of precaution, I may recapitulate a few of the dates of my late communications: that is since the Bp of Tasmania's departure in August. By the "Slain's Castle" in Sept I forwarded to you a landscape painting by Martens which he presented to our Cathedral: hoping that the price of £10 might be obtained for it. On the supposition that you can accomplish this, I pay the above named sum to the Cathedral-fund here; and request you to apply the same amount in discharge of my Subscription to St Augustine's for the present year. If that arrangement can be carried into effect, we shall so far have balance of accounts. In October I wrote to you by the "Ganges" to acknowledge the arrival of the books you were so kind as to send, and to thank you for them. They were very acceptable and welcome. Mr William Palmer (of Magdn Coll), if I may judge from his letter to me, thinks that my acknowledgments to him and other kind friends at Oxford, for those books which you may recollect were seven years on their passage, were depressed in stronger terms than the occasion called for. This you know may be very natural from him to think, who has the Bodleian to step into when he pleases: but no person situated as he and you are, as to vicinity and command of books, can competently judge of the benefit and comfort which every accession of such as are good and standard affords to me, who even upon the commonest topics have but most meagre and stinted opportunities of reference. However to proceed with my enumeration of Letters, my next was by the "Rajah", also in October; with others (as you desired) to Mrs Milward and Miss Coutts. By the "Berkshire" in November I sent you a small plaster of Paris mould from which casts may be taken in wax (with little trouble and at a cheap rate) shewing my profile. As it is generally considered like, I though there might

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be some within your ken who would not be sorry to have such a memorial of an old friend. My last Letter to you was in January, forwarded by Captain Trevelyan, whom I trust you will see while he is in England. In that Letter I recollect having suggested some things you might say to him concerning the condition of religion in those Districts beyond the boundaries with which he [?] connected. Probably your own discretion may have caused you to abstain from saying those things. If so, it may be all for the best since, however true, the expression of them may do no good. "There is a time to be silent". He is a well informed, high-principled, excellent person: but I cannot help observing that in the mode of life which he has chosen there is something which does absorb all the anxieties and faculties in one intense effort to grasp unbounded acres and uncountable flocks; and attending on this, is an appalling remissness and indifference as to how the fear and worship of God, or belief in Christ, or the sacred institution of his Church, are to be introduced and upheld among the (in that point of view) unhappy dwellers in those solitary places. Certainly there is as yet no appearance of their beginning to rejoice and blossom as the rose. Still, if you have not said anything to Trevelyan it may perchance be as advisable to hear rather what he has to observe upon the subject. I do not question that he feels concerning quite as you could desire; ← *check* but unhappily the tone and tendency of the system with which he is connected, and of those who govern its movements, is altogether unfavorable to such feelings. Indeed I cannot help witnessing with alarm the prevalence of such a spirit of self-will as amounts practically to atheism, in a formidable proportion of those who are at the head of our affairs. Yet it is a fact very singular and very consoling that among the middle classes there is a visible increase of religious earnestness; and a sentiment of fidelity to the Church springing up among them which contrasts remarkably with the careless liberalism of those in higher stations.

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The chief objects which I have upon my thoughts at this time are the partition of the Diocese, and my St James's College. As to the former I will not say that I am yet visited by any misgivings; but it is rather difficult to surmise what can have occasioned the delay in the proceedings. Subsequently to Sir Charles FitzRoy's arrival I have had no intelligence from any quarter. Many begin to say "oh you may be sure Lord Grey has upset Mr Gladstone's arrangements": but of this I think there is not the slightest probability. My resource is composedly to wait the event. My personal concern in the matter is very little, except as to my house: which I do not know whether to keep or to give up until the entire arrangement is certainly concluded. As a house it has little to recommend it: and except on account of the situation I never *it* → liked it. But having now lived in ti for 11 years and seen the trees grow up which were of my own planting, I am become like them rooted to the soil, and loath to remove. But we may look for information I think by the next month's packet.

As to the College, I am thankful to say that upon the whole it is going on well. You will have an account of the proceedings at the close of the last Term in the newspaper which was forwarded to you and to other friends. The present term began on 1st February, when Mr Allwood took up his residence at Lyndhurst. We have now eight Students (to be increased to ten after Easter) of whom four are in Divinity. These latter pay £40 p.a. and the others £50 and this, with the aid of public contributions will cover our expenditure for all except rent, which is £150 p.a. For this I have made myself responsible, trusting that we may find friends in England who, in consideration of the importance of the undertaking, will help us to that extent. Allwood is working, I almost fear, beyond his strength. The place we have taken, the only one we could get, is unfortunately too far off to allow of my taking that part which I should wish to take in the daily business. As to our final site (should we ever obtain

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means to build) nothing is yet determined. But wherever it may be, my design is that the Bishop should form a proximate and integral position of the College here as in New Zealand. Otherwise there can never be that vigour and uniformity of action which ought to be maintained. At present the Divinity Students come to me every Thursday at One. They have an hour's lecture on the 39 Articles, composition of Sermons, or some other useful subject. We have a frugal dinner together at two; and they return to College in time for their next exercise. We do want resources most sadly. That is not to be denied: and I cannot yet see how it will be possible upon this narrow and frail foundation to raise up a succession of the ministry such as is required for the service of this immense region: immense it will be even when two-thirds shall have been lopped off from my charge and handed over to the direction of others. But despair I never did; nor do I now. "Perplexed but not in despair - cast down but not destroyed." I comprehend perfectly what St Paul meant by that. It is precisely our condition here: and indeed it will soon be well if nothing worse than that be the condition of the Church at large.

As to the state of England itself, perhaps I may take gloomy views, but is it not a very alarming state? Is such misery and distress in the midst of unbounded wealth? It is most unaccountable. And then again that the nation should be compelled to resort to intercessory and special prayer against absolute want of food, when all but a revolution has just been consummated in order, as was expected, to fill all things living with plenteousness; this is mysterious indeed. It brings to my remembrance that when the man with a pair of balances in his hand has fixed "a measure of wheat for a penny and three measures of barley for a penny," immediately in the very next sentence mention is made of a power given to kill with hunger. As if the intended moral were that all human efforts and ordinances are powerless to ensure plenty, when God Himself has ordained it not to be. I reflect day by day upon what you tell me

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of the loss of general favour and attachment by the high and lofty both in the spiritual and temporal estate: and if this arise, as you appear to think, from their inattention to their duties or neglect to fulfil them in a kindly spirit, then this may account for the warnings which God is giving them, and I hope not giving in vain.

As to the bishops whom you are dissatisfied with, only let us hope that there may be still a general character which redeems those partial failings with which they are charged. It is an odd place to look into for the character of a good bishop; but I think there is such in those six lines - Ille bonis faveat, et consilietur amice etc. But freely to speak my mind I am offended and displeased by this conclusion of the St Asaph affair (if it be concluded) more than even by the opening and progress of it. The worst feature of all (assuming that the arrangement is really such as has been stated) is that a bishop should be found willing to be made use of to frustrate the honest opposition of his brother of Bangor; and to act as the locum tenens of a Diocese until the time shall come when he may be instrumental, in combination with the State, in effecting their purpose of annihilating his own See, or at least the independence of it. If this statement be incorrect I must beg pardon of the in-coming bishop: but if it be as we have heard, then indeed I do think it the most uncanonical discreditable compromise that there is any record of in Church annals. When it was so great an object to maintain the See in its distinctness, why should it not be done by taking from the holder of it (if so it must be) his Seat in the H. of Lords, and leaving him from the temporalities no more than the income of a Minor Canon? If there be not men, suitable men, willing to accept the bishoprick upon such terms, for the sake of the great principle which would be thus asserted, I shall indeed despair for the Ch. of England! We are not without signs of energy here.

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My Cathedral I am thankful to say goes on well. We have just entered into contracts for raising the whole of the walls and western towers to the spring of the arches of the windows of the Nave: and hope to continue raising £1500 p.a. until we have it roofed. In seven years perhaps. But who may be alive to see it? Good Dr Cowper gives £500 of his own money towards a new St Philip's Church, in place of that in which he has officiated close upon 40 years. He and I inspected and fixed the new Site on Thursday last. Yesterday I had a gift of £200 from one person towards the erection of a School-house in Trinity parish in Sydney, so that we are not without examples of a good spirit.

And now my dear Coleridge may God bless you. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to hear of your welfare and happiness including health: and may these be shared with you by all whom you love. To such of these as I am acquainted with, pray give our kindest and most affectionate remembrances. My wife and self are quite well. So are our children of both generations. On looking back I find that this is a long letter about nothing: a mere pouring out of my own ideas and opinions. Nevertheless at this vast distance, in what other way can acquaintance be kept up. I shall be truly glad to receive such a letter from you when you have time to write it and am meanwhile most sincerely and affectionately your, W.G. Australia.