

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON PAPERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 1|7|1845 (Syd)

The 'Caledonia', it is reported, will sail for England tomorrow; and it shall not sail without a few lines to you. Almost the only reason to be assigned for writing to you now is that it is some considerable time since I have written. You will therefore be prepared for a somewhat ? → discursive Letters, about nothing. Nevertheless the mere keeping up of intercourse is something, nay a great deal, where there are interests of such magnitude in question as Providence seems to have put us, that is you and me, in charge of; and impressions of obligations so deep as I am sure mine are every day felt to be to you for all that you have done, and are doing, for the welfare of these few sheep of mine here in the wilderness.

The principal point, which I now fix my anxieties for their welfare upon, is the subdivision of the Diocese, that all within it may have effectually and not nominally, as now, the benefit of that superintendence by their Bishop, which is, I am convinced, the appointed bond of Christian union, and finally, perhaps, the consummation of perfectness, so far as anything is permitted to be perfect, in the Church militant upon earth. So far as I can at present see, the agent for bringing things to that happy state will here be the Church of England, well administered by men who can enter into the true spirit of her institutions, and, for the sake of the Lord her God will seek to do her good. From symptoms which from time to time brighten up me unexpectedly, my profound impressions is that, if we can becomingly announce and support our proper system of faith and discipline, we may hope, when the day of trial comes, both to repress and to attract Roman Catholics and dissenters; and to bind fast the best among both in one body and in one spirit with ourselves. To this end we require (to say all briefly) Bishops Priests and Deacons. Under Providence, I think Mr Hope's College, and your College, of St Augustine may supply them all.

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As to the Bishops my Letters to your brother (Sir J.T.C.) and to yourself will explain what it is my wish to effect. ('do' erased You, it is too evident, have already quite enough to do: and he is no good son of the Church who wld not seek to put more upon you. Therefore it is that I rejoice to find you have a fraternal coadjutor who enjoys the confidence of the Archbishop. So far however, as my interests are concerned, it may be required that you, who are the only person holding any commission or authority from me, shld be an assenting party to any determination by which I am to be affected. You will pardon therefore my repeating what my proposal (that is the proposal which after full consideration it has seemed right to me finally to make) is viz: That the sum of £600 p.a. shld be permanently secured (out of the sum appropriated by Parlt for 'Public Worship' in this Colony) towards the income of the Bishop of Melbourne, to preside over the entire Port Phillip District: and that the further sum of £200 p.a. be permanently secured towards the income of the Archdeacon of Morpeth in the Hunter's River or Northern District, to be made up to £400 p.a. as soon the lease of my present residence expires. These several payments (amounting when all the arrangements are complete to £1000 p.a.) are to be deductions from the income of the Bishop of Australia; who will thenceforth have jurisdiction over the Central District with an income of £1000 p.a. and the proceeds (whatever they may prove to be) of 40 Acres of Land, belonging to the Church and School Corporation, which Lord Stanley has agreed shall be annexed to this Bishoprick. I originally proposed that in consideration of these surrenders to be made by me the sum of £1500 shld be allowed me by way of compensation. But on talking over the matter with Sir George Gipps he expressed an opinion that such a condition being proposed wld cast a shade over the transaction, and make it have the appearance of a bargain.

(as here is) ?

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Not liking the word (added: 'for I fancied he really meant to say job) or the impression it conveyed, I did not insist. But still perhaps with an income so reduced it might not be in my power to make such provision as wld be reasonable for my wife and children, and therefore perhaps I did wrong.

However Providence is over us all: and I am persuaded and sure that the object which our privations are to attain is an object worthy of any sacrifice.

→ The Archdeaconry of Morpeth~~may~~, when my arrangements are complete, be elevated into a separate episcopal See: and then if West and South Australia can each have their Bishop, we shall have a confraternity of seven in this hemisphere. I am afraid all this may have been told you before. But there is a risk of Letters being lost at Sea; and therefore it may be excusable 'to write the same thing to you often'. My wish is, if you will be pleased to undertake it, that you shld act as my representative, and assent on my behalf to such arrangements and conditions as the Abp and your brother may think reasonable and advantageous. If I know myself at all, there is nothing which wld occasion me a moment's reluctance in assenting to, if approved and settled by your authority. Another thing which has been said before, allow me (for fear of miscarriage) to repeat: that the Bishop who may be appointed for Melbourne (Port Phillip) shld be well selected and consecrated in England, in order that on his voyage out he may visit Swan River and S. Australia and there administer those spiritual offices which I alas never have had, and cld scarcely hope ever to have, an opportunity of exercising there. After that, whenever we can constitute a See for our Northern or Hunter's River District, I wld advance and strenuously urge the claims of my friend and helper Mr Allwood. He may, with the most perfect reliance on his sufficiency be appointed in the first instance Archdeacon,

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and afterwards in due time Bishop of Morpeth: and if my attestation be not sufficient I am quite certain the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol will supply whatever in point of testimony I may have left deficient. Talking of additional Bishopricks reminds me of Chapman and Ceylon; for our last arrivals announce that he and not Dr Grant is designated for that important office. Ten years almost have passed since we were present at their wedding; and how little did we any of us anticipate, on dear Fanny Keate's behalf, the destiny which now seems to await her. My earnest prayers are with her that she may be enabled to sustain the character of the christian heroine as her three sisters (my own dear wife the precursor of the whole) have done before her. Nevertheless I feel for the great divisions of heart which such a parting must, occasion to many, whom, if the will of God had been so, I wld have wished to be spared the pang, which by this time, it is possible, they may have been called to encounter. I hope my excellent and generous old Rector, and his wife (whom I love very dearly) will be supported to bear the separation with fortitude if it really is to take place. Commend us to them most affectionately: and say they little think perhaps how much we have thought and talked about them since we heard their news. Tell them too that our grandchild grows surprisingly both broad and long, and is now three months old; and her name is Sarah Phoebe.

As to other news from this quarter the case is somewhat like that of the knife-grinder 'I have none to tell Sir'. All our news comes from your quarter: and nearly all that is received makes me melancholy. Nobody among you seems to have quite resolution to speak the full Truth. Archdeacon Wilberforce (may I be pardoned such an expression) goes about it and about it. The Bishop of Salisbury pleases me generally as much as any; especially on the Welsh Bishopricks Bill. But our suspense is now resting chiefly on

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Mr Gladstone. From him I hope yet fear. Why did he not make his stand on the Charitable Bequests Bill? The most fearful symptom (it wld seem to me) of a positive decay of vitality is shewn in the disposition, widely manifested I fear, to congratulate ourselves on the interposition of the Pope to do that which the influence of the Crown and the authority of the law failed of doing; that is to coerce O'Connell, and to impose silence and a better discretion upon his hierarchical supporters. If this be not a divided allegiance I know not what is. From 1809 to 1829 I signed petitions to Parlt declaring what wld follow, and it has followed! We country curates who wrote and signed those petitions, saw the truth more clearly than Mr Canning or Lord Plunkett. The issue proving that we di so makes me not vain but melancholy: nevertheless I am with true affection, My dear Coleridge, always your obliged and faithful servant, W.G. Australia.