

Broughton to Coleridge, 6/2/1838

My dear Sir: Within a moderate interval I have written to you twice; the first time previously to the receipt of your very kind letter of (blank); the second in reply to it. I regret not having kept a record of the dates of those Letters or of the ships by which they were sent; but hope you will have received them both safely. In the latter of them I believe it was that I entered into some details of a design which had suggested itself to me for making the Subscriptions for which we are indebted to your earnest zeal, a source of permanent advantage to the Church by investing the amount in the purchase of real property, the income arising from which might be suffered to accumulate until it became productive of a large annual revenue. I still think the design feasible; and so long as I continue charged with my present duties I shall not lose sight of it. Its immediate execution however is less practicable in consequence of the much more numerous and extensive calls than I had anticipated which have been made upon your bounty. A desire for the erection of Churches and the settlement of clergymen has manifested itself in places where I should not have anticipated that the disposition itself existed or that there were people enough within distance to carry it into effect. To make sure of as many such positions as possible will be indisputably the most advantageous mode of laying out the money at really good interest, and of insuring the general establishment of Christianity in the country: as I have that trust in the providential appointment of God which persuades me that if the ordinances of the Church of England are once conveyed in their purity to the people at large they will so recommend themselves to the principles and affections of the receivers that these will not willingly afterwards allow the light to fail and expire for want of nutriment. Acting therefore upon this principle and to be prepared for carrying it to such limits as circumstances may hereafter require, I think it will be desirable to have the funds at command: and the mode which Mr Farrer

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suggests of remitting them through the Bank of Australasia may be as easy and expedient as any; if those whose opinions upon such subjects deserve attention shall be generally persuaded that is safe. I have no reason in the world to think that it is not so. Within these few days however I have observed an advertisement from that Bank offering seven per cent for money deposited with them under an obligation of not reclaiming it except at ten days notice. This certainly seems to intimate that they want money: but to what cause that is attributable I do not know. I have drawn but one Bill upon Hoare & Co. for £300 upon the credit of the sum which you stated to be in their Bank: but this mode of remittance I cannot persevere in, as the Bills sustain a loss of five per cent. I have written to Hoares a Letter of advice to this effect; and trust I may request of you to ensure that the Bill is duly paid. I have also decided to appropriate £200 towards the extension of our theological Library, which at present is very bare and contemptible; and its improvement is indispensable for the improvement of our clergy now and in future ages in a knowledge of their profession. I have written to Thorpe the Bookseller of Cambridge, who has before supplied us with some books, requesting him to communicate with you upon the subject; and before he executes the commission to ascertain that my Order will suffice to procure payment of the amount. These two sums of £300 and £200 being deducted I shall be glad to have the balance remitted in the way which I have suggested; or in any other which upon enquiry you may deem preferable.

We have recently received a reinforcement of six clergymen. If more arrive and they prove to be of the right sort, I have no fear but with God's blessing upon the judicious application of the funds you have provided, it will be in my power to make such an establishment here as all the craft and subtilty (sic) of our adversaries shall not be able to subvert. The question now at issue is



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really a very great one: no less than whether pure Christianity shall flourish or not over a sixth part of the habitable world; and in conjunction with true religion, civil liberty also will rise or fall. For if the presbyterians and dissenters carry the point for which they are now straining every nerve, it is plainly to be foreseen that republicanism will be triumphant in the same proportion: and if the Papists gain ascendancy, for which they too are labouring night and day, what are we to look for but a spiritual and political despotism such as that religion never fails to lead in its train? They have just opened a Seminary under the superintendence of the Benedictines to which Order their Bishop belongs. We must exert ourselves to meet them: and as soon as I receive the funds from you I propose to enlarge our "King's School" to accommodate 120 boarders. But here again we want the men. In this respect we are deplorably deficient: while strange to say both Romanists and Presbyterians are able to obtain their agents by wholesale. It is very surprising; as we really have much better prospects to hold out than they. If you could send me out two young men of sound learning, sober piety and suitable firmness, prepared to act cordially together as first and second masters of the King's School, which will be vacant in 12 months, I am persuaded so much would the favour of the wealthy and respectable part of the community be with them (that) they might realize good incomes so soon as the enlargement which I propose is accomplished, and might retire with ample fortunes after less than 20 years exertion. This has been quite a Letter of business: nor have I time to write in a different strain to any one else: but pray tell Dr Keate I hope and trust he will hear from me by the "James Pattison" which is to sail on 15th inst: Sir Richard Bourke is gone! and we are looking every hour for the arrival of his successor, who is my old school fellow, but a radical I fear, for all that. He is a cousin of Mrs Lonsdale: but notwithstanding even that, I fear, a radical. He cannot, if he tries I think

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do us the mischief his predecessor did: and for my part I am prepared to try to walk in harmony and concert with him. But my post is a critical one: none but myself can tell how much so.

Pray make our united kind regards to Mrs Coleridge, and to all at Hartley.

We are all quite well; and continue in sincere and undiminished affection for the friends we have left. Believe me to remain, my dear Mr Coleridge, Yours with much esteem and very faithfully, W.G. Australia.