(3) Forwarded by Sir Augustus Cantelow

Sydney. 11th July 1842. Rec'd Jan 5. 1843

My dear Mr Watson

By the Ship "Fanny" on the 19th ult^o, I forwarded to your niece Miss Mary Watson my acknowledgments for the very kind and nice letter which at your suggestion she had written to me. The contents of my reply were meant very much for your information; and I am only not addressed to you because I was almost fearful that the shock of the receipt of letters would have affected your health had such been the case. But I am glad that despatch to Miss M. W. was burdensome. But I am glad that despatch to Miss M. W. was forwarded, an Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette has reached me having the direction imprinted upon it in the form and well arranged characters of your hand-writing. At least I think it impossible for me to be mistaken in so supposing it to be: and therefore upon the evidence of your contiguance in active habits (for which I bless God's goodness) I shall permit myself the enjoyment of a pleasure of which I have been long debarred — that of writing directly and personally to you. My first topic must be our now mutual and dear friends the Silvesters. They came to us about the middle of April, and the Bishop left us (with Mr Martin & Mr Cotton) on the 19th of May. It is with extreme gratification & thankfulness

I can now report the safe arrival of the party at Auckland on the 30th of May: the Brig "Bristolian," by which they went having returned hither last Saturday, bringing that pleasing information. You will no doubt have read, and I trust will have approved, a statement of the manner in which we to the best of our poor ability strove to express our feelings as fellow Churchmen towards that good and intrepid man who has devoted his life to undertake such a part in endeavouring to extend the influence of a pure creed. He went away most satisfied with the reception which he and his experienced here, and especially on the cordial and stedfast affection which is here universally entertained towards him. But I must not so enlarge upon the subject of the Selwyns and as to forget the wife: for Mrs Selwyn, as I need not inform you, is one of those superior and very pleasing persons whom it would be unjust to forget even if it were possible. She remained with us until the 17th of last month, and we had great satisfaction in enjoying so long the society of one who has every qualification to render it delightful, whether her talents information or principles are regarded. When she had been here a week I told her that it seemed utterly impossible we should not have been longer acquainted; such rapid strides did we appear to have made towards a maturity of friendship: and when she was going away I could only say that although appearances and probabilities were adverse to the chance of our ever meeting again still I did hope that some train or other of cause and effect might lead to a repetition of our pleasant intercourse before the things of this world should come to an end. However they are now upon the great stage upon which their parts are to be performed, and may God who hasped them thus far in his service, vouchsafe to conduct them prosperously and securely through the path which are now opening before them.

As to my own affairs and proceedings I have nothing very gratifying to communicate. The great depression in property, or rather the difficulty of converting property into money, which has subsisted here since this time last year, has nearly put a stop to all subscriptions for Church purposes, and has thrown a multitude of unfulfilled contracts on my hands: which I was compelled either to take up, or to suffer all our interests nearly to perish. With regard to the S.P.G. I feel that I stand in a position of a questionable kind in case they should not approve of the discretion which I have exercised under such unforeseen trying circumstances.

Yours

11 July 1842

Assuming that the Society would certainly not consent to sacrifice the advantages we had already gained, but would rather make every effort to carry on to completion such undertakings as were already in a state of advancement, I have consented to admit claims of that nature; and accordingly have been compelled, in order to meet them, to contract drawing this year to the amount of several hundred pounds. But I have relied on the spirit prevailing in the Church and my friends that will have given me credit for not plunging into responsibilities without adequate thinking that I perceived more than corresponding advantages to be derived from so proceeding. For a considerable time past I have had a reservoir of writing to Mr Norris; but hitherto have been deterred by a sense of the necessity I should be under of communicating painful intelligence concerning his protégé [illegible] whom he took such pains in sending out from some most unaccountable cause he has totally failed to the amount of

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of nearly £2000: his school has gone to ruin; he is in prison; and his wife and eleven children subsisting on such casual support as his friends & brethren can provide. What to do I know not. If you should see Mr Norris may I beg you to have the goodness to tell so much of this most melancholy tale, as may prevent his being taken quite by surprise when he hears from me. The real want under which we labour, I evidently, here is that of a clergy duly qualified by character & acquirements for their high office. The same want presses in every Colony that I am acquainted with. England, it is to be feared, cannot, as affairs are now ordered, supply that want. I therefore write most urgently and repeatedly to Colered &c to consider the practicability of establishing either one Seminary in each Colonial Diocese, or one Seminary in England for the supply of all the Colonies, in which may be trained a class of Clergymen [illegible] Colonial service; a class such as I do not like to say we cannot do without. God bless and protect you my dear Mr Watson: be assured that there are few things I am more anxiously concerned to hear of than the state of your health; and praying for the continuance of your valuable life I shall always be thankful if Miss Watson will from time to time write a word upon that subject to Your obliged & faithful friend

W. G. Australia

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1843

Bishop of Australia
11 July 1842
rec'd 8 Jan 1843
Enclosed by The Anne

Joshua Watson Esq
Clapton
London