Sydney. 30th January 1846.

My dear Mr Watson

More than sufficient time has elapsed since the arrival of your very kind and agreeable letter dated the 30th of April without having produced an answer to it: and yet I cannot altogether say that an answer to it has not been written. To explain my enigma I must inform you that the letter in question arrived here early in September, and that on the following day I began to write in reply; having then on the point of going from home. Business however came on so fast that it was not in my power to finish that reply; and, upon the proverbial principle that half a loaf is better than no bread at all, I have since regretted not having sent you that fragment of a letter in preference to not sending any. This however it was ordained to be: for having been actually travelling from the time I have spoken of until the 6th of the present month, the time has never arrived till now at which it was in my power to pay my epistolary debt to you. It would be

impossible to convey to you, or to any one, a very exact
picture of the places I have been in, or of what I have been
doing during that said year of 1845. To the Society I am
preparing to forward a diary of my different stages, which
if you chance to see it may afford you some scanty
information. During the twelve months, consecrated
12 churches: and laid the foundation of 18 or 20 more.
all of which I hope to finish during the year now in progress
if the good old society can hold out in supplying me with
a few more hundred pounds. But alas. it is too true
and too evident that christianity cannot be propagated
nor its genuine influence impressed upon a nation, by
the mere building of Churches. That is, I admit, a great
and very necessary achievement: but in addition to
it we need the services of men, with hearts and heads
filled with the love of God and with correct principles
and sound learning: and willing to devote themselves
and all that they are, to working out the great purpose
upon which we are sent forth. Coleridge sends me from
time to time encouraging and hopeful accounts of the
progress of St. Augustine's: and very thankful was I
my dear Mr. Watson to find that the Archbishop had
with his usual judgment and calm discrimination, placed
your

your name on the list of his committee. Your two episcopal
coadjutors will be, I trust, all that you could hope or desire
in establishing the principles and course of instruction to
be pursued: and indeed I must say if the discretion had
been offered me, I do not think my inclination would have
led me to make an alteration of even a single name.
The entire character of the Colonial Church will be moulded
according to what St. Augustine's shall be during the
next 20 years: and therefore I earnestly hope and pray
that all things may be ordered and settled there, by
your endeavours, upon the best and surest foundations.
Still there are aspects just now in various quarters, which
make an impression and create suspicions among classes
who ought to be, and I really believe generally wish to be,
perfectly with us: and yet they are more than half
alienated by the influence of facts against which all
reasoning seems to be vain. This unhappy secession
of Mr. Newman (which seems to be too certainly confirmed)
has an effect upon households such as I really do not
know how to combat: for the impression made upon
them is, that it is impossible to hold any one opinion
in common with Mr. N. and his associates, without
being ready to go, aside and too many of his class have
gone

gone, outright to Rome. I saw but yesterday a letter from a man in England of good intelligence, and of more than average penetration and strength of mind, and moreover from family connexion, and conviction, a genuine son of the Church of England: yet he says "the attempt to carry out a Church system upon Anglican principles has proved an utter failure"; and although he does not say so, and is I am sure one of the last who would be willing to think so, yet I cannot but perceive that he lingers on the verge of the conclusion that there is no medium between doing as Mr. Newman is said to have done, and falling back upon the old evangelical or ultra-protestant system. This is very terrible to think of: but I begin to see that it is the conclusion at which, in the way of violent re-action, many thousands of very honest people will arrive. But not being able to go with them (much as I deplore and disapprove of the doings of Newman Ward Oakley and the rest) I must oppose them: and, to speak the honest truth, I am more disposed to take up the Anglican system warmly upon just principles, now that it is upon the point of being abandoned by those who urged it upon principles wrong and mischievous. It is in my power to speak more warmly and freely upon

upon the points, now that they, whose whole leaning I trembled always to go, are separating from us. As to the Evangelicals headed by my good brethren of Chester and Calcutta, I do not think they will finally do much: but some of us must take up the cause, or the Church may be delivered from a puritan bias only to be sucked into the whirlpool of a still more destructive one. To speak the truth in sincerity I have been under an impression for two and twenty years, or more, that we were on the verge of those "perilous times of the last days": and every passing year, especially the last, has cleared and confirmed my impression most astonishingly. Men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after those things which are coming upon the earth" (as it appears to me to describe in a few words, and in a manner almost (or why indeed should I think it necessary to say almost) miraculous, the feeling which now rises in the minds of serious and observing men. God give his grace to each of us as may witness the crisis, that we may have resolution to pass without flinching through it! I forget whether I mentioned in any previous letter that I had a grand daughter

a healthy intelligent child, baptized by me as Sarah Phoebe
last Whitsunday. My dear wife was able to spend several months
with them while I was Rector: and I joined them now and then
for a week or ten days. Grant Thurburn and conserated their little
church for them, and also the church yard surrounding it: and
I begin to think that it will be well for me to find there my

last rest upon earth: for it seems a holy and a quiet spot.
But all this it is not for me to appoint: yet I hope there is no
harm in wishing such things, provided that it be God's will to
permit them. It may not be in my power to gratify my wishes as to Mr. Norris.
I often think of his honest warm-hearted exultation at seeing, as
I hope he does see, his pet church rising over its foundations:
and shall think you, when you do, to make my very kind
regards to him and Mrs. Norris. With a grateful sense of your many
acts of kindness, and with a fervent prayer for a blessing upon you here
and for ever I remain My dear Mr Watson Your faithful friend

W. G. Australia