

Broughton to Coleridge, 19/10/1837

My dear Sir: Since I wrote to you last month, on the first arrival here of your Address and printed list of subscriptions. I have had the delight (for it is more than pleasure) of receiving your most kind and high-toned Letter of 8th April accompanied by the same List continued and extended. Nothing I believe, but the hope of being permitted to advance that cause which ought to be foremost in the estimation of us all, would reconcile me to the state of mixed privation and endurance which a residence here necessarily involves me in; but give me leave with earnest sincerity of heart to say that next to that highest encouragement I neither have, nor can have, any equal to that which arises from the proofs you give me of my endeavours not being forgotten by so many good and eminent men. Indeed it is but cold language to say, negatively, not forgotten; I ought rather to have said so beneficently encouraged and assisted. My intention was to have written to Dr Keate at this time; indeed I have for some time had a Letter to him begun: but as business requires me to address you, I beg you will explain to my worthy and valued friend that it did not appear to me judicious to commit two effusions of eloquence to the same frail barque, but he shall hear from me very soon. Times out of number, you may tell him, have we taken the lists in hand, dwelling upon every well-known name - Dr Keate - Mrs Keate - Miss Keate - and so on through the whole series - having something to say of every one: and not knowing which most to applaud: - the dashing magnificence of J.C. Wright Esquire (which we assume to be our friend Camper) or the retiring humility of Mrs John Keate and Mr C.E. Coleridge. On person's (or rather two person's) donations rather surprised me for their smallness - I mean Sir R. and Lady Darling's.

Independently of the benefits he has derived from the Colony, and the interest they have always professed to take in its welfare, he was under some personal obligation to me on account of the constant and certainly very disinterested

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support which I always afforded him so far as my ability and circumstances allowed. To yourself personally I must unfeignedly express my obligations, for the zeal which you have manifested towards our cause, and for the fruits which it has produced; and which it will be my duty to apply to the best advantage. To this point - viz: the disposal of the funds, I must now direct attention: and request your pardon for the trouble I am to give in proposing so many details.

The latest accounts I have seen carry the amount to upwards of Two thousand pounds: and therefore I do not consider myself as unwarrantably presumptuous in expecting that you may finally turn the corner of Three thousand. My object, as I explained to you in my last Letter, will be to preserve as large a proportion of this as possible intact: in order that it may be vested in real property, which by prudent management and patient accumulation may in process of time yield an income, however trivial when compared with the extent of the demands upon it, for the support of the clergy. In England itself, even behind the old ramparts, one does not know how to regard endowments as safe: but here, where all may be brought to depend upon the fluctuating will of a popular assembly, it is highly necessary to provide, so far as we are able, against the worst. The only property here which promises to answer the purpose, is land and stock. In consequence of the mercantile distresses in England and America, the influence of which is felt severely even here, this is a favourable season to purchase: the profits are very great; and the management 'bating casualties, is very easy. As a commencement I purpose to lay out a thousand pounds in this way; and I do trust that by the bounty of Providence I may, by even that limited investment, be laying a foundation for an establishment, the importance of which as a means of affording some degree of independence to the clergy will be seen in the course of a moderate number



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of years; and the efficiency and importance of which will be every year increasing. To include in one all that I have to say upon this subject, I will add that in the course of the present year probably, if a desirable purchase should offer, I purpose to draw upon Herries and Farquhar (through the Bank of Australasia) for £400; and upon Hoare and Co. through the same for £600: proceeding upon the information which you give of the sums respectively in their hands. Whenever I make a purchase I shall have such Deeds of Trust prepared and executed as in the event of my life coming to an end will prevent dispute as to ownership, and secure the property to its right use. I shall not draw for more than this sum, until I hear that more is in hand.

So far however as intended appropriation extends I may proceed with my statement. With respect to Churches, we have now Subscriptions raised among the inhabitants for nearly 40: the government contributing in each case a sum equal to that subscribed. Generally speaking therefore I deem this branch of our ecclesiastical tree as shooting forth with more vigour than any other, and as more capable of bringing fruit to perfection without the infusion of any extraneous sap. Accordingly I do not at present intend to appropriate any part of the contributions to more than one Church: but that from the nature and magnitude of the undertaking requires a considerable lift. To secure a central and commanding position, and to found thereupon a building which like a city set on a hill shall not easily be hid, we are now undertaking the erection of a Church in Sydney, which shall contain 1800 persons. It is easy to foresee that without such a stronghold of the faith we cannot keep our position; and that if it be finished, and occupied by zealous and able defenders, the influence which may thus be exercised upon the religious condition of this profane town must be immense. I have therefore made up my mind to appropriate £500 to this object: and shall send you a newspaper

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containing an account of our first meeting, which will evince in what spirit it has been taken up.

The next point for consideration is the provision of residences for the clergy: which does not, I fear, carry an appearance of so much promise as that of the Churches. The truth is that owing to a very enormous rise which has taken place in the price of materials and mechanical labour, the sums appropriated for building Churches and Parsonages will do little more than provide the former. My proposal is therefore to give towards the erection of twelve parsonages, the sum of £50 each or £600 in all. As the government give an equal sum, this will be equivalent to one hundred pounds in each case, and I hope will make them very comfortable. Connected with this there is a point which I feel to be of much delicacy as it involves, in a certain sense, my own interest: - that is how far the Bishop may legitimately be a sharer in the provision made for the affording (of) residences to the clergy. I submit the subject to your consideration: and do really solicit your impartial judgment. The case is this. The Government provide me with no house. The only one I could hire, is in an unfinished, and wilderness-kind of state: and we have lived in it now upwards of twelve months in the midst of every kind of discomfort and annoyance. I have laid out £600 in trying to bring the premises into a state of decency; in doing which I am quite aware that I have done to my family an injustice which nothing but the necessity of the case could extenuate. More however I do not think it becomes me to do: and yet I am living in a place not affording even decent or ordinary accommodation: not to one third of the extent which I enjoyed as a Curate. For my own part I should not complain; and those who belong to me are quite as little disposed to murmur. But upon public grounds I am sure it is wrong, and does mischief, that the Bishop of the Diocese should be so lodged. I have no lease; and might, at six months' notice, be ejected, to undergo the same inconvenience again. In order

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therefore to obtain secure possession for five or six years, and to put things in the order which common propriety requires, I hope I do not suffer self-convenience to bias me in proposing to apply £200 to this purpose. In this instance the government give nothing: i.e. they do not, as in other instances, double the sum expended. I would not for the work mis-apply any sum which has been entrusted to me for the general good of the Church; but upon the best reflection I am able to apply, I am persuaded that the credit of the Church requires this: but I wish it could be possible for you to ascertain from some of the contributors, who are not personally acquainted with me and on whose judgment you can depend, whether they think such an appropriation of the sum in question would be legitimate, I shall draw for it in the course of next year in favour of my brother in law Mr Francis: but only conditionally: and shall not hesitate to refund it if upon further reflection with myself, or acting under your opinion, I should be led to think the application not a justifiable one.

The next object which I have very earnestly in view, under a sense of its vast importance, is that of obtaining an addition to our theological library for the use of the clergy. It is now, even with the contributions which I obtained for it in England, beggarly in the extreme. Books of reference or authority we have scarcely any and in the rampant attitude which our Roman Catholic and dissenting brethren have assumed, we are reduced oftentimes to unpleasant straits from the want of all authentic information, except what our own private stores of books or memory may supply. My attention was publicly called to this subject by the Preacher at the Anniversary of our Diocesan Commencement of the S.P.C.K. etc whose Sermon and the Report shall be sent to you.



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Thus then, recapitulating, I have decided on the appropriation of sums amounting together to £2300 or to £2500 if the sum to be expended on the Bishop's residence be included. Thus I hope I have kept within bounds of prudence; and shall make no further proposals for expenditure until I hear that more has been collected. The Bills shall pass, as Mr Oliver Farrer wishes, through the Bank of Australasia: and that gentleman will probably have the goodness to interpose so far by enquiry as to ascertain that the funds are ready to meet them when due.

Thus much my dear Sir I had to say respecting pecuniary matters, which according to the course of this world are generally thought to exceed all others in importance. I do not mean to depreciate the value of such resources; and yet there is one possession which under our present circumstances would be of higher value than even money - that is men. I mean clergymen. My position in the absence of any fresh arrivals is very embarrassing and painful; and all my resolution is required to bear up against the continual demands which are made upon me to appoint clergymen here and there; and which for the best of reasons, I am unable to comply with. The question however becomes too urgent to be much longer kept at a distance: and my office will expire of itself in consequence of my having no clergy to govern. I am drawing very near to the condition of poor King Charles the 1st in the Isle of Wight when he says "I am like a captain set to defend a place, and if not relieved within a certain time I may surrender". But he says further "Relieved or not I shall hold out till I make some stone in the building my tomb-stone. So will I do by the Church of England." And he kept his word. God grant that I also may. To the point however. The extremity to which I am reduced through want of clergymen is truly heart-breaking. The common ordinances of religion cannot be administered: and when the outward forms of Christianity disappear in a

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country like this you may readily conceive that little of the inward spirit will be remaining. We have now sixteen clergymen to occupy all this vast territory. Of these three or four are worn or wearing out with old age: and as many more do more harm than good. But that is meant only for your private ear. I mentioned to the Bishop of London once at Fulham my persuasion that there was still wanting within the Church of England an Institution for rearing up clergymen for the Colonies. He gave me no encouragement to think such a proposal could be brought to accomplishment; nor indeed could I very readily suggest whence the funds were to be derived; seeing that by a most iniquitous seizure the whole patrimony of the Church in this Colony (from which resources might have been looked for) has been resumed and diverted. What you state respecting the ill-success of Mr MacArthur in his application for a clergyman at Camden is very discouraging. But is it really impossible to find among the young graduates in the Universities some duly qualified and willing to engage in our service? Indeed I do request you and all my friends, from regard to the interests of Divine Truth and the course of pure Christianity to watch every opportunity of procuring for us such assistance. Pray mention it to Chapman and others who would take up the matter with an anxious and conscientious wish to strengthen my hands. What gives more occasion to our adversaries, and increases our dismay is, that other denominations of Christians all find means of engaging men who, however deficient in certain respects, do nevertheless the work required of them. The Roman Catholics are overflowing in the number of their priests, and many more are arriving. Last month we had an Emigrant-ship from Ireland, she brought a presbyterian minister: soon after, came a similar ship from Scotland. She brought out two presbyterians. Within these last four days has come an Emigrant-ship from England (chiefly with families from Sussex) but she brought no clergyman. People naturally remark upon this: and ask what occasions the



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difference? Indeed we are altogether paralyzed. I am willing to work: and do work I believe harder than any Curate in the King's dominions: but without proper instruments it is impossible to do the work required.

I am perfectly persuaded of your constant attention to the subject, and of your resolution to use every exertion to bring forward willing labourers to assist in this great work: and I will therefore express to you very briefly what their qualifications should be. Graduates of the English Universities I would have if possible: for though the people here have little learning among them, they are mighty quick in detecting the want of it in their clergy, and despise them accordingly. But, supposing a man to possess such a modicum of acquired knowledge as may preserve him from this, the one other thing needful is the possession of a sound judgment, and of a mind not to be diverted from its purpose by provocation or opposition. Well, but you will say perhaps what man of sound judgment would voluntarily place himself in a state of society where he has all this to undergo, and for what reward? I acknowledge that there is reason in the question: and before anyone makes up his mind to come hither he ought seriously to weigh the admission which I make, that taking the ordinary view of things, and comparing what is to be found here with what is to be relinquished at home, there is no inducement for men who have any reliance on their ability to advance themselves. There is, as you must be aware, no field of promotion here. But the men I have in my thoughts, and such I know there are, are they who take a more enlarged view of the question; and are persuaded that for the maintenance and extension of pure Christianity according to the design of its Author, it is not enough that the Church of England be secured in England, but that its principles must be carried out to the most distant quarters of the English empire. Wherever our language is, there our Church should be. Would to God that our rulers took any such view of their duty, and felt that the security of the nation would be most effectively supported



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by such a discharge of the national obligations. But I must go further than this, and say that according to my view at least, the Church of England, as a Church is not so systematically attentive to this as she ought to be (or as the Church of Rome is) or there would be found within her limits some Association which should take charge of the department in which our weakness is most sensibly and injuriously felt: that of searching out educating encouraging and equipping suitable agents for the work which under the appointment of Providence is prepared for them in our numerous Colonies in both hemispheres, and to the utmost bounds of the inhabited world. If you will look over the history of the Missionary attempts of the Soc. for S.P.C.K. in India, you will at once perceive the difficulties and unsatisfactory expedients which they were reduced to; and if it be a subject of deep regret that no systematic plan was devised for the removal of those wants which were felt at so early a period, how much more must we acknowledge the necessity of it now, when the whole world is as it were besieging the Church of England with demand for clergymen qualified to carry forth into all lands the sound of those truths of which it is her glory to be the appointed guardian. I sensibly feel that to urge men of talents and character to take this direction upon any of the ordinary pleas, is almost a hopeless proceeding. You will judge therefore that the men upon whom I rest my hope must have something perhaps of what may be called enthusiasm in their character. Not that ranting erratic enthusiasm which is a mere vapour, and is quickly dissipated by its own vehemence: but the steady resolution of a sound mind, which will consider the subject fully before it determines, and having determined will endure unto the end.

I once had some conversation upon this subject with Mr Benson, Master of the Temple, whose views very much, I believe, entirely, accorded with mine. Whether he received a Letter which I last year wrote to him upon the subject

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In consequence of that conversation I do not know. If you are acquainted with him (and if not you may well desire to be) the subject I am sure would excite his earnest attention; and I scarcely know any one who is so energetic in his feelings and purposes, and yet so truly under the control of sound judgment.

You mention Mr Newman's Sermon. I have not seen it: for works of merit in that class come very rarely and slowly to these shores. But your introduction of his name reminds me to say that if I might make choice of my fellow-labourers, they should be from his school. They take, I think, the most just and comprehensive view of the true constitution of our Church, and of its actual duties in the present state of the world; and it is among the young men brought up in their principles that I should expect to find that temperate professional ardour which appears to me the first requisite for a man's doing his duty well, and finding his chief support and reward in the consciousness of doing it. These things occupy my thoughts day and night: "perplexed but not in despair" being my motto; to which I hope to add "case down, but not destroyed". I ought assuredly to offer apology for troubling you at this diffuse rate: but it is no private or common cause; and I am sure you will enter into it with no common interest. ← CASE ?

I am preparing to write both to Dr Keate and his brother; and to them must refer you for accounts of a personal nature about me and mine. I have only space left to say that we are all quite well: and desire our most kind and affectionate regards to Mrs Coleridge. I pray for all happiness and prosperity to you and her, and your children, and remain, believe me, Your sincere friend and obliged faithful servant, W.G. Australia.