

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 15/1/1849 (Syd)

I received lately two very gratifying Memorials of you in the shape of newspapers directed by your hand, conveying a report of the proceedings at Canterbury on St Peter's day; for which, as well as for the great good accomplished on the same anniversary in the previous year, I trust that many generations of the world will have cause to be thankful; first to Almighty God who has put it into the hearts of his servants to do such things for His honor and service, and secondly, in a remote degree, to those servants themselves; who are His willing agents in fulfilling these his wise designs by the surrender to Him of their worldly things. May He prove Himself the exceeding great reward of all such. I have just been writing to good George Gilbert of Grantham acknowledging the receipt of his report of this great day's proceedings, and I copy a few lines expressive of my feelings; as one's first words in such cases are generally best.

"Your description of the exalted and encouraging ceremonies of the previous day fills me with joy and thankfulness inexpressible. But amidst the throng of eminent and noble personages who were in attendance on that great occasion, my eye was directed to one humble-minded, and, we know, constitutionally retiring individual, who would place himself in the lowest room, and, I have no doubt in the obscurest corner, that he might not be brought into notice and observation by the deed of piety and munificence which he was then contemplating. I mean of course our friend Hutchinson."

You (E.C.) are aware what he offers to devote: another sum of £1000 to endow two Australian scholarships for St Augustine's. It is 52 years this month, and I might add almost this day, since H. and I first met in the King's School: he then a monitor, and I the junior of all. One does not undergo many times in life, if ever, a repetition of the feelings which attend the first opening of a school-boy's life. It is wonderful to look back upon the time that has since gone by: and most of all wonderful to find ourselves brought into

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connexion again by our common interest in such a proposal! But to say one word more of St Peter's day, Hutchinson was not the only one upon whom my thoughts rested with a feeling of interest which the immense distance only renders more deep and real. I thought of you dear Coleridge, and of your heartfelt satisfaction, not proud I am sure but chastened and thoughtful, at witnessing this completion of your own glorious design, and this effect of your exertions; proof against weariness and disappointment. Were you not indeed repaid? I thought too of noble A.J.B. Hope, and how happier he must have felt at seeing in its immediate result the benefit which this application of his wealth had already secured to the Church of Christ; and anticipating, as he might allowably do, the still more important services which, in time to come, his foundation might render to the same holy cause; perplexed and tried as, we must all perceive, it is about to be. I thought too of worthy excellent Mr Sharpe, and felt convinced that in the midst of those solemnities he still held fast by the persuasion expressed in the words, beneath which in the List of subscribers, you will not have forgotten, he concealed his munificence from the applause of men. Others too had a share of my remembrance: but these I think were certainly the chief objects: and now I can only pray that, as you have gone to work, and will, I have no doubt, be stedfast and immoveable in it, so your labour may not be in vain in the Lord.

Now as to my own slight share in it, I wish merely to say that more than two years since, I wrote to Mr Harris, to beg he would pay my donation of £50 and subscription of £10 p.a. and supplied him with the means. Sometime ago I was vexed at hearing that, in consequence of the delay in the proceedings, and of its being said there was no prospect of any immediate resumption, he had forborne to pay what was due. I wrote to request it might not be postponed, and hope there has been no more hesitation. Perhaps I may not be able to

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afford henceforth so much as £10 p.a. but if possible I will give it. It is not so easy I find, as I had expected, to make all at once, such a reduction of customary expenses as to leave a surplus for purposes of this sort. To finish at once all that is to be said about money matters, I may here report that the sum of £150 which you mentioned had been remitted through the Bank of Australasia on account of St James' College, has not reached me. The Bank reply, on application, that they have no advices. I have however paid the sum of £140 to the College and £10 to Mrs Jennings Smith, as desired by you: and have also paid £20 to the Cathedral fund, as the price of the painting sent home for sale: which amount I think you were requested to pay to my credit at Mr Francis'.

Time has passed away rapidly: for on referring to my register it appears that my last Letter to you was by the City of Poona on 17 July 1848: and yet I could not have believed it had been more than three months. In that Letter I had occasion to trouble you about a matter which seems to be of much public importance: the Circular Letter of Lord Grey to Governors of Colonies, relative to the precedency of Romanist prelates compared with ours. My representation to persons here, who have urged me on the subject, has been that, according to my view, it is not the duty of the bishop, nor would (it) on his part be becoming if they the members of the Church were really anxious about the question, it would be more becoming that they should make a representation in the proper quarter; or else should request the bishop to do so and pledge themselves to support him. As they have not done one of the other, and as the rank of bishops is not for their own sake but for the dignity of the Church, and as I do not personally set much value upon it, and as I am not persuaded that Lord Grey would pay attention to the remonstrances of any bishop who could not bring parliamentary influence to second and support them (sic), my representations to His Lordship have been almost pro forma, merely to

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keep the subject open in case any interest should be felt in it. But as I see clearly the importance of the principle involved, I have thought it right to communicate the matter to the present Archbishop as well as to you, in order that consideration may be had whether for the general benefit, and for the sake of the principle, any notice should be taken of it. My persuasion, founded upon many years' observation, is this, that steps of this kind are always ventured upon first in some remote quarter (and this seems to be a very favourite one for the purpose) and if not opposed there, are afterwards with more confidence repeated in England. As instances of this I may refer to the question of General Education upon the system of the British and Foreign School Society which was attempted here in 1834 (sic): long before it was taken up by the Government at home; the public endowment of Romish priests, which I apprehend may soon be tried elsewhere; the admission of their prelates to assume territorial titles; as Sydney, Adelaide etc, and within a few weeks, Melbourne; which appears within the last five months to have been virtually effected in the Diocese of London itself. The question continually comes home seriously to my understanding and conscience, whether we can blamelessly, and therefore whether we ought to continue our connexion with a government which betrays such an indifference upon the question of truth and falsehood. It is not my disposition to maintain that we ought to cast ourselves down headlong without full consideration of the consequences: for the sword and the purse which we have or can purchase we are enjoined to take, as long I suppose as we can keep them without compromise of principle. But how far this is to go is a question which may well obtain the consideration of the wisest and best you have. I say very unfeignedly that here we are not equal to the full discussion of it.

As to the internal affairs of my own Church, which during the past year have occasioned me intense anxiety and suffering, I am thankful to say that the

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storm has abated, and I hope the danger also. My only resource was to take under my own charge (assisted only by a deacon) St Andrew's Church deserted by Mr Sconce; I really had no one fit to undertake it: and whomsoever I might have nominated in that hour of suspicion and agitation, jealousy would have been excited on one or the other side: perhaps on both. During eight months I suffered no one, except Mr Allwood about 4 times, to preach in the Church: and now am inclined to hold no saying than "nullan numen abest etc" for prudence was really the only quality that I exercised. But by its aid, and by preaching to them about 70 steady sermons, I was enabled to surrender into the charge of the present pastor in October last, the congregation entire. Not one, so far as I could ascertain upon most careful enquiry, had followed their former minister; who, to do him justice, had certainly made every effort in his power to lead them to Rome, as he did his own sweet wife. Our position is certainly improved: but still I do not conceal from you it is full of cares, full of fears. And yet (for myself I speak) it is full of hope.

Recently I have seen a spirit springing up, not in the highest class certainly, but among men who can work and will work: and who are now working for the College in a way which is gratifying at the moment, and still more delightful in the prospect of its future efficacy. For any thing which you can do to encourage this disposition I shall be truly grateful.

In returning lately from a visit to my daughter Phoebe, I remained at Morpeth one day, and passed the greater part of it with the Bp of Newcastle. He is working earnestly and very admirably: and I believe we both experience the blessing of mutual counsel and correspondence, and of a confidence without reserve upon all subjects relating to our Churches. From N.Z. I have not heard very recently. The frightful earthquakes at Wellington you will have heard of no doubt. Dudley, I hear, is in a very hopeless state: and Hutton's

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health is much impaired. As to Cotton you know more than we. Poor fellow, we all most truly lament him as a pillar cast down: but trust that God may even yet rear him up. What a succession of calamities among the members of that mission within seven years: seven short years, I might once have said, but now I perceive that seven years is a very serious interval. My brother of New C. (sic) and myself are meditating to unite in a representation to our great and good brother, that he may be pressing beyond what the springs of life can bear, both upon his fellow labourers and himself. Sometimes I have thought such an admonition would not be mis-applied to you: but I hope you may not feel the need of it; and beg you will believe me to be, Your very sincere friend, W.G. Sydney.