

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 30/1/1846 (Syd) (typescript)

I write to you at this time principally for the purpose of forwarding the Second of Sir George Gipp's Bills upon Cox and Co. for £100 in payment of his very handsome Subscription to St. Augustine's College; the First having been forwarded to you about 10 days since. At that time I think, I mentioned having set down my own name for £50 as a donation: and an annual Subscription of £10; stating that, as you considerately allowed the payment of contributions by several instalments, I had requested Mr Francis to pay three several sums of £20 during the present year to the Treasurer's account, as he might have funds of mine in hand to enable him. Never in my life did I give money with a more entire persuasion that it was devoted to a good work, nor with a more earnest prayer that the blessing of God may be upon the work itself, and upon all those who in so pure a spirit of zeal and love have devoted themselves to this great deed of piety. The only step which it has yet been in my power to take has been that of printing your latest Subscription List, with the names of the Committee nominated by the Archbishop as an Advertisement in our newspapers. This has been done twice: and is to be repeated for the third time on Tuesday next: which is the day of our Diocesan Committee monthly Meeting; and that occasion I have selected for bringing forward the consideration of the matter. It is, I am sensible, an unthankful office to do so; for, 'hic vivimus ambitiosa Paupertate omnes', is but too true a description of our community as regards the reputed possessors of property. Swallowed up in the gulph of their own extravagance and speculation, many of them can with difficulty provide for the payment of interest on their debts. They could not therefore give much; and are 'so holden with pride', that they will not give a little. It is painful to find such persons taking refuge behind that easiest of all pretences, an imputation of Puseyism, as an excuse for refusing to assist. I trust however there may be some few who will display a juster feeling.

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There is another class, more worthy of respect, but who will probably do no more towards assisting you; I mean the persons who wld give the preference to a Seminary of Divinity to be established here: and I so far concur in their views as to admit that this wld be very desirable in conjunction with St Augustine's, but not as a perfect substitute. At this moment I have collected around me some 8 or 10 young men of moderate acquirements in learning and, so far as I can judge, religiously disposed as well as of sober and correct principles. With the aid of my good friend Allwood I have been directing their course of reading since my return to settle at home for a time, three weeks ago. We give an entire day of examination in each week: and by the beginning of March it is my hope to find them so well advanced that they may be brought a little more into public conservation: and from thenceforth I purpose beginning for them a course of Lectures on the 39 Articles. To be sure their scholarship is not first rate, as such things are reckoned among you: but I am every day more fully persuaded of the truth of Hooker's observation (Bk V S. 81) as to there being no remedy in such a case as ours, but to take into the ecclesiastical order a number of men meanly qualified in respect of learning lest the greatest part of the people shld be left utterly without the public use and exercise of religion. As many as may be required to fill the more important cures, and to uphold the credit of the Church by their superior acquirements, I trust we may look to St Augustine's to supply.

My position is very trying and painful. Such is the scarcity of clergymen that I cannot open several Churches: nor provide for the regular service in those which have been opened except by myself fulfilling the entire duties of a parochial minister as often as there is any sickness in our body; which is the case just now. I have often meant to explain, in reply to an expression

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of wonder which once proceeded from you that I had not recourse to a re-establishment of the order of Deacons, that such a step wld do me little or no good. In the large populous parishes I wld gladly have Deacons, if it were in my power, assisting the priests: but we have not, even in the largest parishes a Stipend for a second clergyman. In the country parts, where there is so great a distance between one clergyman and the next, a Deacon wld for obvious causes be less effective. In order to supply even imperfectly the wants of so many parishes, and to render each clergyman competent to discharge the duties in which he can hardly obtain the help of another, I am compelled to admit to the priesthood all who can be found suitable for it.

By the 'St. George' I hope to send home to the S.P.G. my Journal of proceedings during 1845. It related principally to the expenditure of your contributions whereby I have been, or speedily shall be, enabled to finish and consecrate all the Churches which in 1842-3 I represented as standing roofless, and monuments of approaching ruin. Now they are all finished, or speedily to be so. Last year I consecrated 12 of them: and nothing daunted by the approaching exhaustion of your gift, have made the commencement of 18 or 20 more. Let me say with grateful feelings that nothing cld have been more timely, more providential, than your contribution. In all my public writings and speeches I have endeavoured to bring it forward in suitable terms: and it is most gratifying to find with how much of just veneration and gratitude your name and services are regarded.

You alarm me not a little by saying that even Mr Watson has misgivings about St Augustine's. From long and intimate acquaintance I have been led to think that through habitual exercise of the pure, candid, and disinterested affections, his mind has attained so much accuracy of judgment, or sagacity, upon all questions of a moral kind as scarcely ever to err: and therefore I

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am uneasy at hearing of any reservation on his part. What can he have to create such apprehension? Surely it cannot be the title of Saint retained as a prefix, which you said he rather scrupled at. But to settle this I cld take him a walk (or a ride which might suit us both better) from St Martin's Hill by St Radegund's baths, to St Mildred's Church. At the same time I acknowledge this wld be to take shockingly low ground: for the very little that is ever said to the disparagement of Augustine is of doubtful credit: and so far as I can judge he stands upon as high ground as any Christian missionary that has been since the Apostles' time. And surely if he brought us truth mingled with error, we are not, on account of the latter, to stint → our acknowledgements for the amout of sound doctrine which we possess through him; which I do rejoice in believing he now holds in common with ourselves, having been taught by the great teacher to renounce the errors of his former faith many centuries before they were discovered and adjured by the nation that he loved so well, and for whose welfare he endured so much. God forbid then, that, so far as concerns myself, I should ever grudge him the honours of Saintship. But in this and in all points I anxiously hope you will have Mr Watson cordially and wholly with you.

We hear that Mr Newman's secession has taken place; but have no particulars. I will not say one reproachful word, as you desire me not: but really it is impossible to think very well of the discriminative powers of anyone who knowing the Scriptures, and the Fathers, and the history of the Church, and the doctrines of our own communion, cannot discover in all these a sufficient warning against so gross an error as that of the Romish Creed. Mr N has of course still to attempt to justify what he has done: and whatever his talents and learning may be, he will fail in that because facts are so decidedly opposed to him. I have lately read over with much care a curious old Book - Fisher

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(Bishop of Rochester) De Eucharistica; and must really say that I consider that fine staunch noble old prelate (staunch and noble even in his errors) as bearing away the palm altogether in extent of reading and closeness of reasoning from Wiseman or any 50 modern defenders of the corrupt doctrine. Yet the insufficiency even of Bishop Fisher to prove the point has let me in a calm and thankful state of feeling about it which I hardly expect Mr Newman will interrupt. It is strange that none of the R. Cathc controversialists appear to be aware that their received and orthodox tenet, as to the effect of the words of consecration, is founded in all probability on a perverted notion of the order in which the occurrences at our Lord's last Supper took place: and from what Justin Martyr says about it, if it be admitted (as it is by all) that he held the true Catholic Faith, then he could not hold agreement with the Trentine Canon defining the nature and mode of transubstantiation.

You may well believe that I take no light interest in these enquiries: being satisfied from the occurrences of every day that here, upon the very spot whence I now write to you, will take place the most tremendous struggle, perhaps of all, between the opposing powers; and here the Reformation will have to be defended eminently and expressly according to our system, as opposed to one which is merely protestant, or sectarian. It is for an effort of this sort that I gather myself up: and take all my measures, so far as an erring Judgment enables me, as in preparation for such a result. It is not for me, most probably, to be the recognized representative of that principle: but I foresee that my successors will be so upon a very great scale: therefore may God raise up (either at St Augustine's or wherever his sovereign disposal shall deem best) such men as may be equal to the trying task. Dr Polding is on the eve of another voyage to England and to Rome,

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no doubt in execution of his part of the great design which he carried on quietly and well; but with no external appearance of advantage gained. I shall not quit my post, I think, not seeing any sufficient advantage likely to arise from such a step. But I trust that we shall obtain support, from good Mrs Milward and others such as she: to whom you may from time to time find opportunities of explaining what my position is. I shall soon have occasion to send her an account of my expenditure of her and Mrs Horne's beautiful gift: I will then write to her in full.