

MOCRE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 21/1/1845 (Blackheath, N.S.W.)

I left Sydney on this day week, having sought in vain an opportunity of writing to you before coming away. Now I am halting in the mountains on my road to Bathurst where I am to lay the foundation of a Church on Friday next. After that I have a journey of 1000 miles and upwards before me: and shall not be at home again until after Easter; probably about the first week in April. Having halted here for the night I employ my Leisure in writing to you upon a subject concerning which I have already troubled you much: but it lies so close to my heart that it seems to me impossible to deliver my conscience without again pressing it upon the consideration of yourself and others who, through you, may be led to take an interest and to make an effort in the cause. The point to which I allude is the sub division of this diocese: and the reason why it is now so peculiarly impressed upon my anxiety is that there is to be a subdivision of the funds provided by Parliament out of the Colonial Revenues for the support of 'Public Worship'. The total amount is £30,000 p.a. out of which the Ch (sic) of England will be entitled to £17000 p.a. or thereabout. The question has been referred from home to the Governor and Executive Council here. They will not decide anything during my absence; but probably immediately after my return. Out of this £17000 you are aware that £2000 is appropriated yearly to the income of the Bishop; who unless gifted with superhuman powers of body and mind could not, and therefore does not, sufficiently discharge all the duties of so vast an office. No man living I believe could do so; not even a SELWYN: for the space alone (10 times as large as the United Kingdom) is alone (sic) sufficient to forbid it. My anxious desire therefore is to have if possible something settled before increasing years render me even more unequal than now to cope with such a difficulty. At this time also there are peculiar reasons why a settlement shld be attempted; because Lord Stanley may have a power of interference such as neither he nor any other minister may ever have again. If the present

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course be allowed to run on until my death, the probability is that our Legislative Council (such is their spiritual tendency) may refuse altogether to continue the income however reduced the scale. But if the terms which I have now to propose be submitted to them with Govt support, my persuasion is they wld concur and make a permanent settlement. This therefore is the golden opportunity. Before coming to my proposal it may be well to observe that it differs in some particulars from previous communications. It wld only be tedious to enumerate all the reasons which have led me to introduce such changes. You will do me the credit to think they were weighty and efficient. What I have now to state is the result of my most mature reflexions: and by it I can pledge myself to abide: as indeed I have done in writing to the Archbishop and Sir George Gipps who will communicate the same to Lord Stanley.

Finding that nothing would satisfy the people of Port Phillip so much as the erection of that District into a separate See, I propose that it shld be so erected; and towards the endowment of it I have offered to surrender £600 p.a. from my Colonial income. In the next place I wish to establish an Archdeaconry for the Northern District of this Colony: towards which I offer at once £200 p.a. now, and £200 p.a. more in 5 years time if my life be so long spared. I wld offer the whole £400 at once, but having on my hands a lease of a house at £300 a year rent until January 1850, I cannot till that expires spare the entire amount. In consideration of this surrender of £800, and eventually £1000 p.a. I require (and must take it a sine qua non) that the sum of £1500 be paid to ← ? me. I cannot dispense with this; because however moderate my views on behalf of my family may be, I cld not with justice to them make the sacrifice proposed, unless furnished with means to make for them some other arrangements. This is ? → a brief statement to my wishes: and in further explanations I will offer a few remarks on each head separately.

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1. The Bishoprick of Melbourne (so I propose to call it) will have an income of £600 p.a. secured. In consideration of such an opening or commencement being afforded might not the Additional Colonial Bishopricks Society (sic) be induced to make an effort to add another £400 p.a. and then South Australia might be included in the same See with an income £1000 p.a. (& I take for granted a residence free of rent). The communication by sea from Adelaide to Melbourne is not difficult: and such an arrangement wld suffice for many years. If no farther income than the £600 p.a. can be obtained, then I shld say, better have a bishop: for if we continue to present system it is ←? in vain to disguise the certainty that Romanism and dissent will overrun everything. For this appointment if my voice have any weight I should unhesitatingly recommend the Revd. R Allwood now minister of St James' Sydney. He is a man of temper (sic), firmness, judgment, experience and most conciliatory manners; and for his principles and acquirements I may refer to his Lectures on the Papal Supremacy, of which Book we sent you a copy. To me he wld be such a loss as could hardly be repaired: but he would have the suffrages of everybody here. He is moreover an Etonian.

2. The Archdeaconry of Morpeth (which I propose as the title) might be erected without difficulty. He would be minister of that parish which is worth £200 p.a. and from me he wld receive £200 now, increasing to £400 in 1850. The sum of £150 which Mr Allwood now receives from the S.P.G. Grant to me for an unattached missionary might if approved go to the Archdeacon: so that his income wld be very good. There is an excellent Church at Morpeth, and a new parsonage house, requiring not more than £150 to make it very complete, This is the place to which the Steam boats from Sydney run; and it is a place where a man whose head and heart are what they ought to be might do great things. If you can send out such a man, who when the proper



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time comes may be fit to be promoted to episcopal rank, pray let him come. He must be qualified in bodily powers to travel a good deal, and to endure hardness (sic).

3. My own position when these arrangements were (sic) complete would be, the possession of a clear income of £1000 p.a. with what might be added as the rent of 40 acres of land near Sydney. I do not know what this might prove to be: but we may assume it would yield enough pay the rent of such a house as wld then very well satisfy me. The only anxiety which I shld then feel wld be as to the payment of my Life Insurances, amounting to about £200 p.a. or a little more. For my family's sake I must continue this payment; which would bear rather hard on a reduced income. Do you think that in consideration of my endeavour thus to secure the establishment ultimately of three bishopricks here, the Colonial Bishopricks Fund (sic) wld think it fair and expedient to devote a sum towards the same object, the interest of which might be applied during my life, to pay those Life Insurances, and at my death to devolve on my successor? I do not ask or expect you my dear Coleridge to trouble yourself at all about this matter. You have quite enough, and more than enough, connected with other affairs. But you might be able to submit my notions to Sir J T C for instance; or others who take an interest in Colonial Bishopricks; and it might be for them to consider whether means might not be found for making matters a little easier to me, and at the same time combining a permanent benefit for the Church. As to any measure for my personal or exclusive benefit, believe me it is the last thing I should expect or desire.

→ As to affiars in general I cannot now say much. I have already told you of the arrival of the Agnews and of his wife having a son on New Year's day (sic). Ward and Dale are by this time I suppose on their voyage to

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Auckland. The others will follow as soon as they can. Agnew wished much to remain here: and I shld have been glad of him: but did not think it right to detain him lest G.A.N.Z. should be incommoded. If he can get leave he will I think return to us. My wife and self have for the first time in our lives gone opposite ways - she North, I to the West. My dear child Phoebe is in a state which will soon render her mother's presence very necessary: and to her her mother is gone. She would go, as was arranged, last night: and I pray to God may by this time have completed a journey by sea and land to which I can hardly think her strength is equal. However she would not be dissuaded. On the day that I learned my first lesson in the Accidence "In speech be there 8 parts following etc' just as it was finished I saw a little girl come in with very black hair and a very white frock. Little did we at that moment think that the time would come when I should be sleeping in a hut on the Blue Mountains and she in a Steam-Boat on the Pacific Ocean! Providence had led us certainly by a very wonderful course in life and I hope will conduct us to meet again.

With earnest prayers for your prosperity in all things, I am, believe me, my dear Coleridge, Your very sincere friend, W.G.Australia.