

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Obviously a letter missing
between 21/10/44 + this
one.

Broughton to Coleridge, 4/1/1845

My dear Coleridge: I wrote to you a very few days since by the Ship
'Lanchester'. But having received from those who profess to be knowing
in such matters an unfavourable account of her sailing qualities, I will not
lose the opportunity of repeating my report of the safe arrival of Mr and Mrs
Agnew, Mr Ward and Mr Dale. They came upon me unexpectedly: your letter
of 27th July not having then, nor having yet, arrived. We all set to work
to place them in comfort; and have done so I trust: and indeed most
opportunely and providentially have all things turned out for them. Mrs Agnew
had scarcely been established in her lodging when her time arrived, and she
was safely delivered of a boy on new year's day. My charming friend Mrs Sconce
(whom I might call our Euphrosyna if she were not too good a Christian to
bear a heathen name) was in attendance on her with good Dr Wallace. The
mother and child are doing well; and as soon as circ^umstances allow, we shall ←
forward them in the best manner possible to Auckland: for you know, that
Waimate is no longer the Bishop's residence. My advice to him from the first
was not to fix himself there: as it seemed to me a putting of himself too much
apart from the busy haunts of men, among whom our business lies. I say 'we
shall forward' but my own claim to any share in the work will be upon the
principle qui facit per alium etc. These alii are to be some of the clergy
here: and it is the first of all subjects of gratitude that I have such
men to leave them, i.e. the Agnews et., in charge of. Indeed there are three ←?
or four or even more of those around me who in every estimable property,
moral or professional, may be set on a level with any in the whole Church -
animae quales neque candidioris Terra tulit, neque queis (sic) me sit
devinctior alter. Your friends will therefore lose little if anything by
my departure on Monday the 13th inst. on an extended journey of 3 or 4 months
probably: to visit, confirm, consecrate, and do other acts in what I trust

Broughton to Coleridge, 4/1/1845 (cont 2)

may be 'the work of the Lord'. Agnew pleases me very much; ingenuous, humble, earnest, and thankful for all kindnesses, he will prove, I hope, to my brother G.A.N.Z. a comfort and support. It is gratifying to me to have been able to place and to leave him and his wife in the hands of such people as I have spoken of: as it will serve to dispel an impression which, we seem among ourselves to gather, he had imbibed to the prejudice of us Australians both as to moral character and church-principles. But I trust he is already a convert: for I see such evidences of good as cannot be questioned, and of such attachment to the Church for the sake of those blessings which are annexed to its communion, as more than compensate to me for the thousand trials and disappointments which at the same time beset our course.

On Christmas day, for instance, I assisted at St Lawrence Chapel in this city. It is an old brew-house fitted up for divine service until we can get funds to finish the Church. It may hold 450 persons. It was entirely filled: not a seat, so to speak, being vacant: and a large proportion of poor. The communicants were 99 or 100; and the collections at the doors and at the Offertory not less than £25.

? in? → My principal purpose is now writing (next to that of letting you know particulars about the N.Z. party) is to speak a little more about a College here of candidates for the ministry. My mind is yet full to overflowing with the wonderful consummation likely to be accomplished by Mr Hope's magnificent (magnificent because so humble and unpretenting) appropriation of his worldly goods to the purchase of St Augustine's. Shld it take effect (and I will hardly allow myself to doubt) we may surely say 'This is the Lord's doing and it is marvellous in our eyes'. However, as to our own needs they are so great that nothing must stand in the way of an endeavour to train

Broughton to Coleridge, 4/1/1845 (cont 3)

up a due and constant succession of deacons, at any rate, under my own charge. The expense is the only obstacle: but surely after what we have witnessed we must not be deterred by that apprehension from making the attempt. We have as you know a piece of land adjoining my present residence, purchased with your money. In my eagerness I gave too much for it certainly: but still in consideration of its extremely convenient position, it may be worth more to us, both now and forever, than it cld be to any others. So although I have grieved and reproached myself for not husbanding the money better, it is not worthwhile to continue to do so; but to set to work in earnest upon a design which if it takes root and bear fruit will be indeed as the sycamore (sic) tree planted in the midst of the sea: for a situation less likely, in a natural sense, to have given birth to anything of the kind there cld scarcely be. The plan of the College (to hold when completed 14 or 16 students) is now in the hands of an Architect to put my irregular conceptions into a workmanlike shape. In the spirit of faith I hope, and not of rashness, I shall, after my return, proceed with the work: and hope to find funds to build rooms for the tutor: who (if he finally determine under God's guidance to come to me) may be Mr Formby. You say he is qualified: and he is therefore wanted and will be welcome. Till something better can be done, if he be a single man, he can live in my house. Another Whytehead is not to be looked for: but a good and clever man will be at any rate a great acquisition, and he can be set immediately to work.

At this moment I am placed under a most unspeakable perplexity. The two Vidals are leaving me; returning to England: and their two Churches I really have no means apparent as yet, of keeping open. Besides this we are threatened with other losses. My maxim has hitherto been to trust in God and go forward: and; though with respect of a sufficiency of labourers the way before me at this moment very dark and doubtful, I endeavour to rest in hope and do not

Broughton to Coleridge, 4/1/1845 (cont 4)

cast away confidence. But my difficulties, present and prospective, nobody can form an image of. Yet I have a ground of hope which never has yet deceived me and cannot fail. Therefore why shld I complain? You say you are anxious to enter on the subject of the Church with me: and really my dear Coleridge it is, I may say, the one subject on which it wld be my greatest joy to hear those right sentiments and to be sustained by those right principles which your own devotion of mind, or rather of heart and soul to the subject, has enabled you to accumulate. But much as I desire this, I wld not claim, or even accept it willingly, at the expense of adding to your toils which are already too severe. You speak of nearly twelve writing. This is a great deal too much even for you. Only consider, if you break down, what is to become of us. I do really and earnestly intreat that you will not overtask your strength. You might get some help in the manual parts of the work, from the many younger men who you have around you: and as to what they cannot do for you I shld say pray let it remain undone rather than be undertaken at any hazard to your own health.

Our brother of Tasmania seems uncomfortable in many points of his position. His Governor is all that you once described him to be, and even worse: and I lament to say even some of his own clergy and many of his lay followers add to his annoyance by paying court, I may almost term it, to the intrusive Bishop of the Pope. He (Tasmania) in a Letter to me dated a few days ago speaks, somewhat doubtfully to be sure, of a project he has of returning to England with a view to obtain redress. I shall try to reason him out of that purpose: for I am sure that at any rate the dignus vindica modus has not yet presented itself. Mr Bowdler's saying which you quote is a very fine one, and I have found the truth of it over and over again.

God bless you and all belonging to you. I am most truly yours, W.G. Australia.