

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 4|5|1844 (Syd)

My dear Coleridge: I have just received the box of books by the 'Mary Nixon' (that by the 'Caledonia' I had before acknowledged) with your very, very kind Letter of 23rd November. Strange to say, while writing the above sentence, I have been interrupted by the servant telling me I was wanted by a person who had brought a Letter: when who shld appear but Charles Kingston with yours of 19th November with Mrs Hudson's enclosure; and I return, from my interview with him, to go on with my Letter. As the best thing in my power I made arrangements for their going to Church tomorrow, and have appointed him to come to me again on Monday morning. You may be assured we will attend to him and his: and you can say to Mrs Hudson that, even putting your recommendation out of the question, I am ready to do anything for Mrs Selwyn or any of her family. To the best of my belief I have acknowledged the arrival of all the Books, Prints and Letters which you mention having forwarded: except the box which I now advise you of my having received: and for which as well as for the preceding, and for many other acts of unparalleled kindness, return you very grateful thanks. I have written according to your suggestion to Messrs Burns and Parker to acknowledge their liberality and have put these Letters under cover to Mr Francis that I might be enabled to send them free; as it wld be unreasonable to put either you or the worthy booksellers to expense on that account.

It will be good if you can bring Rivington's into the scheme; but I do not promise that I will write to them unless they give up publishing the British Critic, which I see very seldom, but only to be as frequently annoyed by it. What can the Editor think or call himself? for surely he is not one of us. Whenever I read such a mischievous production I say to myself 'talīs cum sis etc', only inserting a negative. But seriously, is it not the fomes of

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most serious evil? See what use Good (sic) and others make of its admissions. Even Mr Palmer seems to feel them his greatest encumbrance. The arrival of his 'Narration of Events' gives me great satisfaction: but it has come just too late, as I shld have been glad to look through it before delivering my Charge at the Visitation here the day before yesterday. So far as I have been able to do so, I am led to hope that nothing which fell from me contradicts the view which he has taken. We, i.e. Churchmen, do most sadly want among us some certain and determinate ground to stand upon, and to know with what persons, or rather with what principles, we can, and with what we can not act: for even here the malevolence of dissenters, and the indecision or false alarms among ourselves distract and tear us in pieces, while the Romanist stands looking on, and congratulates himself that others are doing his work for him.

When the Bishop of Tasmania was here, I spoke a good deal to him on this point, and intend writing to G A N Z in the same strain; thinking that if even we three cld make thoroughly known our uniformity of views (which I am sure exists) upon all the great points, it wld produce a good and permanent effect upon the mind of our respective Churches, which include, between them, a very respectable portion of the earth's surface. In order that you may be in some degree aware of the position which I have taken up, and which appears to me quite defensible, a copy of the 'Sydney Herald' (sic) of yesterday will be forwarded to you. The Report of the Charge is really very correct considering; for it contains but one error of much consequence: that is in the part relating to the reference of our 22nd Art. to the Decree of Trent, where they have left out the pith of what was said, and have made the whole inaccurate, if not absolute nonsense. However, one must allow it was difficult to follow such a statement all at once, and so

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there is no ground for complaint upon the whole. As soon as the Charge is printed (which the clergy have requested) Colies shall be sent to you, and ← Copies to those other able and distinguished friends whose names you have transmitted for that purpose.

I am writing in rather a rambling way, and perhaps you will think me guilty of the (Greek) rather (which once on a time I believe good Dr Keate knew something about) when all this matter has been allowed to precede the information that my very dear Phoebe Broughton was married on the 18th of last month to Mr Boydell. The ceremony was performed by mr Allwood, and I ← ? gave her away. Everything was quite private: for really we all felt very much indisposed for company on the occasion. they went on their wedding day to the Government House at Paramatta (sic), which Sir George and Lady Gipps most kindly offered them; and remained there a week. They then returned to us for three days, and departed for their own home. The poor soul bore up very well until the real moment of parting came, when I must acknowledge we were all very much cast down: for it was the first time we had ever been separated since she was born. My last office for her was to read the lesson for the day which happened to be Acts XXVII, the conclusion of which, as they were going by sea, comforted me very much: and by God's mercy as we have had the pleasure to hear from her, they reached the land all safe. You will be pleased to hear of the friendly attention which Sir George Gipps has shewn on this occasion. Besides what I have already mentioned, he wrote not only a handsome but a truly kind letter proposing to act as proxy for me in giving her away in case it shld be intended that I shld officiate: and he has since sent her a very pretty silver tea-service.

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God grant she may be happy in the situation of her own choice (for it is altogether such) though it be remote and obscure enough. Yet I have often said (perhaps not very sincerely) there were I only five and ← *check* twenty, I shld like exceedingly to set myself down in 'the bush' with an agreeable partner for life, looking forward to having (as Lord Sydenham very well described it) 'plenty of the necessaries of life but no money'. I shall never however be quite satisfied until they have a Church and a clergyman. At present they have 7 miles to go once a fortnight only: and then the service is in a Store; i.e. a sort of shop, fitted up with shelves and counters! I am sorry that in both your late letters you complain of non-arrivals from me: and some time wld elapse before that cause of complaint wld be removed. For indeed there was an interval during

N → which my communications were not sumerus. You ask if pens and ink have been scarce at Wollomolloo? Not exactly so: but I remember among boys, in my time (I suppose they are politer now) there used to be an elegant way of desiring anyone to 'Make himself scarce'; which was synonymous with the more terse and emphatic 'be off'. Now that was really the case with me during almost all last year: It (sic) was I that was scarce, and not the pens and ink: for I was hardly ever at home: and when there, had all the work in the world to do in order to clear off arrears. You would hardly believe that including Sermons, Letters and other official or private documents, the number of papers written with my own hand every year is above 2000. I do hope however that latterly, my performances (epistolary) have been more to your satisfaction. From Melbourne via Launceston in September; by Lady Frainklin in January; in December (which ought to have been mentioned first) by the Constant; in April by the General Hewitt, with portrait and Commission as Commissary: these I hope will all reach you in succession.

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I am not quite sure whether in my last I mentioned to you some hints which had been conveyed to me of a disposition existing to wish me to undertake another voyage to England on behalf of our still unconfirmed and tottering Church. It appears there was more in it than I conceived: as Mr Allwood tells me the clergy had a Mtg after the Visitation when it was unanimously determined to address to me a representation of their sense of the necessity of such a step. I am to meet them and give an answer on Tuesday next: and it seems probable that the laity will follow it up by a similar application. At present I shall confine myself to giving a very cautious and conditional reply: for indeed I do not clearly see my way. On the one hand my own circumstances, pecuniary and domestic, are not such as to make the measure in itself desirable to me: on the other hand I clearly see the extent and urgency of wants (spiritual) which there are here no means of supplying: and fully share in the apprehension of the clergy as to the future. But then I enquire whether we do not obtain, even now, support as extended as we can reasonably look for; and beyond this I do not see that my going to England wld mend the matter much: while my absence for a couple of years might have room for mischief to happen here. Still, if the people's mind is fixed upon the measure, I am at (sic) loss what to say or do: for I might not be able to convince them that my declining the embassy did not arise from reluctance to undergo again the pains and penalties of a voyage round the world: and if they shld once take into their heads, they wld not henceforth be forward in exertion for the support of one, who, they might think, wld make no sacrifice for them. Should nothing better be feasible for Hong-Kong, and the Archbishop accept my offer to go thither to set in order the things that are wanting, that mission might certainly form one stage in the progress of England. Something

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ought certainly to be done in China. The Chaplain of the Thalia Frigate, which was in here last week, tells me there are thousands of churchmen wholly without a guide. The Roman Catholics and dissenters have chapels but we have nothing of the kind. There is now a question going home for Lord Stanley's decision relating to this country of which it is impossible to express, much less to overrate, the importance - that is, to settle the conditions of occupation in the Districts beyond the boundaries, as they are termed here. My confident persuasion is that the expression used in my Charge that, unless effective steps were taken to introduce into those districts the ordinances of religion, of 'the Church', barbarism and infidelity wld assuredly gain the ascendancy. I must say too, if he shld give way to the urgent application, which is now going home, that the control and disposal of those immense tracts shld be taken from the Crown and vested in the Legislative Council (whose Members in public Meetings already talk of resistance). I think we shall be engulfed in ~~democracy~~, ← we and our children, beyond all human powers of recovery. However such questions must be unattractive enough to you, and I will therefore forbear. Edward Hamilton has written a good letter enough (published in a newspaper) upon the financial part of the question; for which of course he gets abused. But as to the religious part, nobody takes it up with earnestness. Lord Stanley I fear will not have the courage (perhaps it may not be in his power) to do anything effectual as it ought to be, and I much fear Sir George Gipps is not the man to prompt him to attempt it. But after all if your Colonial College go on (which may the Almighty grant) and we can obtain a due succession of men qualified to wage the great battle against ungodliness and sensuality, and not caring much for any more of temporalities than an overruling providence I trust will always provide for them, we may maintain our position and enlarge our borders, let rulers and governors

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be as indifferent as they please.

In the newspaper which you sent was an article on poor Whytehead which I had seen before reprinted in a paper here. The writer has, somehow or other, missed the point of greatest interest perhaps in his whole character; that is his gradual removal from the views of Mr Simeon (under whose auspices he went to Cambridge) to the sentiments in which he died. This formed a prominent subject in the many conversations which he held together while he was staying with me, and if the moment he had been seized to put down what he said, much that deserved a record might have been preserved. I was thinking of him, and almost using his language, in saying the other day, that MANY had at one time held views which they now wondered how they ever could have thought reconcilable with the principles of the Ch: of England. You see Archdeacon Wilberforce I presume, now and then. If so, besides expressing the sincerest and cordial respect and esteem in which he is held by me, will you remember to ask whether he received back one or two letters addressed to Whytehead which came to me after his death, and returned addressed to the Archdn at Brightstone I. of W., his removal not having been then known to me.

You will think I ramble strangely: but speaking of this puts me just now in mind of another thing which I have not noticed, that is the Letter which you sent to me from Mrs Nesfield about the Revd Jas Walker. She, kind lady, thinks I dare say we have fine pieces of preferment at disposal. But indeed her friend has perhaps the best thing that I have to dispose of: namely as parish with an income of £250 p.a. or from that to £300, and the mastership of the (sic) King's School at Parramatta. The latter however I am sorry to say is in fact a non-entity. It does not prosper, and he

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cannot make it do so. It occasions me great perplexity; nor do I very well know what to do. But Mrs N, may be really assured of my desire to give every degree of support and encouragement that I can to Mr Walker, whom I think very highly of.

Lonsdale's appointment gives me satisfaction, for I own we were led to expect a different one. He is meant of course to carry out the present primate's views and system in Church matters: as he and Rose appeared to me to know as much of the Archbishop's mind, and to have as much of his confidence as any who were about him. I have seen a Letter in the Times of December last headed, 'What can the Bishops do?' which speaks in a tone that grates fearfully upon my apprehension as to the spirit that prevail between the two classes in the Church. What the Bishops must do, I think, is to subdue that spirit by winning confidence to themselves, by shewing that they stand fearlessly upon the true ground of the Church, and keep a tight rein upon those who break out of bounds wither to the right hand or to the left. From my own experience I am quite sure the only way to produce unanimity and proper feeling among the clergy is never to shrink from telling them plain truth, and to tell it them in a spirit of kindness. My most painful reflexion is that I have not a larger number with whom I might so deal.

What became of the Mr Fortescue you once mentioned? Oh that I cld meet with one of Whytehead's class to join me upon the terms he speaks of:

'the Bishop to give me meat drink and lodging, but no sarlay'. An active man of that sort wld be a treasure indeed. Wld you believe it?

Dr Polding walks to Church on Sunday with eight, ten, twelve, or even more ecclesiastics behind him. How it is that these people manage to have enough of everything and to spare, while we are literally upon the

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verge of starvation, it is impossible to understand. I send you rather an envious morceau cut from a newspaper; which however I read with much pain, and with still greater saw placarded in immense capitals on all the dead walls in the town in the midst of handbills relating to everything that is vile and worldly. I do not think we cld possibly descend to anything on this kind let our wants be what they may. Having now I think given satisfactory proof that neither newspaper are unattainable in the parish of Alexandria, I may bid you God speed with an earnest desire that you may enjoy an ample share of health and power of activity, and then I am sure you will find happiness in employing them for the honor and glory of God in the service of his Church.

Give my love to Mrs Coleridge. I hope your children grow up to her hearts content, for I really feel that among all earthly blessings that is the greatest. You may also salute (literally) Mrs Keate, Miss Brown, Fanny Chapman, Emma Durnford, Anna, Margaret and Louisa, all in your Commissarial capacity or vice Episcopi. Congratulate the Dr on his being father of a graduate: also the said graduate most affectionately: and all the other masculines. We are all quite well: that is my wife, Emily and self. But we feel like fish out of water as they say, without the sweet tempered right minded associate who is gone from us. Believe me to be most sincerely and affectionately, Yours, W.G. Australia.