

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON PAPERS

Broughton to Coleridge 22|12|1843

My dear Coleridge: Last evening I arrived at home after an absence of fourteen weeks on the Visitation of Port Phillip District; and had then the gratification of receiving your animating Letter of April 29th and May 7th brought during my absence by Mr J W Jones. My head has not yet sufficiently recovered from 78 hours shaking in a Steamer to write very steadily in reply: but I will not lose altogether the opportunity of an apparently favorable conveyance by the 'Constant' tomorrow. To make things more intelligible I had better perhaps first of all tell you of my own movements. In a former Letter you had mention made of my setting out in June last on my Visitation to the Northward; which occupied me till late in August. After a short stay at home, I embarked for Port Phillip on the 15th of September: arrived there on the 20th. On Monday the 11th inst sailed for Sydney on board the Barque Midlothian: but after beating about the Port till Thursday, coming to an anchor three times, and seeing no prospect of the wind allowing us to get out, I transhipped myself on Thursday the 14th to the Shamrock Steamer which happened to be passing: went in her to Launceston in Van Diemen's Land, where I had the great satisfaction of spending part of Saturday and Monday last, and the whole of Sunday, with Archdeacon Marriott: but cld not meet the Bishop after all, though I had prolonged my visit three weeks in the hope and expectation of it. Monday last we resumed our voyage, and yesterday (Thursday) I once more through God's great mercy reached home in health and safety. I told the Archdeacon it was my earnest hope to arrive before the 22nd of the month, that I might have the full enjoyment of joining in the 107th Psalm in Church, which I have this morning done, and felt I trust the full power and beauty of the passage 'They that go down to the sea in ships etc'. On my voyage down I wrote to you from on board the 'Rajah', on or about the 20th of September. While at Port Phillip I received (sent down by Mrs Broughton)

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your short letter conveyed to Sydney by Mr Hutton: and on the 11th inst, or thereabouts, wrote to you again. This latter communication is conveyed to you by Sir John and lady Franklin, who go passengers to England by the 'Rajah' from Geelong, and whom I have been so bold as to introduce to your acquaintance. They are intimate personal friends of the Bishop of Tasmania, who seems to have made a most favorable impression upon them. You will hear from Lady Franklin much that is well worthy to be heard concerning these Colonies: and if you should meet, her account of our meeting and farewell (most probably forever) at William's Town, will be interesting to you.

check → ? Arnold (from N.Z.) goes home as under-syeward by the 'Rajah'; so that on its arrival you will have a whole budget of Australian and Polynesian anecdotes. My previous Letters to you (subsequent however to any which you have acknowledged) were 26 March with the 'Portest', 26 August by the 'Chelydrus' with an account of disasters in New Zealand: which however we hope have been terminated. This is but a sorry account of correspondence: but it must be accounted and apologised for by the circumstance of my having *check →* been since April almost constantly a wandered upon the face of the earth or sea.

The Portrait I hope has arrived safe as we have news of the Ship 'Eagle' having reached London. It did not please me: but I cld then send no better.

? During my late residence at melbourne a lady there who is an extremely good artist took a front face in water colours, which most people pronounce to be a likeness. She is sending it home by the 'Rajah' in order to have it engraved: hoping by the sale of a certain number of copies in England and here, to raise some small fund towards the completion of St Jame's Church at Melbourne. She consigns the picture to the care of 'James John Cummins *→* Esqr 34 Abchurch Lane London': who will be prepared (incase you shld be able *↑*

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and willing to devote time and attention to such a matter) to communicate with you personally or by letter as to the most suitable and advantageous mode of bringing out the engraving. In mentioning your name, with a view to give Mr Cummin (sic) this opportunity, I felt satisfied you wld take every possible interest in the subject but a little doubtful as to the fairness and propriety of calling your attention to a matter of that kind in the midst of your numerous pressing and momentous engagements. Should it be in the slightest degree irksome, nothing can be easier than to wash your hands of the matter, as the saying is, and to leave Mr C to manage the undertaking according to such instructions as he shall have received.

You will not accuse me I hope of egotism or selfishness in thus giving precedence to a matter so purely personal, and so comparatively unimportant: while nothing has yet been said on the topic of your personal and family afflictions. Believe me however this is not justly attributable to any want of sympathy. I met your brother Henry only once: (at Lonsdale's) but the impression of worth and talent derived from those few hours of intercourse was such as has never been effaced. Whatever you can send me written by so mature and correct a scholar will be most acceptable to me. I enter also very deeply into the feelings of the father in the case of the estimable Judge; and beg you will express to him on my behalf all that can be becomingly said by one who though a stranger to him personally is yet familiar with his character and services, and owes him a debt of gratitude for his exertions in the cause of the Church, and on behalf of this Diocese in particular. This letter, as I before stated, is written under circumstances which really disable me from making it in any becoming sense a reply to yours: and indeed I experience so many interruptions on my first arrival, and find such an accumulated arrear of correspondence and general business, that I must

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needs postpone to a future day any observation upon the many spirit-stirring topics which several communications embrace.

Alas! what a state of actual discord, and of worse remaining behind, does the pale of our Church present: and how do its adversaries rejoice in the spectacle! In my Letter to you written at Sea in September, before the news had reached us of Dr Pusey's Sermon and suspension, I had given utterance to some apprehensions which have been but too fatally realized. My own position, as you will suppose, is not improved by these occurrences. Both parties, in the interval between whom I seek to find a way, become now more rampant: and unless I can find means to keep down differences and to present as heretofore a firm compacted front to the Romanists, we shall go to the ground - nec claustra, neque ipsi Custodes sufferre valent.

In talking to Archdeacon Marriott I conveyed to him a (for the present) somewhat crude conception which has been for some time floating in my mind, and in some measure I believe carried him into my way of thinking, as to the propriety of us three Bishops in the South coming to a decided understanding one with another as to the Church principles upon which we wld act together, and the conclusions upon which we wld stand as to questions now so fiercely contested. Whether it shld go further than a mere mutual agreement I am not prepared at present to say. But I think if we cld meet and discuss some points, the turn of our minds and our general impressions upon all important subjects (providentially shall I say?) so closely in unison that there is the greatest probability of a perfect agreement. Even if no other end were to be gained, the institution of uniformity throughout so large an extent as our three Dioceses embrace wld be a satisfactory and encouraging spectacle to the Church at large; and might under the direction of Providence

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tend to spread more widely a feeling which God knows is abundantly needed at this moment. Marriott will convey all my meaning to the Bishop of Tasmania: and I shall lose no time in opening my sentiments to our other dear and valued colleague. What more may come of it (if anything sld come) you shall know in due time.

? → Pray have the kindness to let Dr Keate know that I have received his Letter with the enclosed separate memora ndum. He may be perfectly tranquil upon that; as affairs had never gone to any length which cld give me the least difficulty in carrying his friendly caution into effect: and that, without the remotest reference being necessary to his having any concern in the matter. If this be enigmatical to him in any degree he must wait a little till I can find to write, and explain matters more clearly. We hear with great regret your account of his apparently failing bodily powers. I write not without some secret anguish of heart on my own account. My wife had apparently recovered perfectly; yet I never felt quite easy. On my return yesterday I was grieved (and yet that is but a poor cold word to express what I feel when anything threatens her) to find that some symptoms, though slight, of the former complaint were still lingering. She was not quite well this morning: but is better now. The difficulties about my dear children also deeply wound me. I assure you I write this even with tears, yet with a humbled confidence in that great mercy of God which has made us all during so many years so happy together. I do not think I cld betray my feelings (of weakness perhaps) to anyone but yourself. I shall write again soon, and hope then to speak more cheeringly. You are not to suppose I apprehend anything very serious at this moment: but only looking to the future I am made very anxious and uncomfortable by the manifestation thus given of a disorder lingering in the system. God bless you here and forever, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Believe me to be Your every faithful and affectionate friend W G Australia.