

MOORE COLLEGE: BROUGHTON LETTERS

Broughton to Coleridge, 28/12/1844

My dear Coleridge: Here is another instance of the 'husteron proteron'. Yesterday came in the "Persian" in 101 days from Portsmouth; and in the course of the afternoon your Letter of 28th August (with its several enclosures) was delivered to me by Mr J.D. Dale: but your Letter of 27th July, being I presume in the "Morayshire" has not yet arrived. So far however as relates to the party for Waimate: your account in the Letter presented by them was so circumstantial as to leave me under no hesitation as to what was necessary to be done. I begged them to meet me at Church this morning (Innocents' Day) at 11 in order to consult about lodging; wrote a note to Dr Wallace (who was one of poor Whytehead's attendants) begging his consideration for Mrs Agnew; sent off a missive to my Secretary (Mr James) to request he would secure a nurse; and finally, being a little out of my element in that matter, put it in charge of Mrs Broughton and Mrs Sconce (sister of Miss Repton whom you know) as having experience in such affairs. This morning however I found that much of our pains was (sic) thrown away: they having made their own arrangements, as will appear from Mr James' note which I enclose. Wallace's I send also to convince you that "non abtusa adeo gestamus pectora Poene". He is a presbyterian: but never ought to have been one; nor do I think he would be one if you could get rid of the name of Scotland, for it is a national feeling and none other, that binds him to their religion. However he is a fine fellow; and if you write him six lines to thank him, he will be so pleased. You will see that I sent him the first sheet of your Letter to me which related wholly to this party. I am not glad that they have picked up this acquaintance on board. The names mentioned are strange to me; and if there be nothing worse it is so far objectionable that it takes them out of our management; and it is impossible for me to say whom it may bring them among. Perhaps inferior or irreligious people. But on Monday I will cause more enquiry to be made and if cause be shown shall not hesitate to break up the connexion. At all events I shall bring away Ward and Dale who ought to be under good surveillance in this

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corrupt town. I do not even know that the parties they are with are churchmen. When you send out another band, I think it will be best to give them a strict charge, not to form any acquaintance on board: and not to make any arrangements on their arrival till they have seen and consulted me. You may be assured I will take as much care of them as of my own children: and that I say of every one who brings credentials from you; or from Mr Watson, Mr Norris, or others who have claims upon the consideration of the Church.

Now I must hasten to a topic from which I have been kept almost with regret by the necessity of first of all satisfying your first claim upon our hospitality and attention for the party just arrived. What I mean is Mr Hope's proposal about St Augustine's. Molesworth (of Rochdale) had a plan some years ago (when we were last in England) for purchasing that very portion in order to remove to it the site of the King's School: which I liked the idea of very much. But this (Mr Hope's proposal) is far better. My wife and I were alone just before dusk when your Letter came: and it was well there was not too much light while we read it, for nothing has occurred for years which went more deeply to our hearts, and in broad day-light I fear we should have exposed ourselves. She is the only person who knows or will know anything. This morning I could not help saying to some of the clergy "Mr Coleridge and his friends have something in view for the benefit of our Church all over the world. I am not at liberty to say what it is: but it is the most event I almost ever heard of: and if it do come to pass I cannot help thinking and saying that the hand of God is in it." You may suppose therefore that their expectations are not a little excited. And will it not be all that I say here, and even more, if the King's School and this proposed establishment, the foundations of Cranmer and Augustine, the first Archbishops of the two several series, can be connected for the diffusion of the faith of the Church of England throughout the world? Oxford would have been very good as a situation: but to my judgment, independently of natural



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feeling, many reasons present themselves why Canterbury may be preferable. It must bring in the Archbishop to co-operate. You may now go to him and say "May it please Your Grace I have raised £50000 out of the £100000 which I promised towards the Missionary College", "How is that Mr Coleridge?" he may ask. "Why" you will reply "upon the principle of Dimidium facti qui bene coepit habet:" and really Mr Hope's beginning is so truly auspicious, so truly providential rather, that I do expect as soon as it is known, it will carry you full half way to the termination you have proposed. As to the ground purchased, it must be that portion unquestionably called the bowling green, between the great entrance gate, fronting Lady Wotton's Green, and the spot where within our recollection Ethelbert's tower and other ruins used to stand: where we used to go to see the fireworks. Almost all the rest is occupied. The Cemetery Gate is, or was, a private dwelling: the Kent and Canterbury Hospital (lugendum) occupies a large slice: the New Jail (nefandum) another as large. But on the left after entering the Great Gate there was a large space occupied as a brewery: whereon, if it be procurable, there might be, I should suppose, sufficient space without encroaching on the site of the Church, which Mr Hope with such a just feeling of veneration for the sacredness of the place is anxious to avoid. I had no sleep last night from thinking of this: and you will find some reason for thinking that I dream of it by day. Indeed I hope it makes me thankful as well as thoughtful. Another singular coincidence I will mention, which seems to shew that all things do work together, when we are sincerely and heartily devoting our thoughts in our respective stations to promote the glory of God by extending His kingdom upon earth. You urge me to prepare a place where young men qualified for the office of Deacon may find a refugium in case you should be able to send out to me any such. It is truly remarkable that on the Sunday before your Letter came (that is last Sunday) I had ordained a Deacon exactly upon the terms which you suggest and had been occupying my thoughts with a Plan of a small College for Sixteen such, under a

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Tutor who should be their classical and mathematical instructor, and (when we can afford it) a Master who should be the theological professor: which office however I might pro tempore supply. What you say about Mr Formby falls in so exactly with what I want, that I am tempted to say again, here is really a providential interposition. I shall write to you again about this, on or about the 15th of January when one or two Vessels are to sail for England: and will then send you a Ground Plan of my projected College, and (by way of curiosity) the pencil sketch which I had drawn out before your Letter came. The name even had occupied my thoughts. Corpus Christi (suggested by your brother's early memoirs of Arnold) is a very fine name if rightly understood: but the world I fear is hardly wise enough for that, and we must give none offence if we can help it. Exeter it shall be called, if you desire it. If not I had fixed on Pembroke Hall (of "late mine own College") with statues (or at least niches for statues) of Ridley and Andrewes on either side of the Gate. But now I think, if the grand scheme proceed, it must be "St Augustine's". I will say more about Mr Formby in writing again. But pray keep him up to his purpose if you can.

In former Letters I have acknowledged the arrival of all that you have sent out, boxes, books, prints, Letters. By the Caledonia (11th May) the arrival of which is announced by the "Persian", I wrote to you, to Sir J.T.C. and to Burns and Parker thanking them, as you wished. By the "Penyard Park" (21st May) I sent you two rather dauby Views from the neighbourhood of this house, which in point of accuracy were not to be found fault with. By the "Jane Goudie" (23rd June) copies of my Charge to the clergy. By the "Achilles" (10th July) I wrote again. By the "Ocean Queen" (14th July) I forwarded through Mr Francis upwards of 80 Letters of thanks to Subscribers to the Special Fund; and one for Mrs Arnold. By the "Ganges" on the ill-health of our Chief Justice etc. By the "Hindoo" Letters, and enclosure of thanks to Mesdames Horne and Milward. I

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have also written four or five times since then: and have sent thanks to Rivingtons by the "John Dalton" 17th August. Sundry newspapers to you on our Education contest (in which for one year more we have triumphed). By the "Ceylon" (8th October) Model of Cathedral and Wax flowers: the latter for Mrs Coleridge. But I almost fear both may fall to pieces in going through the tropics. This is a goodly list of my achievements (sic) in epistolary fields: nor is it yet complete. I have written several times about the death of Sir James Dowling, and the opening for a good successor if you can obtain us one. I also wrote from Melbourne last year via Launceston by the "Jane": again in December 1843 by the "Constant" and by Lady Franklin in the "Rajah". I have not heard whether these reached you safely: whether you have seen the Franklins, (who had seen two of your bishops and heard much of the third) and whether Arnold had arrived in safety at Windsor.

My wife and I are living quite alone: Emily being at Paterson's River on a visit to Phoebe. We are all quite well: and sincerely hope this is the case with you and yours as you say nothing to the contrary. Believe me to be My dear Coleridge Yours most truly and affectly, W.G. Australia.