

BROUGHTON PAPERS: MOORE COLLEGE

Broughton to Coleridge, 4/10/1844 (Syd)

Day by day during the last three weeks, we have been looking out for the arrival of the June packet from London: myself hoping thereby to receive accounts of some of my letters having reached you. But somewhat unaccountably as it begins to appear, the vessel still lingers, although four months must have elapsed since her quitting England.

This is an anxious day with us all; as it is that on which the question of General Education is to come before, and most probably to be decided by, the Leg Co. Some newspapers have been forwarded which will have shewn you that we have had some sharp fighting: and we shall have more before it is ended.

(Sending acct by next ship; also wax flowers for Mrs Col) and a sort of model  
*Check* → of our intende = Cathedral. It is not so well done as to induce me to venture on asking you to accept it; but perhaps among the numerous parties who have befriended the cause, of which that Church may be regarded as an emblem or visible expression, there may be one whom you might hope to gratify by such a gift. Of course you will consider it was quite at your disposal to keep or to give away as you may deem best, provided always that the voyage do (sic) not shake it to pieces.

I enclose herewith, in accordance with your desire, the last letter received from our dear friend and brother. We have even fewer opportunities of communication with him than our love for him and his, and our eager anxiety regarding all that concerns them lead us to desire. It is unnecessary to send you political news concerning that country; as the English newspapers appear to contain detailed accts of all that happens. John Heke's affair appears to have terminated almost in smoke. Indeed that actual occurrence never appeared to me to be very important in itself, although unpleasant enough. But there are some points connected with its termination which are not

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satisfactory to me: particularly Heke's obstinate refusal to hold any personal communication with the Governor; and the flag-staff, cut down by him, having been replaced without his having been compelled directly or indirectly to take part in the act, in proof of his contribution and submission. It is not quite clear to me that Capt'n Fitzroy (sic) did what was quite safe or prudent in sending back the troops: but it does appear clear to me, from a conversation between us yesterday that Sir George Gipps is not at ease about matters there. However, we are not on the spot; and therefore cannot be so competent judges as they who are. Still in writing to the Bishop it will be not unsuitable to caution him against exposing himself and others to risk through that implicit confidence which his own fearless disposition and his high opinion of the New Zealanders induce him to place in them.

There is a point now of much importance on which I must again claim your attention, although it is possible that it may be no more than urging what you will consider as weary, stale and unprofitable. Yet I hope not: as it is proposed under a deep impression of the importance of the subject to this Colony and to this Church for which you have so nobly interested yourself. The matter alluded to is the filling up of the office (now vacant) of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Sir James Dowling, of whose declining state of health you had heard before, died on 27th ult. His end was very edifying and unaffectedly devout: and until he was gone I really hardly knew how large a share he professed of my regard and respect. The question who shall succeed him is one in which my personal feelings would not interest me very much; although in the scarcity of anything like congenial society it would not be altogether a matter of indifference even in that point of view. But, considering how fearful will be the contrast, as concerns the interests of religion,

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between our having a man who will work with me affectionately and effectively, and a man who will employ the influence of his station, so far as he can, only to thwart our undertakings, you will not require more to shew you the sufficient cause for any anxiety as to the successor. It is a circumstance very extraordinary that dear Burton should have been hurried away, without the power of declining, to Madras; when it he had remained here not three months longer, he would have been open to him with the certainty of succeeding to it, the very office which he has repeatedly said to me, would be the crown of his earthly ambition. So however it is: he is gone; and God's Providence I trust will watch over him. But he dreaded the change from a climate as desirable, to say the least, as any in the world, to one so frequently fatal as that of India. Let me then ask you whether you have not the means of suggesting an application for the vacant post to some one of suitable pretensions character and principles? In anticipation of your ability to do so, pray let me enter with some detail into a statement of the principal points which it would be of importance that such supposed applicant should be furnished with. The salary is \$2000 p.a. with an allowance for Circuit expenses; and for a clerk and so forth. Knighthood if an object of ambition, would no doubt be given: and it would be right to obtain. The Judge in precedence stands next to the Governor. The competitors for the office would be Justice Stephen, who but the day was junior on the Bench: but now by the unexpected removal of the other two (Dowling and Burton) is at the head of it; and Mr Plunkett the A-Gen. The latter who is a Roman Catholic, puts in his claim for the vacant C Justiceship upon the ground of the universal, or all but universal, practice in England. He is a respectable man: but I must mention some considerations which appear to me to render this

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a questionable conclusion. In England the

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