To Dr Wardlaw ✓

Sydney. 12th June 1846

Reverend & dear Sir

I do not know that the apprehension of being intrusive ever dwelt more strongly upon my mind that under the present circumstances of addressing you, a perfect stranger. But with a natural dislike, you will have the goodness to believe, of any thing which could be pitily so regarded, I felt it to be almost a duty not to withhold such a letter, being urged to forward it by one whose name and character are very dear to me, and will form a bond of union and a sufficient introduction among all true lovers of the Church of England. I mean Mr Joshua Watson; whom many years of unrestrained intercourse upon subjects of eternal importance have induced me to value as I have no doubt he must be valued by all who have enjoyed the privilege of familiarity with a Christian and a churchman approaching as nearly as I can conceive to the perfect model of either. In one of his recent letters to me, with an allusion

allusion in his own mild amiable style to the probably not distant putting off of this his earthly tabernacle. He has presented to me the propriety of keeping, to use Dr Johnson's phrase, "my friendships in repair." In other words he submits and urges, what I very readily allow, the expediency of my opening and cultivating an intercourse with those who may have the opportunity and disposition, when he himself is gone, to continue those exertions which he during many years has consented to undertake on behalf of this far distant Church committed to my unworthy guidance. Among a few, whose principles and whose kindness he relies on, and to whom he apprehends that his name may prove a sufficient introduction, he does me the favour Reverend Sir, to mention yours; and I now accordingly write to you under an impression that, independently even of the favour of the good and venerable man who has thus imparted to me the privilege of addressing you, the greatness of that common cause, in the support of which we are in our proper stations each bearing our respective part, might authorize me to solicit your co-operation and support. It is unquestionably a most unequal alliance to which I request your adherence; when the basis of it is to be the same as it has been between Mr Watson and myself, that the one party is to tender all the service; the other to make no return, except in the sincerity of his thanks: for more than that I acknowledge, it is not in my power to offer. It is not however for myself, but for my Church that my request is made; and you will allow me to express my persuasion that with Archdeacon Harrison the proposal of that Church as an object for his sympathy and attention will be sufficient to call forth his earnestness. Indeed I feel that as the head and representative of that Church I have some claim not to be deserted by those who, in its present season of trial, will stand faithfully by the holy and beautiful house of our fathers. It has fallen to my lot to be placed foremost in a direct contradiction of the exorbitant pretensions of the See of Rome; which has so far placed me in a peculiar degree of exposure to their severity of purpose, as their ability to humble me in my public character (humble as my personal pretensions are) would carry the air, after what has happened, of retribution to the Church of England itself. I would therefore venture to say that I must not be deserted. Relying on the goodness of my cause, the importance of my position (which can hardly overrate

overate having regard to futurity) and the name of the excellent person from whom I derive the privilege of thus addressing you, I would earnestly solicit your countenance of a design for which I am now seeking assistance: that of instituting a Seminary here for the education of a few Students in Divinity. I am writing upon the subject to Mr. Ernest Hawkins; and giving him some details, which, if the considerations herein urged should be of sufficient weight to induce you to countenance the undertaking, he will on your application impart to you.

I cannot conclude without requesting permission to congratulate you upon your recent promotion; of which late papers from England have brought us accounts. Canterbury the place of my education, and during more than 30 years the centre of all my strongest interests, has a hold upon my feelings such as no other place upon earth has. I would fondly, and as in duty bound, request your protection of the King's School. It has not in the whole world a more grateful or more devoted son than he who thus acknowledges all that he has himself learned, or has been enabled to teach to others, to have been derived from that venerable institution.

I shall be much gratified if it be in your power to present my most dutiful respects to Mrs Grace the Archbishop: and you will be assured that I am dear Sir

Your faithful obedient servant W. G. Australia