

Broughton to Coleridge, 5/1/1848 (Syd)

My dear Coleridge: The day before yesterday I received your very welcome letter dated Hartley 28th August: and at the same time, dear, kind, lovingly remembered Anna Keate's Supplement conveying the household news which you had not time to tell. I write now to you: soon I will write to Anna: and let me hope also to my old master. Sometimes I reproach myself with not having done so: but salve my conscience with the belief that he hears all about us from you.

By the "Rifleman" on or about 27th October, I forwarded to you my acknowledgments for the Portrait which was a gift indeed. It is universally admitted; and, in comparing the Brethren, I have found only one who said there was "a quiet sagacity" in the look of "the Judge" which rather won his preference. In my eyes, however, comparisons are out of the question, your own portrait appears to want little of perfection as a resemblance and a work of art. It is strange that Mrs Coleridge and I should have agreed in our commentary on the mouth. You may be assured it was without concert or connivance that we did so. But I believe the fact is this: the mouth indicates anxiety of some sort. It might have been, as you say, stinginess, or anxiety for gain. But my solution is that it was only a breathless eagerness that the painter should do his duty well; and catch a correct and speaking likeness. According to my judgment he has done so very successfully.

By the "Sarah Scott" on 16 November or thereabouts, I wrote to you again about a young lad, the son of a Mr Salting here, who is going to England in the "Penyard Park" with the intention of being matriculated at Eton (Floreat Etona). It is not necessary for me to go over the whole story again, as Mr Cotton who sails under the same flag will tell you all about him. Mr Allwood also has written to Mr Francis Vidal. Only if you can do, in the regular way, anything to ensure the boy's being well-placed, I shall regard it as a favor to myself.

I have acknowledged by one or other opportunity the receipt of all your Letters

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except that which was conveyed by Virginia Stephen.

Since the arrival of that I have been a long journey: nearly 900 miles. The day after tomorrow I am to start again to the District of Illawarra, where I have two Churches to consecrate, confirmations to hold, and other duties to perform. How to get there is more than I can tell at present. Roads there are none: and I am not like Parson Adams and the Bishop of New Zealand who prefer "the pedestrian expedition". It has been raining two days incessantly and seems likely to continue six days longer: so that the country will be all in a flood. And as to the Steamer, she is such a tub that I verily believe if overtaken by a southerly gale she would not hesitate to go to the bottom even with the whole bench of bishops on board. However we do in the Colonies contrive to manage these things in a way which would be more wonderful than agreeable to you who live in a country of railroads!

Pray accept my best thanks for the aid towards our College. The news of it came most opportunely. It has enabled me to appropriate £100 to Allwood's use to wind up accounts for the last year: which, in spite of all frugality, we could hardly have done without your help. We have also some funds coming from good Dr Warneford, arising from some years accumulation of interest upon his donation. We shall force our way I trust through the present year also. While the B. of Newcastle is here we shall hold conferences and form determinations as to the future. My intention is to request Mr Allwood to draw up a summary Report of the operations of the preceding 12 months with a statement of the results. Upon the whole I consider that our exertions have been crowned with much success: as three candidates for Ordination will be presented from among the Students next Lent. From my knowledge of their characters and acquirements my expectation is that they will do credit to their teacher, and be faithful and useful in their holy calling.

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Mr Joshua Watson also requests me to send you a statement of my feelings and judgment as to the comparative advantages of an English or a Colonial education for those who are to minister at our altars. This I will endeavour to do with impartiality, as soon as (I am) disengaged from other services which at present deny me the necessary leisure. I do not find that the Bank of Australasia have yet any advice of the £150: but it will come I have no doubt in due course. You will be so kind as to express my most hearty thanks to the good lawyer who has with so liberal a hand poured his bounty into our coffers. But his indictment of me for not having spoken very favorably (which of course means that I have spoken very unfavorably) of his profession, comes upon me by surprise. I must plead not guilty: and although mindful of the proverb which, in general very truly, describes the wisdom of the client who is his own advocate, I must undertake my own defence. It is right to say that the Report which you read in the newspaper did not contain my actual words, but a translation of them by two of the Students. I really did not at the time examine so carefully as perhaps I ought to have done whether they had expressed my meaning. Indeed I had entirely forgotten what was said - but since your Letter came I have not without difficulty rummaged out the original. The only passage in which any allusion was made to the legal profession was the following (I quote the actual words):

"Capis modi vel senatores vel judices, cujus modi quaeso magistratus vel causidicos, breviter summatum que, cujus modi vel municipales vel rusticanos homines, ex stagno inscientiae emursuros esse arbitramine? Scilicet in illam opinionem, cogitando, ita sum adductus ut cento affirmare ausim pretiosis ---- hujus inchoatae gentis spes pendere ex Academia, quae artes liberales, una cum bonis litteris et Viri documentis quo impensius colantur, primoribus in promptu sistat etc"

My intention was in effect to ask What kind of judges and lawyers can you expect to have if you suffer all to grow up illiterate? Or perhaps it might be put

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thus - See what admirable judges and lawyers they have in England. This is mainly owing to the excellence of their education. If you then would have here men of similar character and capacity you must provide means to give them the same instruction: for out of the Slough of Ignorance nothing but Ignorance can arise. I may have failed in expressing my meaning clearly: but his was it: and you will assure your legal friend that far from meaning to speak disparagingly of his profession, which next to our own I hold in honor and value, my intention was to say to the youth of this country, 'Observe those eminent men; and if you desire to raise yourselves to anything like the same eminence you must be educated as they were'.

It was Allwood who encouraged me to say my say in Latin by his promising that he would reply in kind. But when the day drew nigh his heart failed him; and I had singly to stand the brunt: whether wisely or not, perhaps grammatici certent. But I hope your good lawyer will not pursue me with inexorable hatred; or that, if he shew it, it may be in the shape of a few more hundred pounds.

The remittance from my old friend Harry Hutchesson (Hutchinson?) has arrived through the Bank of Australasia (£490.3.11). You must not grudge me the transfer of this bounty from St Augustine's, for I knew the donor before you were born. He was, I think, fourth monitor in the King's School when I went first into it. I have been in the way of knowing him ever since; at least as long as we were both in England; and a very worthy excellent and rather handsome fellow he was; and a very clever fellow too if he had had a little more the gift of application to give his abilities fair play. But he was always rather indolent: and some forty years ago got crossed in a love affair; since which he has not I think felt much personal interest in worldly matters.

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YEARS →
I shall write to him as a matter of course. I have a very strong regard for him, as I am persuaded he has for me, and for my wife too - whom he has known even longer than I. Years, it is to be presumed, have told upon Harry, for he is no longer young any more than the rest of us. You will say as much of me when you see a sketch which, by Cotton's desire, Mr Bambridge has made of me for you.

But you may be perhaps still more struck by the added weight of years impressed upon the brow of G.A.N.Z. at whose age it is rather premature. All here have looked upon the representation with feelings nearly allied to sorrow. But in truth we all (that is Colonial Bishops) and he perhaps above all, live in a state of much wear and tear: constant journeys and exposure; and, worse than these, opposition, obloquy, and inadequacy of means to carry out the objects we plainly see require to be carried out, if the planting of the Church within our several spheres of action is to be successfully accomplished.

My present purpose is to summon the Suffragans to assemble here about September or October next: and in the interim by mutual consultation and intercourse by letter to determine the subjects to be submitted for joint consideration, and, as far as practicable, to ensure a concurrence of sentiment upon those of most importance.

I am looking every hour for the arrival of the Bishop of Newcastle. Unless he come in tomorrow I shall have left home before he drops his anchor: and, he will find only my empty shell (that is my dwelling house) to creep into. This will be uncomfortable. But if my absence do not exceed twelve days he will be able to employ them pretty well in getting himself and property on shore, and in recruiting himself from the fatigues of ship-board. I am finishing and fitting up for his use the parsonage at Morpeth. It contains 6

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pretty good rooms; with a detached kitchen and offices as the custom is here: and it may serve his purpose until he can look round and determine for himself where he will finally set up his rest. From all that I hear of him and from him I entertain no doubt that we shall accord in every respect: and I look forward with gratifying expectation to the sweet counsel which so long as God is pleased to spare our lives we may continue to take together for the advancement of his heavenly kingdom.

(7 January) You mention Captain Trevelyan whom by this time I trust you have had more communication with. He is as worthy a man as any living; and in his own principles as correct a man as heart could wish. What I meant was that he was linked in, by his worldly interests and pursuits, with a party who have monopolized the whole territory and whose sole principle seems to be an anxiety to thwart the Church to which they all the while profess to belong. Poor Trevelyan I am sure will be shocked and distressed by the tragical death (by his own hand) of Captain Grant his friend and partner. I scarcely imagine he will ever summon resolution to revisit these shores unless necessity compel him to come to wind up his affairs. I have not heard anything from any quarter about the £20 from Lady Cork for Martens' picture. I shall therefore pay the amount to him, and you will let it go if you please in payment of my dues to St Augustine's. As long as I am able you may depend upon my keeping up my promised Sunscrn of £10 p.a. and if it should be decreased pray do not impute it to stinginess, as in you or Socrates it might be. But, as I am now losing five-twelfths of my Nett income, it will behove me to practise frugality. However, by not keeping horses and getting next year into a cheaper house I hope we shall manage pretty well. It is so vexatious to me to hear of difficulties and differences in connexion with that noble establishment, impeding its starting on its course, that I shall not mention to anyone even so much as you have said to me. To conduct it you must find a man who can have,

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at the same time, his own way and the confidence of everybody. I hope that Bishop Coleridge will prove such. Upon more mature thoughts I have determined not to send you the picture by Bambridge: at any rate not yet. I have been put rather out of conceit with it by people saying it is not like: and therefore as Mrs Selwyn attests her bishop's resemblance I shall keep mine till my wife comes home, to get her liceat migrare. If she give it you shall have the drawing. God bless you my dear Coleridge, and grant health and happiness to you and yours. So prays your sincere and affectionate friend,
W.G. Sydney.

P.S. You mention the "Wigmore case". I have had lately a case, a most painful one, in which I have been compelled to act judicially and apparently with severity: but from revelations made after the case was disposed of, it appears to have been only too leniently. Of course I cannot be free from anxiety: knowing how easy it is, as you say "to harrass (sic) bishops", even when faithfully doing their duty. My endeavour was to go upon determinate principles. But then my knowledge of law is none at all; the entire course in such cases is an untrodden one: and whose judgment may not be at fault? Cotton takes home a paper with the account of proceedings. I wish very much you could find time to look at it: or better still if you could induce Sir J.T.C. to read it over. I do not like to write to him about it: because it is unfair, and in me it would be taking a liberty, to bore him about law when he must have in the ordinary course of every day rather too much of that good thing. But I shall really be thankful for your advice.