

†

J.M.J.

Bathurst. 10.1.78.

My dear Sir William,

Your last letter did not require an immediate answer, still I have not forgotten that it is to be answered. Just now I am in the midst of the annual retreats for the clergy, nuns, students. I have given four in succession in the last 15 days and have two yet before me so I can only just write on business. But first let me wish you and Mrs. Archer and all yours from my heart a happy New Year. This day twelve months you and I were together in the midst of a joyous ramble in the ranges. May some anniversary of the same bring us together rambling happily in the beautiful fields of heaven.

I saw one day last week in the Telegrams that a woman of the name of Woods had died from the effects of drink at Essendon. I am under the impression that an unfortunate sister-in-law of mine — the widow of my eldest brotherⁱ— was living somewhere about Melbourne but could never find her. Her name was Catherine Ramona Lascelles Woods, formerly Pownall. Could you give me any information that would set my doubts at rest? The poor creature used to drink I fear, and had a small annuity as she was related to Lord Lascelles' family. Her age would be about 50 or between that and 60, though she appeared very much younger. If she died suddenly, probably there was an inquest and you might give me the account from the paper if you think this was the person.

I hope you are quite well. The weather here is simply fearful for heat and absence of rain. I am very busy now but hope for a respite soon. Address me in future at "Australian Club, Sydney".ⁱⁱ My paper on the Coralsⁱⁱⁱ is now on hand and you shall have it soon. God bless you all,

Yrs most trly in S. Heart,

Fr. Julian

ⁱ This was Edward, a journalist who was employed by the London Sun before migrating to Melbourne in the early 1850s. In Melbourne he worked on the *Argus* and died in 1866 while Julian was at Penola. (Margaret Press, *Julian Tenison Woods*, Catholic Theological Faculty, Sydney, 1979 p. 70)

ⁱⁱ "The Australian Club was instituted in the year 1838 for the purpose of facilitating the social and literary intercourse of individuals resident in the colony, and for the general interests of the country gentlemen by the formation of an establishment where they could meet in Sydney". Membership was EXCLUSIVE being decided by ballot with one black ball in five excluding. The entrance fee was twenty one pounds and the annual subscription ten guineas. Rev. J.E. Tenison Woods is listed as a member in 1878 and Most Rev. Roger Bede Vaughan, D.D., was a member from 1874. (Rules and Regulations of the Australian Club, Sydney, 1878)

ⁱⁱⁱ Possibly "On Some Australian Tertiary Corals". This was read before the *Royal Society of New South Wales* on 7th November; 1877 and printed in Vol. XI of the Society's Journal for 1877. This does not allow much time for printing, but no other article fits the requirements of topic and date.