

†
J.M.J.

St. Patrick's Sydney.
13.2.77.

My dear Sir William,

I arrived here after a very long passage on Sunday morning. The smoke was so thick that the *Wotonga*ⁱ had to lie to for many hours lest she shd bump us against any of the rocks in Bass Strait. I went straight to the Archbp's and he booked me to celebrate the last Mass but one and to preach in the evening, at the Sacred Heart Church so you see they lost no time in getting my services. Since then I am besieged on all sides to preach and work but am quietly slipping out of sight by leaving Sydney this afternoon. The young Archbpⁱⁱ received me very kindly but did not like my leaving Sydney so soon. I did not see much of him so cannot say how much he will take to me. The old Archbpⁱⁱⁱ is a complete wreck: fast slipping away. One side is very much paralyzed and he can't speak without much effort. He is however perfectly sensible and manages to be lifted into his carriage and so take a little exercise. I will write again to you from Bathurst and I know you will excuse my brevity now. Give my kindest and best regards to Mrs. Archer and say I can never forget the kindness and attention I received from you both. My best love also to Gracie and I hope the poor little pet is better. To Maggy also a big lump of my heart. I send my kindest regards to Mrs. Williams^{iv} and my best blessing to all not forgetting Kate Biddy etc, etc, etc.

Perhaps after all I did not send you the Ferns of Queensland^v so I send it now with Pass and Class (?) which I was much delighted with. The *Watonga* is one of the very best boats you can travel in for accommodation but rather slow. God bless you all.

Yrs most try in S. Heart,

Fr. Julian

I said Mass for the Hughes^{vi} yesterday and for Katie's health today.

ⁱ Woods had spent some time with the Archers in Melbourne in January, 1877 and had returned to Sydney on the *S.S. Wotonga*, a vessel of 451 tons.

ⁱⁱ Archbishop Roger William Bede Vaughan (1834-1883), an English Benedictine monk, after a distinguished and active service in the Church in England, was in 1873 consecrated Bishop and arrived in Sydney later that year. On the death of Archbishop Polding in 1877 he became Archbishop of Sydney. An able administrator and an ardent opponent of "godless" secular education, he worked for the establishment of an alternative Catholic system of education. He died in England in August, 1883. (A.D.B., Vol. 6, pp. 327-329)

ⁱⁱⁱ Archbishop John Bede Polding (1794-1877), an English Benedictine, was consecrated bishop and appointed vicar-apostolic of New Holland, van Dieman's Land and the adjoining islands in 1834. His arrival in Sydney in 1835 marked the beginning of a long life of service. "He was a man of deep and abiding sanctity, generous and warm-hearted... a born missionary who scorned every personal hardship to bring religion to his widely scattered and underprivileged flock." When he died in Sydney in March 1877, he was mourned by both Catholics and non-Catholics. (A.D.B., Vol. 2, pp. 340-347)

^{iv} Mrs. Williams was Mrs. Archer's sister, Dora. Her husband Charles, had recently died and William Archer had become the guardian of her infant. (Letters: G. White to her nephew, Charles William, Jr. 2nd February, 1877; Major G.B. Crispen to his cousin, Mrs. Archer 29th March, 1877; An account from R.B. Davies for £4.12.6 for instating Archer as guardian of Mrs. Williams' infant.) In *Melbourne Directory* for 1877. (Sands & McDougal). Charles Williams, a clerk at the Titles Office resides in Henry Street, Hawthorn. Wm. H. Archer, J.P. (Secretary for Land Survey) was living at corner of Burwood Rd. & Henry St., Hawthorn.

^v The "Ferns of Queensland" does not appear in the list of the published works of Rev. Julian E. Tenison Woods. However, the minutes of the meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania, November, 1875, notes that the Rev. J.E. Tenison Woods donated to the Museum a collection of Queensland Ferns, so Woods had worked on this topic.

^{vi} Grace Archer's godmother. A letter (undated) from Miss Hughes, Beaumauris Hotel, Beaumauris, to Mrs. Archer has an attached note, "To my grandmother from Miss Hughes who was my mother's very fond godmother." On the 12th June, 1911, W.R. Macrae, 461-471 Bourke Street, Melbourne, executor of the will and codicil of the late Johanna Teresa Hughes, forwarded to Mrs. Grace Duffy "a cheque for £30, representing a further one-tenth of £300 bequeathed to you by the late Miss Hughes." (W.H. Archer Collection - University of Melbourne Archives).