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J.M.J.

18 Oct. 83
Government House,
Singapore.

I am afraid my dear Sir William that you will think me very forgetful of you when you find that I have run off to Asia without sending you a line. I would have done so if I had time to get abreast of half my literary work when I was leaving.ⁱ I have been travelling for three months and am well and strong thank God.

I spent five weeks in Java traversing it from east to west and crossing the island from north to south in two places in the centre. It is the most interesting and wonderful place I ever saw and far surpassing all my anticipations of its beauty. The volcanoes were in full activity and though far from Krakatoaⁱⁱ at the time of the eruption we felt the effects of it. Mr. Weld-Blundellⁱⁱⁱ and W. Allan^{iv} a Q-land M.P. were with me. We climbed to the edge of one active crater 7200 ft. high.^v It was a wonderful sight but attended with a little risk. We saw Mt. Semeru^{vi} (12000 ft) in eruption a sight never to be forgotten. I need not tell you that it is rather warm on the island and just now unhealthy as the cholera was in three places which we had to pass through, but in all other respects travelling is delightful and I shall never forget my journey. I intend to write an account of it which please God you shall see.

I arrived here after a very brief stay in Sumatra on the 2nd ult. and need not say that I have been at home, though busy as usual in doing a little preaching and mission work. I am to leave here for Malacca on the 24th with the Governor in his new steam yacht. We go thence to Penang, Singapore and finally to Perak, the tin district where I am to explore and geologize as long as there is anything to examine. This part of the business is at the instance of certain native rajahs who are to provide me with elephants, guides escort, etc. so that I can tell them what prospects there are of tin, gold, copper or coal in particular localities in the interior where they are supposed to exist. This journey will take me four months.

There are Catholic missions in most of the towns and I have a Xtian Chinese servant, who can answer Mass and being provided with altar requisites and permission from Bp to say Mass for the Xtians at every halting place there will be few days on which I cannot officiate. I will let you know my movements as I get along and need hardly say that I shall be very glad of a line from you. Direct to Govt House. Sir Fred. Weld^{vii} and family leave here in March for a year's leave. It is just possible if my health keeps up that I may remain until he returns.

I hope you and Mrs. Archer and family are well. Give them my love and say I send my best blessing. God bless you and pray for yours as ever.

Fr. Julian.

ⁱ Before he set sail from Brisbane in August, 1883, Julian had published the following:

- "*Coal Plants of Australia*", 12 letters. Sydney Mail, January I to July, 12. 1883.
- "*On the Fossil Flora of the Coal Deposits of Australia*". Proc. Lin. Soc. N.S. Wales, Vol. VIII, pp. 37-167, 1884. Read 28th February, 1883.

• "On Some Mesozoic Fossils from Central Australia", Proc. Lin. Soc. N.S. Wales, Vol. VIII, pp. 235-242, 1884. Read 30th May, 1883.

• "On the Wianamatta Shales" Jour. R. Soc. N.S. Wales, Vol. XVII, pp. 75-85, Sydney, 1884.

• "The Coal Resources of Queensland" pp. 1-27, Government Printer, Brisbane, 1883.

The Coal Resources of Queensland was a geological report for the Queensland Mines Department on the amount of coal production that could be expected from the mines already in operation. For his survey Julian was paid £50. This money would have been welcome as in the Place Garden Fire of 22nd September, 1882, Julian had lost books worth £1500 and in a letter of 15th March, 1883, to the Trustees, Sydney Museum, he wrote, "I beg to offer the whole of my fossil plants illustrating the Australian Coal Flora as published by me in the *Jour. Lin. Soc. N.S. Wales*, 1883, including about 100 examples for the sum of £50. My only reason for disposing of them is to see them in some public collection where they can be referred to by men of science, but as I cannot afford to present them to the Museum I am only seeking to be in some degree reimbursed for the expenses I have incurred in bringing them together". The Museum did purchase the collection. (Margaret Press, *Julian Tenison Woods: Father Founder*, St Paul Publications, Sydney, 2004, pp. 172-173; D.F. Branagan, "Words, Actions, People. 150 Years of the Scientific Societies in Australia" in *Journal and Proceedings, Royal Society of New South Wales*, Vol. 104, 1972, p. 135.)

ⁱⁱ Krakatoa. For two centuries this volcano had been dormant when in May, 1883 it showed signs of activity. This activity increased... until on the morning of 27 August four stupendous explosions poured pumice and ash more than 90 km. into the air. The expulsion of the molten magma left the volcanic "walls" without support and they collapsed leaving a vast island rimmed submarine caldera. Krakatoa was uninhabited but destructive sea waves (tsunami) swept over the low coasts of Java and Sumatra and 36,000 people were drowned. (Arthur Holmes; *Principles of Physical Geology*, London, Nelson, Revised Ed. 1965, pp. 336-338). Julian gives a graphic account of the Krakatoa eruption in his articles, "The Earthquake in the Straits of Sunda", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 - 17 January, 1884.

ⁱⁱⁱ Henry Weld-Blundell (1848-1901) would have been known to Fr. Woods from his Tasmanian days. A cousin of Sir Frederick Weld, he had served as his A.D.C. in Tasmania. Later in Queensland he held the seat of Clermont (1879-1883) in the Colonial Parliament. He had associations with the Union Club in Sydney as an honorary member in 1877 and as supernumerary member (i.e. from another colony) from 1879-1881. Weld-Blundell came from an old Catholic family, the Welds of Lulworth Castle, Dorset, though his family home was Ince Blundell, Lancashire. His father was Thomas and his mother Teresa Mary Vaughan. (E. Walford, *The Country Families of the United Kingdom* London, Spottiswoode, Ballantyne & Co Ltd, 1880, p. 1091; The Librarian, Queensland State Parliament; The Union Club Cash Book (Receipts) April, 1877— April, 1890).

^{iv} William Allan (1840-1901), pastoralist and politician, came to Australia about 1857 and, after time in both Victoria and New South Wales, settled in Queensland in 1874. He retained the Constituencies of Darling Downs (1881-83) and Cunningham (1887-96) for the Conservatives. An ardent opponent of trade unionism he helped form the Pioneer Pastoralists' Association and the Federated Employers' Union of Queensland for the "conservation of their interests and the social order". (A.D.B., Vol. 3, pp. 23-24)

^v This was Bromo in Java. See "Geographical Notes on Malaysia and Asia". *Proc. Lin. Soc. N.S.W.* Vol. IIIA, Second Series, 1888, pp. 585-597.

^{vi} "While we were gazing at its (Semeru) outline, a sudden eruption burst from its summit. First came a volume of black smoke, which rolled over and over like a turban as it rose up into the sky. As this spread, a fierce fountain of ash and stones shot up underneath it and soon beyond it... in a few seconds it was more than 3,000 feet above the summit... I never shall forget the sublimity of the scene of the first explosion." *ibid*, p. 589

^{vii} Sir Frederick Weld (1823-1891), an Englishman, was a successful grazier, explorer, a champion of Maori rights and one time premier of New Zealand. On his return to England he was, in 1868, appointed Governor of Western Australia and then served as Governor of Tasmania (1875 - 1880) and Governor of the Straits Settlement and Singapore (1880-1887). A friend of Julian's, he invited him to explore and furnish a geologist's report on the mineral resources of the various Malaysian States. (Margaret Press, *op. cit.*, pp. 95-96, 144, 171 and A.D.B., Vol. 6, pp. 377-379)