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My dear Townley,

Your very affectionate and welcome letter came to hand on a day of much mental agony + suffering as it found my darling Annie just seized with illness, which for a time seemed to threaten her existence. For five long weeks afterwards she was unable almost to set a foot under her. She could only get from one room to another or indeed from one seat to another by my carrying her + such was her delicacy that so soon as she attempted to sit erect she fainted. Her illness was the result of a fright she got one day when driving on a car with Mary + Dora. The Mare was startled and she fancying that Dora had been thrown off + had fallen into a ditch against which the car backed became dreadfully alarmed and fainted. The occurrence took place unfortunately at a point when serious consequences were to be apprehended and for some time indeed I had almost abandoned hope but God has (?)ery gracious thy His blessing in the means use she has recovered her wonted strength or even more than what she previously possessed and she is now, thank God, equal to exertions she could not have attempted some time before. Her long confinement + the care + attention she required the many visits we have had to pay since she became equal to travel about, + the last, not least my own incessant parochial engagements must plead my apology for suffering such a length of time to

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elapse without answering your very kind letter. I now embrace the opportunity of a vessel's sailing from our port to send this + I have chosen this thin paper to allow Annie to add a sheet + tell you for herself all she (?) + wishes.

We had some hopes of seeing your friend M^r Osler by whom your last letters were transmitted. He intimated his intention of holding a meeting in our town to my Rector, but was obliged to abandon it in consequence of the failure of his health. There was some awkwardness about his coming amongst us, as he did not give any references or furnish any credentials, which would enable us to take an utter stranger by the hand. The people of this country suffered before by being too easy to entertain strangers + they have, therefore, learned caution. The absence of any allusion in your letter to his coming on a public mission was rather unfavorable for while it would have ensured him a hospitable reception from Annie + myself that was known to you, yet all you said was not a sufficient voucher for the public. In all such cases a man ought to take care to come commended by some well known parties, as his mission will otherwise be sure to turn out a failure. I recently had a conversation with and of the Church Missionary Society's visiting Secretaries, who told me he met him + that he believed him to be an excellent man.

I am exceedingly sorry to find that the agitation of the exciting topics which now distract the Church at home have produced such an injurious effect in your Colony. We are in a great measure ignorant of the state of affairs at head quarters, as they do not supply us regularly with the papers of the Soc^y for the Propagⁿ of the Gospel. The Church Miss^y Soc^y has a much more extensive footing in Ireland

than the other + it is only very recently that any steps have been taken to make the S.P.G. Soc^y known amongst us. I rather fear that there is something like rivalry at the bottom of the affair + that the advocates of the Church Miss^y Soc^y are indiscreet in opening wounds that were better closed or insinuating doubts + suspicions when they have not evidence to convict of any dereliction of duty or any departure from principle. At the same time it is to be feaire(?) that some dangerous men have given grounds of offence by the line of conduct they adopt'd at the Comm(?) meetings of the S.P.G. Great care + caution is requisite + the very appearance of evil should be avoided. I believe that to whatever extent the principles call'd "Puseyism" may prevail

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Among the Clergy the great bulk of the English people are still (?) + animat'd by them + as the (?) of the Society must be mainly derived from the (?) care should be taken not to offend men their prejudices much more their scruples + their convictions. I am beginning to think that there is some very dark ulterior design meditated by what is term'd the "Puseyite" party. They have now arriv'd at that stage in which they deserve no sympathy from any ingenuous honestly minded man. They have beyond a doubt violat'd the truth. They have falsified their vows, they have forsaken the stealthy steps by which they were advancing to error + now proclaim it openly they of course cannot expect that we should hold "the unity of the spirit" with them. It is out of the question + Pusey himself + Newman ought to follow Libthorp + Co. + then themselves honest men. So long as they continue to play the part they have been acting within the hallowed bounds of our cherish'd Church, I cannot but regard them as the allies + accomplices of Jesuits + Papists of the worst description + I trust the Lord will give our Bishops grace to purify the fold from all such false + treacherous shepherds. We know here full well what Papacy is + how it can work + what deep schemes it can hatch + accomplish by the most deceptive + base contrivances + it therefore makes us the more alive to the dangers that threaten us from such a quarter. Thank God our Church + Kingdom is comparatively free from the taint. Indeed the practices of such semi-papists would not be born with in this country, when Papacy is so fully establishd + so well known. I would as carefully shun it as I would any tendency to Socianism(?) or Infidelity. Do not be surprized if some of the insidious emissaries of this wretch'd system into which too many have been deluded may have been trying to extend it to the Colonies + hence the alarm of some persons. The several Colonial Bishops should promptly + decidedly + unequivocally set their faces against the introduction of any of their novelties into their respective Dioceses. They should give the English people a guarantee that they will not tolerate it + if this be done I have no doubt but funds will flow fully + freely once more into the coffers of the S.P.G. I think the Bishops of England show'd a vast deal of forbearance + I doubt not that their course was a wise one + the result of deliberation + consultation

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but the day seems to have come for more active measures + they should now banish all strange + false doctrines. The Vice Chancellor of Oxford has set them a good example + if Transubstantiation were not preach'd in the University Dr. Pusey must have advanced something closely bordering on it, when he found himself call'd upon to silence him for two years. The times in which we live seem to portend some great changes. To speculate on what may issue from them would be to usurp a province wisely

denied us. One thing is, however, clear, -the good old fashion of distinguishing between truth + error seems to be confounded. Doctrines once esteem'd essentially false + damnable are regarded as harmless or unimportant. Treason is now called liberality + loyalty is (?) + exclusive principle suit'd only to the days of our grandfathers + greatgrandfathers who were only fools compar'd with Salons of modern days. The state of our wretch'd country is truly distressing at the present moment + the worst of it is that there seems no hope of its being better. It is now in that inflammable condition that would require but a spark to kindle a tremendous and an awful blaze from the centre to the circumference. The alarm amongst the well disposed + especially our poorer Protestants is very extensive + not without reason. Government have pour'd a vast number of troops into the Kingdom, which has tended to heighten the terror of the people but otherwise they appear to have folded their arms + patiently to await like men who look on expecting a fire to expend its strength without doing any injury to the surrounding masses. It is shameful, that they do not suppress the meetings which are spreading terror throughout the land + which must ultimately end badly. The expectations of the lower orders are excit'd to an extraordinary pitch + is in all such cases they anticipate benefits of the most extraordinary character from the repeal of the Union – which they are positive they shall obtain – Their minds are dissipat'd, their ordinary avocations neglect'd + they crowd in thousands regardless of every consideration wheresoever the repeal banner is unfurl'd. Mercy to the unfortunate beings themselves ought to make our rulers interpose – some consideration for the well being of the Country ought to make them at any hazard seek its repose + tranquility. No one will expend capital – no one undertake any work even the usual influx of luxurious idlers from England, who come to see the natural beauties of Ireland wont enter her borders while we seem on the verge of an insurrection. I fear very much that it is the policy of our Rulers to allow things to arrive at a very serious + alarming state before they interfere – + that they will then make it a pretext for conceding some unaccountable terms to the radicals of this Country. I have no faith in Sir Rob^t Peel since 1839. He act'd a treacherous part towards the Protestants + the conduct of the Tories since their last accession to power as it regards Canada makes me sadly distrust them. I have no confidence in man or in the aim of flesh, but I am sure God will protect his own people

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+ Church + tho' I do not see at present any disposition on the part of the Papists to burst into open rebellion, yet it is not at all improbable they may very soon make some attempt. One thing is certain, however, that the time seems approaching when the Church of God in this Country seems destin'd to endure much tribulation. May we be found watching _ be "counted worthy to suffer for our Lord + Saviour." May we be enabled to life a life of faith in the Son of God + be empower'd "to contend for the faith once deliver'd to the Saints."

I have to thank you + Mrs Townley most cordially for a visit, which I have heard you paid to Mr + Mrs Warre. When I wrote to you about them I never intended to impose so heavy a tax on your

kindness. I mentioned before that I was not personally acquaint'd with him, but as the protégé of my kindest + most valued friend the Archdeacon of Waterford, it gives me the sincerest pleasure to know that you show'd kindness to one in whom he is interest'd, while for the attention paid to his excellent little wife whom I have long known, I can only repeat my most grateful acknowledgments to you + your good lady. Be assured if you send us any friend from the far West, Annie + I shall be but too happy to show him that we are not insensible of your attention to any recommendation.

We have here Clerical Meetings similar to those you mention as held in your country, only that as they are held in the centre of a limit'd circuit, it seldom happens that any of us have to sleep a night from our Parishes. They are often very interesting + are useful, were it only to bring the members of our body into frequent + familiar contact. Your sisters Mary + Dora with Frances + all his sons save one were with us last night. They are all well but I leave Annie to report all such matters as well as a recent visit which Frances + his wife paid to Radcliffe. It will give her a topic on which from her knowledge of the place she can descant(?) + I am sure it will interest you. Were I to tell you that dearest Annie + myself go happily and lovingly along the stream of time, I would tell you no more than the truth and you might justly say were there any interruption to the intimate knowledge of your beloved sister have created any disappointment in me, it has been that of a most gratifying + satisfactory nature – it has led to the discovery of latent qualities + perfections in her character which it required such an intimacy as subsists between us to develop. I have already more than (?) the estimate I had formed of her + she certainly surpasses your (?)

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description of her. But lest you may think that there is some occasion to indulge in this strong language on the presumption that we must make up in profession what does not exist in practice, I have only to say that I wish with all my heart you would come + judge for yourself + we will both submit to any test you propose for arriving at a correct conclusion. In a late letter to Dora, I think you said you were soon to be disengaged from Thornhill. If so how could you better employ your time than by coming to Europe + advocating the cause of that Socy. to which your Bishop says the existence of your Church is owing. You could refute many calumnies perhaps that are in circulation ag'st it + render the cause of religion in the Colonies generally serious service. Do try to come + we will work with you + for you. Should this reach you 'ere you are put into the charge of another Parish offer yourself to come amongst us + I can promise you the result will be attended with good every way. I shall lave Annie to press this suit + as she has to gratify curiosity most natural + most agreeable on the part of your little folks, by giving such a description of me as would suit the Duo_ &_ (?) I shall leave off to enable her to fulfil her part.

Could you thro' any of your fellow labourers obtain for me the information required by the statement which I annex in the envelope. It is for a poor Parishoner who was thinking of going to Canada to look after the property mention'd. I should feel it a satisfaction if I could render him any service + I shall be much obliged by your making any enquiries you can. With kindest regards to your good lady + your little ones + with earnest prayers that the great Hand of the Church may further all your labours to his own glory + the good of the Souls committed to your care believe me

Your sincerely attach'd

+ affectionate brother

John Corbett

Priory Place

New Ross 13 July 1843_

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Dearest Addie

I am really quite nervous at being called upon to carry on such a neat production as the foregoing however you know my scribble of old so I have no need to trouble myself now in establishing a character for penmanship – besides I have neither time or space to spare for apologies – Thanks for your welcome packet – the enclosure for our dear Will I have forwarded – I wrote to him upon the same subject, for I too had heard from the Cape, but after all I hope Mary's fears have in some measure exaggerated the facts – The Captⁿ and cabin passengers / some of whom were highly respectable individuals, gave William the highest testimonial for gentlemanly and strictly moral character – this was done voluntarily in consequence of some reference made by some official to the Captain – I know their standard and ours may differ but it proves there could have been (?) very gross dereliction from more moral observances - ~~but~~ I must confess I was not quite pleased at the tone of Mary's letter – there was something uncharitable and harsh in its spirit – I do not doubt she is a good woman but her views may be narrow and peculiar – Will wrote to me from the Cape, indeed from the cottage, and described both it and the dear children – he said the little girls were lovely but there was not one word of M^{rs} Pickard except some expression of feeling at seeing Richard's widow – This was written before he had left the cottage but when Ally and I read the letter we both concluded that M^{rs} Pickard had made no very agreeable impression – I do not say this to prejudice you against Mary, but for Will's sake we ought to look at both sides of the picture – Since he went his letters have been very satisfactory – his habits seem very regular and good and he appears to be moving in a desirable circle – I only fear his falling too much into the hands of the Wesleyans as I find they have been very civil to him – He requires a sober spiritual guide and I. B_M gave him I believe introductions to some of the clergy there but you know Will is always easily won by warmth and kindness – I said a good deal to him upon the subject and I trust that if dear Lizzy is spared to meet him she will fully second what I have said - She and the children sailed about two months ago – Will was very anxious that they should go & of course Mr Maddons purse fronted them – though dear Will had sent some money [scribble] you know a small certain income agrees the best with him- [scribble] I have left myself little room for other matters. Dear Spensie has said so much that I feel sure you must know him - mentally at least - for in him there is no guile and he writes as he

would talk but you know I have expatided(?) on this subject long ago and I have nothing to retract I am thankful to say after six months trial - indeed I found him in all my sickness the most tender & watchful of nurses and now always ready to anticipate my wishes - men of cause are far too grand to feel any curiosity about such trifles as appearance so I shall not trouble you much with details – though I do suspect if I devote a corner to satisfying the

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curiosity of my dear little nephew and since you will be apt to give it a glance – (?) – then as to height – Spensie is a little tall than you and decidedly stouter – blue eyes and hair about the color of dear Richards but is soft and curly as Will's - it grows off his forehead like IBMs and I should think phienologist as well as physiognomists would pronounce the latter very good – ladies very handsome – the rest of his features regular but not as strongly marked as your Lordships – the general expression of his countenance cheerful + candid and as decided a mouth you often see – he looks as though he could say “ha” without fear or favour – I do think the former word is not in his vocabulary but I must stop not only because I am dissatisfied with my limnering still but I shall not have room for other other things.

Polly has lately spent a very pleasant visit at Radcliffe – they were all very kind and really every year M^{rs} Bisby improves – She is very true to you boys and to all the Martden faction – The boys here all turned out well – Sam + John are at Cambridge – Richard + Adam in the concern though Richard nominally does not appear as he is still liable for the debts of the Victoria Park – a Manchester speculation that has mired young Wood & others - Hannah Dunlop lives on the Bury road but is implacable as ever though M^{rs} Bisby has sent conciliatory messages (?) by her sons – begging that there might be peace before she died – Hannah and we have no intercourse but no quarrel on our part – would you believe why? My dear Father “was unfaithful in his trust or at least shamefully indolent to her interests, & we were all unkind to her in Mydlelton Square – Mary & Mr G called to see her but she was very cold – they saw too our good Caleb - she is married to Bennion the cabinet maker & is vey comfortable - Percival Bunting has turned out wretchedly & Eliza is become a meek, broken spirited woman – she continues to hide his faults and is a very industrious, good mother – she teaches her own children & is comparatively poor – how widely different from the prospects of her childhood – IBM still at Looting [scribble] George going on very prosperously – My aunts is indeed going on a [scribble] green old age – You know my Uncle John is no more Hayward is grave, very grave and grutle(?) in his manner – I think my news list must close – Dora leaves for Ramsgate next week to remain there – Mama is old + it was better for Dora to be near her – she is not to be quite idle – Will you listen to my Darby + come over to this country? how many hearts would you make glad – to me it seems too fair a dream ever to be realized – Tell Elizabeth the sea voyages would ten years

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to her health & deduct ten from her looks – Much love to dearest Alfred – his wife & chicks he is very naughty not to write – I have a poor impression on a common seal of our crest which I will send the first opportunity I wish I were rich enough to get one cut in stone for you – No one read your letter to Will

but myself – Adieu + much love to dear Elizabeth + kisses to the young ones – Ever your very loving
sister

Annie

July 13- 43-