

W.H. Archer, Esq.,

My dear Sir,

When I wrote last I told you that I had written to Walstab<sup>1</sup> & had rec no answer. More than that now or rather less than that I have not received a copy of the Review for May and do not of course know whether my articles (for there were two) have appeared. Now don't you think I have a right to complain. But even supposing I have not I cannot write another article for next month because I don't know where I left off in my "Bibliography"<sup>2</sup> & cannot now know in time to send them the copy. I wish you would see Walstab & tell him that I regret that I commenced the series when there does not seem any probability of my being able to finish it but as I have recd no equivalent for what I have already written they must not consider it any infringement upon their copyright if I reproduce the series in another journal & reprint the articles I have furnished to them.<sup>3</sup> Of course it would be an injury to me to continue in another serial without repeating the commencement and it would be a greater injury to me to forego it, because the materials have been collected by me at great pains & form a large portion of my researches for some years past. I regret now that I did not begin upon another footing but at any rate I think it is a very great pity that so good a Review<sup>4</sup> with such fair chances of success should come to grief for want of business habits among the conductors. Of course I don't mean to say that my defection will inflict any very serious loss upon them, but I am convinced that if they are unbusinesslike in one case they are likely to be so in all. I write to you plainly on the matter not wishing, however, that you should be put to any trouble or inconvenience but since you were so kind as to offer to be my medium in one case perhaps as you are on the ground you may have a better opportunity of giving them a well-timed remonstrance. There now "A plague on all **business** say I." It doesn't signify. I would that for your sake as well as mine that the pursuit of literature was as pleasant as to outsiders it appears. To think that your long and anxious plans for raising the literary tastes and standards of this colony should be such thankless, sleepless work, after all. We can't help it. Something is being done, if it be no more than raising a beacon to warn off succeeding voyagers.<sup>5</sup>

Now about yr crisis<sup>6</sup>. I read all the Despatches wh I could wish. Cardwell's<sup>7</sup> letter is to my mind a model of calm & dignified logical reasoning. Sir C. D's<sup>8</sup> letter to him made me think him a man of weaker mind & less sense than his acts led me to believe though they were plain enough. But when I saw his minute<sup>9</sup> to McCulloch<sup>10</sup> I had only two conclusions to draw, either that he was insincere himself or that his opinion of the common sense of others was taken to the lowest possible standard. He may have deceived himself - but I am sure he deceives no one else. But there, I don't indulge in politics generally but who can help himself these times. God help us all. *In multis offendimus omnes.*<sup>11</sup> By the way do you read German affairs.<sup>12</sup> I don't, but I should not wonder if our proud country were about to read at home the lesson she has taught abroad by such men as Garribaldi.<sup>13</sup> I never thought German matters a joke, but mark my words, we have not seen the end yet.

We have had a terrible fever raging here for the last month or so. It has kept me very busy. Eighteen sick calls in one week is hard work. But now we are improving & settling down into this sweet month of May in something like tranquility. God bless you & yours. I have lengthened out this letter almost unconsciously(?) & it is full of nothing after all — Pray for me.

Vry afftnly yrs.

J.E. Tenison Woods

1. George Arthur Walstab (1834-1909) writer & journalist migrated to Victoria 1852. After war service in India he returned to Melbourne in 1865 where he wrote for *Age* and *Herald* and edited the *Australia Journal*. In 1866 he edited the short-lived *Australasian Monthly Review*. He was a close friend of Marcus Clarke (A.D.B. Vol. 6, 349)
2. There was no May issue. Only two issues of the *Australian Monthly Review*, (March and April, 1866) were published. An article "Australian Bibliography" signed J.E.T.W. (the index gives full name) appears in the April issue.
3. Note 4, 13/12/65. "Australian Bibliography" was eventually published in *The Australian Monthly Magazine* in ten parts from November, 1866 - August, 1867. The first of the series begins "Some time ago I commenced a few notes on this subject which were unavoidably discontinued. I think them worth continuing."
4. The *Australasian*, 14th April, 1866, commenting on the two issues of *The Australian Monthly Review* writes, "we must confess that this is by far the best monthly magazine which has yet appeared in Melbourne.
5. Note 2, 5/9/65.
6. Note 11, 14/9/65.
7. Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., Secretary for Colonies letter of 26.3.1866 to Sir Charles Darling, Governor of Victoria. "It has been my desire to avoid even the appearance of taking part with one side or the other in controversies which ought to be locally decided ... It must be obvious to yourself that you occupy a position of personal antagonism towards almost all those whose antecedents point them out as most likely to be available to you in the event of any change of Ministry. This has resulted as I think, entirely from your own acts, your adoption of a course which cannot be justified in law ... I am compelled to advise her majesty that you should be relieved of your duties, and the Government of the Colony placed in other hands." *Supplement to the Argus*, Melbourne, Saturday, April 28th, 1866.
8. Sir Charles Darling (1809-1870), after a military career which included five years in New South Wales, entered the civil service. His postings included Lieutenant Governor of both St. Lucia and Cape Colony and Governor of New Foundland and Jamaica before his appointment as Governor of Victoria in 1863. He made the mistake of becoming so personally involved in local political affairs that he was unable to act as arbitrator between contending factions. In the constitutional struggle between the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council (Note 11, 14/9/65) he allowed his vice-regal authority to support one group against the other. (A.D.B., Vol. 4, pp. 19-21)
9. This minute was reported in full in the *Supplement to the Argus*, 28th April, 1866. In it Sir Charles Darling, defends his conduct both in permitting the levying of customs duties and in allowing the contraction of loans which enabled the McCulloch ministry to continue to govern even though the Legislative Council had rejected the Appropriation cum Tarrif Bill. He continued "Mr. Cardwell appears to have concluded that a passage of my despatch, which conveyed only a strong expression of opinion upon the conduct of others was intended to convey a future line of conduct of my own". (See Note 7)
10. Sir James McCulloch (1819-1893) migrated from Scotland to Melbourne in 1853. A successful businessman, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1856 and was Premier of Victoria. Though involved in much controversy (Note 7, 14/9/65), he was instrumental in framing many land reforms and preparing for protection in trade, for direct taxation and for secular education. (A.D.B., Vol. 5, pp. 140- 142)
11. "We all offend in many things"
12. Woods is probably referring to the events which lead to the Seven Weeks War of 1866. On 8th April, 1866, Prince Otto von Bismarck signed the Alliance between Prussia and Italy in which Italy promised to join the war against Austria if it broke out in the next three months. Hostilities broke out in Mid-June, part of the Austrian army had to be diverted to meet the Italians in Venetia. Austria was defeated.
13. Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882) Italian patriot gained the states of Sicily and Naples for King Victor Emmanuel. In the war of 1866 (previous note) he was allowed a subsidiary role which he performed well. Garibaldi was news, the *Argus* (16th May, 1865) even reported that his daughter Teresita had given birth to a boy "who by his grandfather's desire has been christened Lincoln, in honour of the American President who has abolished slavery"