

†

J.M.J.¹

South Brisbane.
4.12.73.

Sir W. Archer, K.S.G.²

My dear Sir William,

I left your kind letter a very long time unanswered as I have been away for a long time up in northern Queensland.³ I was to have gone to the Northern Territory but while between Townsville and the Gulf got fever and ague and with great difficulty made my way back to Port Denison where I was laid up for a very long time. I have only just got back to Brisbane and am still liable to the ague when the weather is wet. I was going to say and damp, but it is always damp and warm here. In fact Brisbane is so like the West Indies that I am going in all haste to Tasmania for the summer as soon as ever I can travel again. My friend the artist has left here but I suppose you have not seen him yet as I am told he is trying his success in Sydney before going further.

I should be very glad to hear from you and about Mrs. Archer and your daughter for your heavy affliction⁴ makes me anxious about them. Do you ever hear from the Blairs. I was told that Mrs. Keogh⁵ is ill and likely to follow her sister. I am almost afraid to write and ask them. If I go to Tasmania by Launceston I shall go by Melbourne. So I shall see you, but I can't leave here until after Xmas as I want to give the nuns their retreat if I can. Let me hear from you soon. With kind regards to Mrs. Archer believe me

Yrs very affectionately

Father Julian.

¹ The letters "J.M.J." stand for Jesus, Mary and Joseph and thus signify the Holy Family. This symbol (which was also used by the Sisters of St. Joseph) appears on all Fr. Julian's letters to Archer from this date with the exception of two which are not in his handwriting.

² In 1870 William Archer received the Papal decoration of Gregory the Great, hence the K.G.S. and Sir William. He did not receive a civil knighthood. Julian seems to have used the title in private only. In his article, "On Some New Species of Tasmanian Marine Shells", *Papers and Proc. Roy. Soc. Tas.* for 1875, he names a fossil *Cypraea archeri* "after my esteemed friend, Mr. W.H. Archer", p. 24.

³ Mother Mary (MacKillop) mentions Fr. Woods preaching missions at Maryborough Gympie, Rockhampton Gladstone, Clermont and Townsville as well as giving Public Lectures and collecting corals and shells. He returned from the North to Brisbane in October and remained there till the end of the year, giving the Sisters a retreat and saying Midnight Mass on Christmas Day in their chapel (Mary MacKillop, *op. cit.*, pp. 144 -145).

⁴ This must refer to the death of Archer's son, William Alfred Nind Archer, born 29th June, 1858. In the family Bible, Archer lists the births, baptisms and deaths of his children. Mary, Philip and Charles died This must refer to the death of Archer's son, William Alfred Nind Archer, born 29th June, 1858. In the family Bible, Archer lists the births, baptisms and deaths of his children. Mary, Philip and Charles died in infancy or early childhood. Willie's entry simply says "died". Bishop J.A. Goold (26th March, 1873) consoles Archer on his affliction, and Henry John Newman (16th June, 1873) offers his condolences to Archer on the death of his son. At the time of his death, Willie the fourth of the Archer children to die, would have been fourteen. (Melbourne University Archives — W.H. Archer Collection).

⁵ "I don't know which Mrs. Keogh Fr. Woods refers. It is possibly Mrs. Edmund Keogh (formerly Mary Verner Price) whose family consisted of seven boys and three girls. However, the reference to a sister baffles me." (Vic Feehan private correspondence, 17th November, 1982). Fr. Woods certainly corresponded with an Edmund Keogh of Melbourne (George O'Neill, *Life of the Reverend Julian Edmund Tenison Woods*, Pelligrini & Co., Sydney, pp. 144, 252 and 291, and in the list of Melbourne subscribers to the Father Tenison Woods Memorial Fund, Edmund Keogh, Esq., donated £2.2.0 (Sydney, 11th October, 1890).

Have the Keoghs come back from Tasmania and how is Michael.⁶

⁶ Annie MacKillop whose memory is not always accurate wrote to Fr. George O'Neill, S.J., (17th March, 1926) "He (Fr. Woods) was more intimate with the Michael Keoghs." (Mount Street Archives, North Sydney.) There was a Michael Keogh (if that is what it is) brother to Edmund and to Julia, who was the first Mrs. Peter MacKillop, but he died in 1871 aged 47 so the dates do not fit (private correspondence – Vic Feehan 17/11/1983 and Donald Copeland 18/11/1983). It seems unlikely if Fr. Woods were intimate with the family that in 1873 he would be unaware of his friend's death in 1871. When Fr. Woods arrived in Tasmania in 1874 he "was kindly received by the members of the Keogh family and the Bishop" (O'Neill *op cit.* p. 249).