

†
J.M.J.

Lambton, Newcastle
N.S.W. 29.1.78.

My dear Sir William,

Only a few days ago I heard from some Melbourne friends that you were involved in the fearful work that the Berry ministry and Sir G.B.¹ have been doing. I thought your position was certainly one they would not touch and I need hardly tell you how concerned I am to find I am wrong. I know full well how heavily the blow affects you not only for yourself but for those whom God has left dependant on you. It is one of those sorrows and afflictions to which all of us are subject but especially those whom God has marked with His love and to whom He desires to give an additional reward in heaven. Be sure of one thing, my dearest friend that however black and dreary things may seem the cloud will be only a passing one and will soon be a thing of the past. Leave all your care in the S. Heart of our dear Lord, and pray with confidence for you will see how very soon He will dispel all grounds for uneasiness. Have recourse to His Mother. You know we never give such glory to God as when we cling to Him with firm confidence in the midst of the storm. For those who have no faith or trust in God such blows are cruel indeed but for the true heart that rests in God there is the firm reliance that can never fail on Him without whose knowledge not a hair of your head falls to the ground. My strong advice to you is to say but little on this subject even to those you think you can trust on either side. Be silent and keep your heart in peace. You will be so thankful by and by that you have been silent. I think you will see many will be ruined in this affair who have no fear at all, but I promise you in the name of the Sacred Heart that you will come thro it safely. Get a Mass said in honour of the Sacred Heart and another in honour of our Blessed Mother and wait quietly and believe me you will not have long to wait. I think you will see God's meaning in all this by and by. He will punish both sides and the colony will be brought to the verge of ruin. These liberal politics are not the fault of one or two. They have scourged the world and God will punish the executioner now with his own scourge. Give my kindest regards to Mrs. Archer, Grace and Maggie Charly and I send my blessing to you all.

Yrs most try in S.H.

F. Julian.

I am giving a mission at Lambton but I shall not be here long, address Australian Club, Sydney.

1. Sir Graham Berry (1822-1904) migrated to Victoria in 1852 and engaged in trade and journalism before turning to politics in 1860. A radical, his career as politician was varied but in 1877 he won an overwhelming victory at the general elections and became Chief Secretary and Treasurer. Because his party was largely lower-middle-class, Berry needed to have the renewal of payment of members passed by both Houses. There were indications that the Legislative Council would oppose this, so the payment of members was tacked on to the Appropriation Bill. Passed by the Assembly, but blocked by the Council, Berry retaliated by publicly announcing through a Government "Gazette Extraordinary" of Wednesday, 8th January, 1878 ("Black Wednesday") the dismissal of all persons then holding the office of Judges of County Courts, Courts of Mines and Insolvency; all chairmen of Courts of General Sessions; all Police Magistrates, Coroners and Wardens of Goldfields; the Engineer-in-Chief of Railways; a large number of executive heads of important departments and about a hundred subordinate but mostly well-paid officials. Officially this was justified as necessary to conserve funds, but several leading radicals, including Berry, spoke of it publicly as revenge on the members of Legislative Council through their friends in government. (A.D.B., Vol. 3, pp. 151-156). See also C.M.H. Clark "*A History of Australia*" Vol. IV, Melb. Uni. Press, 1980. pp. 264-270)

"Archer was a victim of these dismissals and from that time on had no regular employment. His attempts to establish himself first in the political, then in the legal world met with failure, as did his candidature in 1881 for the librarianship of the Public Library". (University of Melbourne Archives, General introductory note to William Archer Papers.)