

This letter tells the reader much about the place of science in the life of Fr Julian. He loves all things scientific but he is always a priest first, attending to his many ecclesiastical duties before spending time pursuing scientific interests – writing papers, visiting museums or taking notes while rambling. At this time Fr Julian is giving a mission at Morpeth, saying Mass, preaching to adults and to children, hearing confessions and leading the evening service each day.

This letter also gives us an idea of the scope of Fr Julian's scientific writings. To see them listed in his own words and then to read the endnotes compiled by Sr Anne Player seems to prove what a remarkable man Fr Julian was for his times. He is passionate about his vocation and finds in science an interest that enhances his life as a priest.

†

J.M.J.

Sydney. 20.6.78.

Only that I know you understand me so well I should be afraid you would consider me a lazy correspondent. I really could not write before. When I went down to Sydney (for tho I date this from Sydney I write from Morpeth on the Hunter River) I looked over my papers to see if there were any I had not sent you. But I found that you had them all — at least all I could send you for I have none of the earlier ones. And now I don't know what to send beyond the paper on the corals which you shall have in a few days. The paper on the Tasmanian forestⁱ I hope has reached you safely. Perhaps however I do not understand your request. If it be about the earlier papers all I can recollect is that I published a lecture entitled Not Quite As Old as the Hillsⁱⁱ in (I think) 1862, a pamphlet for the S.A. government on N. Australia in 1865ⁱⁱⁱ. In 1866 I was employed to give them geological maps and sections of the whole S.E. district with a view to opening up the country by drainage and train-ways.^{iv} For this they only gave me 50 guineas. At the same time I wrote various geological and other essays in the Australasian^v intruding into the next year. I think you know all the rest and if you consult the Roy. Soc. Tas. Proc.^{vi} you will see. It may be that you want also what I am doing. Well just now I am engaged on the tropical corals^{vii} of the Chevert expeditions^{viii} and the fossil corals of the Aldinga beds.^{ix} I am just finishing a very elaborate essay on the bibliography, peculiarities and distribution of the Tasmanian Marine molluscan fauna.^x I have several other things in prospect which I have not begun and so it is needless to speak of them. You see I have so very little time for these things that they have to be done as it were piecemeal. Now today for instance I was in the confessional from daylight until after 12 noon excepting while I said Mass and preached once to adults and once to children. I returned to the confessional at 4½ until the evening service when I preached twice.^{xi} I am writing this after 9 p.m. when I have returned from Church. Subtract from the remainder the meals, the Divine Office and one or two important letters and you will not have much left. Yet I managed to save one hour for science and that every day is almost as much as I can want though occasionally I get a day or two at the Museums in Sydney or a ramble on the coast or in the bush whence a good stock of notes follow. I think you know that I don't value science for its own sake though you know that I love it as much as I love anything in this world outside my ecclesiastical duties. But I could not consent to devote valuable time to it except as a means to

an end. If you think good can come from any notice of my work you and the public are quite welcome to all I can give. But for my own part I don't think that there the good result lies.

What men think and say is like a passing cloud in the sky and public notice saddens rather than elates me. To rise like a bubble on the surface and then disappear is man's great delusion at the present day. Of all the barren and unsatisfactory wages that man can labor for public opinion is the worst and the mere thought of those with whom you share it makes one turn from it with loathing. If I had nothing else to labour for life would indeed be a burden. I hope you and Mrs. Archer are well. Remember me kindly to all. I have rather a heavy mission here but I return to Sydney in a week en route to Bathurst again. I did not see Miss Hunt^{xii} yet but I got your introduction thro the post. I fear I shall not be able to call on her for a time. Address as usual and pray for

Yrs most try in S. Heart

Fr. Julian.

ⁱ "Tasmanian Forests, their Botany and Economical Value" *Jour. Roy. Soc. N.S.W.* for 1878, Vol. XII, pp. 1728, 1879. (Read 5th June, 1878)

ⁱⁱ "*Not Quite As Old As the Hills*" was published in 1864.

ⁱⁱⁱ *North Australia: its Physical Geography and Natural History*, pp. 46, Adelaide, 1864.

^{iv} *Report on the Geology and Mineralogy of the South East District of the Colony of South Australia, or that Country lying between the River Murray, the 141st meridian of longitude and the sea*, pp. 33 Adelaide, 1866 (Map and Sections)

A review of this pamphlet appeared in *The Australasian* (Melbourne) 4th August, 1866, p. 550. "Eschewing the orthodox size and get up, the reverend author has produced a pamphlet at once comprehensive and compendious... from the light and readable, yet with all solid and practical style of writing, the brochure ought to enjoy a favour with the general public seldom falling to the lot of departmental publications."

^v The "List of Published Scientific Works" of Rev. J.E. Tenison Woods refers to "Physical Geography of Australia", 6 letters. *The Australasian*, Melbourne, 1866. A search of *The Australasian* failed to locate these articles but four articles, "The Age of our Continent" appeared between 19th May and 11th August, 1866 and "The Physical Structure of our Continent" — 5 letters — were published from 27th October, 1866 to 2nd February; 1867.

Likewise "A Trip to Woods' Point" — four letters- *The Australasian*, Melbourne, September and May, 1867, could not be traced but Woods commences "The Dividing Range", 2nd November, 1867 with the statement, "I was going to head this essay 'A Trip to Woods' Point..." A second article appears on 18th January, 1868

Other articles include

"The Barrier Reef" — 7th April and 5th May, 1866

New Guinea" 29th June and 20th July, 1867

Various long letters to the Editor on "The Age of our Gold Drifts"

"The Glacial Period in Australia", 16th March, 1867

^{vi} From 1874 till April, 1878, nineteen articles by Julian appeared in the *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*. The bulk were on Marine Biology with one on Freshwater Shells and two on Geology

vii "On Some Corals from Darnley Island" *Proc. Lin. Soc. N.S.W.*, Vol. III, pp. 128-131, 2 plates, 1879. (Read 26th August, 1878)

Woods had also described other material from the Chevert expedition. "The Echini of Australia including those of the Chevert Expedition". *Proc. Lin. Soc. N.S.W.*, Vol. II, pp. 145-176, 1878. (Read 27th August, 1877)

viii The Chevert Expedition, organised by William Macleay (founder of the Linnean Society of New South Wales in 1876) as a scientific exploring expedition, left Sydney for New Guinea on 18th May, 1875. Macleay was influenced to mount this expedition by the visit to the Challenger Scientific Expedition from England under the leadership of Professor Wyville Thomson. This "expedition, in Sydney from 7th April to 9th June, 1874... was a stimulus for local science". D.F. Branagan, "The Challenger Expedition and Local Science". *Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh*. 10/1971/1972, pp. 92-93.

ix . "On Some Fossil Corals from Aldinga". *Trans Phil. Soc. S. Australia*, for 1877-78, pp. 104-119, 2 plates. (Read 17th September, 1878). These corals were sent to Woods by his friend, Professor Ralph Tate (1840-1901), foundation Professor of Natural Science at Adelaide University.

x "The Molluscan Fauna of Tasmania" *J. Roy. Soc. N.S.W.*, Vol. XII, pp. 29-56, 1879. (Read 4th September, 1878).

xi Julian was giving an eight day mission at Morpeth and notes in a letter to his friend, Mrs. Finn (24/6/78) "I had 1257 Holy Communions. I am leaving here today for Bathurst... I have been a little unwell lately after a heavy mission. I was in a bush public house at the time, so you may imagine that I had not much comfort or quiet". (Mary MacKillop, *op cit.* pp. 149-150).

xii The only Miss Hunt listed in *Sands N.S.W. Directory*, 1879 is a Miss E. Hunt, Mona Cottage, New South Head Road, Woollahra. A Mrs. Elizabeth Archer, dressmaker also lived at the same address. W.H. Archer in 1879 lived at 2 Inca Terrace New South Head Road, Paddington. This may be co-incidence, but Archer had a younger brother, Alfred who migrated to Australia in 1850.