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J.M.J.

533 Elizabeth Street,<sup>i</sup>  
Sydney.  
Jan 3rd 1888

W.H. Archer, Esq.,

My dear Sir William,

I got your letter yesterday and lose no time in replying. If I had the slightest idea that you were at a loss for my address I would have sent it to you long since but my dear friend, though I have always found you to be a punctual correspondent yet you did not answer my last letter and so you lost the run for me. But I have a better excuse than you for I have been an invalid for now nearly a year having almost lost the use of my hands and feet. It is no use troubling you with my symptoms or how unsuccessfully I have been prescribed for by more than half a dozen doctors, but the upshot of all has been that I don't get any better and if there is any change there is rather a downward tendency. One or two grave symptoms such as fainting fits which left me almost blind for an hour or so, made me get annoyed a few months back and my eyes since seem to be so much affected that I cannot read for long together. This will explain to you my not writing to you *propria manua*.<sup>ii</sup> I am very glad to hear of you and Mrs. Archer and Gracie. The probabilities of my visiting you in Melbourne are extremely small. I have not walked 50 yards for some months and even the trifling shaking of a drive in Sydney is more than I can bear. It seems to me that my active work is done and perhaps it may not be our Lord's will to let me labour again as of old. I can't say that I feel my present imprisonment. I am very cheerful and am employing my time when I am well enough in revising my notes of travel, writing a little on the same subject in the Herald<sup>iii</sup> besides a few scientific papers<sup>iv</sup> and trying to prepare a work on the Malay Archipelago which the government is to aid in publishing. This as you may imagine fills up my time pretty well but I need hardly say my working hours are not long nor always to be depended on.

I suppose you have heard that my poor brother is dead and made a most holy end<sup>v</sup>. During the two years that he was confined to bed he was a bi-weekly communicant. In fact religion was his only thought. I am sure he had his purgatory in this world and such a calm peaceful happy end is seldom witnessed.

I am sorry to say that I am not able to say Mass now but as long as I could I always made a memento of you and yours by name. I do what I can for you now though my sacrifices are confined to the altar of suffering. Do you do the same for me and remember that I am always your friend. Remember me most kindly to Mrs. Archer and Gracie and be sure you let me hear from you when you can. I will send you anything I publish. Father Tuckwell<sup>vi</sup> called today and spoke much of you. Kindest regards to all enquiring friends. God bless you. Yours most truly in the Sacred Heart.

J.E. Tenison-Woods.

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<sup>i</sup> This letter is written in the same handwriting as the Memoirs, Anne Bulger's. The signature is Julian's.

<sup>ii</sup> "in my own handwriting" .

- <sup>iii</sup> \* "Explorations in North Australia". 8 letters.  
*Sydney Morning Herald*. 2nd April to 14th May, 1887.  
\* "A Trip to the Victoria River". 2 letters. *ibid.* May, 1887.  
\* "Notes of Travel". 7 letters. *ibid.* 8th June to July, 1887.

<sup>iv</sup> "On the Volcano of Taal". *Proc. Lin. Soc. N.S.W.*, Vol. 2, Second Series, 1887,  
pp. 688-810. 2 plates.

<sup>v</sup> This was Terry who died in July, 1887. He came to Adelaide in 1856 and briefly studied for the priesthood with the Jesuits at Sevenhill College. Married in 1861, he was Postmaster at Penola for three years before moving to Melbourne and then to Adelaide where his wife died leaving him with three little girls. After some time with Julian's short-lived Brothers of the Sacred Heart, Terry married Sarah Cameron, and moved to Sydney where he worked with the Customs Department. They had two sons, Julian and John

<sup>vi</sup> Fr. George Tuckwell, ordained priest 16/7/82, arrived in Sydney from Auckland in 1886 and worked at Redfern for a short time and at Manly (1886 - 1889). He remained in Sydney until about 1898. Later he was in charge of Our Lady of Victories Church, Parish, ministering to English-speaking Catholics. (Mons. C. Duffy — Private Correspondence, 28th September, 1983; Fr. T.J. Linane — Private Correspondence, 14th October, 1983)