

W.H. Archer, Esq.,

My dear Sir,

But you did not answer all my queries after all and they were two important ones — for instance —

1. What depot in Melbourne can I apply to for microscopicals?

2. May I use phonographic signs in corresponding with you? (Because I see that you can word it from the manual of phon<sup>1</sup>)

And I am delighted to have the opportunity of congratulating Mrs. Archer and yourself on the steady though gradual increase of your family.<sup>2</sup> I wd say more but I am sure that you can understand how time and space alone prevent me from proving that when congratulations are sincere they are not commonplace and when good wishes are hearty they become compliments. And isn't it nice to contemplate that there will more than one "*stare umbra magni nominis*".<sup>3</sup>

But I shall never be done if I don't say what I have to say. You of course never see the *Australasian* nor my papers on recent explorations,<sup>4</sup> **that** I know. Neither do you read the Australian monthly mag. But it may be news to you that I am giving the latter a lift and am very anxious lest I should be committing a fault in connecting myself with people and views I don't know much about. My articles are "Rambles in History".<sup>5</sup>

Now **do** like a sensible business man put my letter before you when you answer it so that may not omit any of the queries, for you **must** answer for I enclose herein the money for the objective the receipt of which I will thank you to acknowledge. Give my kindest best and most gracious congratulations to Mrs. Archer and believe me

Vry try yrs

J.E. Tenison Woods.

Enclosed order is payable at Messrs. Grice, Summers,<sup>6</sup> or Dwight<sup>7</sup> will cash it for you.

I preached the foundation stone sermon at Penshurst<sup>8</sup> in presence of Drs. Goold<sup>9</sup> and Shiel<sup>10</sup> **our** Shiel and distinguished myself — for what I had better not say.

I met the other day some lady friends of yours a Miss Hughes<sup>11</sup> and a Mrs. Donald Cameron, both sisters of a gentleman I met at yr house. The husband of Mrs. D. Cameron is a perfect savage but very kind to her. They are very rich and not improved by it but I should like to know who is? Yrself and myself included.

1. Written in shorthand, "Phon." would be phonographics.
2. The Archer's fifth and last child, Charles Fulbert Archer, born 29th November, 1865 died 7th July, 1867.
3. "to stand in the shadow of a great name"
4. Note 3, 14/9/65.
5. The first number of the *Australian Monthly Magazine* appeared in September, 1865. It is described as a journal of Politics, Science and Art. Two articles "Rambles in History", "Peter the Great" (Dec. 1865 and Jan. 1866) appear under the pen name "Oriël", but the style of writing has the Woods' flavour. The Articles either side of "Rambles in History" were 1. "Some of the Plagues of Egypt" and "What Occurred at the Hotel" and 2. "How Tom Twentystone Changed Hats" and "Chick: A story of a Waif and Stray". So perhaps the Australian Monthly mag needed a lift!
6. Note 4, 7/10/65.
7. Note 17, 28/11/63.
8. The ceremony of the laying of the foundation stones of the Catholic Churches at both Hamilton and Penshurst took place on Sunday, 10th December, 1865. *The Hamilton Spectator and Courier*, Wednesday, 13th December, covers both events noting that at Hamilton "the Right Rev. L.B. Sheil, Bishop-Elect of Adelaide... addressed the assembly in an eloquent but somewhat laboured discourse founded on the first five verses of the fifth chapter of St. Luke's Gospel ... the collection amounted to £150 ... At the conclusion of the service their Lordships, attended by the priests and a large number of the congregation, proceeded to Penshurst where a similar ceremony was performed. The Rev. J. Tenison Woods preached a very appropriate sermon on the Building of the Temple of Solomon. The collection amounted to over £80."
9. James Alipius Goold (1812-1886), a priest of the Order of St. Augustine, arrived in Sydney from Ireland in 1838. Consecrated first Catholic Bishop of Melbourne in 1848 (Archbishop in 1874), he soon became the focus for Catholic loyalties. He recruited clergy for his expanding diocese, built churches and schools, and fought for the rights of Catholic education (A.D.B., Vol. 4, pp. 265-267)
10. Laurence Bonaventure Sheil (1815-1872), an Irish Franciscan priest, was recruited for the Melbourne mission by Bishop Goold in 1853. He was President of St. Francis' Seminary (later St. Patrick's College) until his transfer to Ballarat as Archdeacon (1859-66). Consecrated as Bishop of Adelaide in 1866 his episcopacy though one of great expansion was also beset with much internal friction within the diocese. (Mother Mary MacKillop was unjustly excommunicated by him on 22nd September, 1871 (A.D.B. Vol. 6, p. 116)
11. Grace Archer's godmother. A letter (undated) from Miss Hughes, Beaumauris Hotel, Beaumauris, to Mrs. Archer has an attached note, "To my grandmother from Miss Hughes who was my mother's very fond godmother". On the 12th June, 1911, W.R. Macrae, 461-471 Bourke Street, Melbourne, executor of the will and codicil of the late Johanna Teresa Hughes, forwarded to Mrs. Grace Duffy "a cheque for £30, representing a further one-tenth of £300 bequeathed to you by the late Miss Hughes". (W.H. Archer Collection - University of Melbourne Archives).