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Correspondence: Nathaniel Jones to W.H. Griffith Thomas, March 5, 1901

Jones, Nathaniel

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To the Rev. W. H. Griffith Thoms.


My dear Will. I feel like taking you for being so good a correspondent. I wrote to you on the 3d of July last asking about the London Trinitarian degree, I have not yet received an answer. However, I don't mean to give you up yet, I have an idea that you will make a very good Australian Bishop. I can bear testimony to your powers as a preacher, but when these practical Australians ask me about your business capabilities, I want to be able to say, 'Well, I know that he is very prompt in answering letters.' So I am giving you another chance.

How about those degrees? More College at present is a distinctly Protestant institution. Consequently, More College thinks in the nostrils of most of our Australian Bishops. (There are a few noble exceptions, may you be soon added to the number.) These Australian Bishops have established a College of Theology, which at present is only an examining Board, and the encourage their candidates to go in for their examinations. When shall you that the text books include Makepeace's History of the Church of England, Maclean on Thirty-nine Articles, Backhouse's Divine Liturgy? I think I may leave the moral to your fertile imagination. Now what is the Principal of More College to do? That Institution being a place where (according to the Church Times), the training consists of Fox's Book of Martyrs, teaching the art of extempore prayer, one can hardly expect much support from the above said Bishops.

The Principal has tried to vindicate the reputation of his College by requiring his men to pass the English Prelims, with the re-
cult. That out of 13 who have sent he has received 7 "fruits". But the "English Psalm" does not quite a man letters to think after his name, the Australian College Theology also; it has its Th. Th. Th. Soc. & it confers gorgeous honours. Consequently, the fact of your new position, "English" does not convey as much to the Australian mind (which is impressed by externals) as would the mysterious letters Th. Soc., with a Backet hood. Though College is to hold its own in Australia it must make its own from degrees in some way or other. How is it to be done? Not having heard from you, I have written to the London Union, Victoria Union, Melbourne, & Durham asking if affiliation is possible. I have not yet received replies; but for once the spot could do much more for me, and in this work you will be assisting the noble cause of Protestantism. I incline a teacher which attracts the subject; we may throw a little more light on our position.

Now there is another thing - I am writing to another chap - I have a little scheme which I am admitting to you (under deep cover) which is not only original in teaching, it's somewhat new in form. I think as a rule those who have written on the Church Year, have dwelt rather on the objective side of its teaching as set forth in the Gospel. I have made the Epistles the basis using the Gospel as illustrations. I send a syllabus (early December) and the last part to you. Do you think you can get都觉得 Marshall or some such publisher to take it up? I can't afford to publish it, but I think it would sell (I am not best judge.) The book would be a little over 200 pp. arranged as in my specimen, & it set up tastefully might sell at 1/6. Are you willing to try terms are too high, and publishers won't touch Theology at their own risk - I would be very grateful if you could see what could be done, and would make or obtain any suggestion on my side of contents.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]