

my dear Sir,  
I am afraid but you  
should think the report I prepared today  
a rude one - yet I am sure you would  
not if you knew the inexpressible  
satisfaction with which I heard the  
discourse, which by the merciful  
Providence of the Father of all good  
you were enabled to put forth before us,  
& the particular purpose for which  
I desired it. I do not know by  
what course you have been directed  
as to the reception of the Sermons, as  
thus expressed - for myself, I can  
only say that I have been pressing  
towards them if late, so strongly &  
so rapidly, that I almost tremble  
at times to contemplate the change



which has taken place in my opinions,  
yet cannot but ~~hope~~ <sup>believe</sup> that it has  
been wrought under the guidance and  
teaching of the Spirit of Truth -  
As I told you today, my views were  
formerly, indeed when I returned to  
Cambridge, last Christmas, what  
I suppose you distinguish, I must call  
Evangelical - i.e. I should have  
been content with preaching the  
doctrines generally entertained by  
that School of Divines, though I confess  
I utterly disagreed with the practices  
which too commonly seemed to  
flow from the reception of them -  
To read Lightfoot, however, after the  
lot & fervent excitement of  
a system, whose principal occupation  
was to stir up the disordered imaginations  
to conjure up a saving Faith, instead



of appealing to man's Reason, in the  
strength of God, to practice it - was  
like the breathing the fresh, balmy  
air of a Spring morning after having  
a close or crowded room - I am  
well remember how we shared our  
delight together, as you ~~was~~ reminded  
me indeed to day of what I had not  
forgotten. Since that time it has  
been that circumstances have thrown  
me in the way of other ~~great~~ writers,  
Saurin, Maudslayi, &c.; & the views  
they have taken of religious Truth  
have for the last 6 months been  
secretly working within me the change  
to which I have referred. I am not  
indeed, conscious of any material  
difference which my present ~~sentiments~~  
render necessary in my practical  
intercourse with others - They do not



call for less of done a Supplement - say,  
from the previous reality they have  
stamped upon them. They tend most  
mightily to enforce, as it seems to me,  
both the outward & inward prompts  
of the Gospel of Christ - They give an awful  
depth of ~~weight~~ <sup>meaning</sup> to the thought that  
we are in very truth to be made here  
upon Earth more & more partakers  
of the Divine Nature, and more & more  
suspected, by union with our living Head,  
& the Indwelling of His Holy Spirit,  
in Holiness, & Truth, & Love - But for  
all this, I have felt (& now I not,  
by God's mercy, resting, I trust, on  
a rock of substantial Truth, shd.  
have felt painfully) at times, the  
fact that I am no longer wholly  
one in thought with those, whom I  
still view as earnest & faithful  
labourers in the Church of Christ,  
according to the views they entertain -  
You will not wonder therefore, when



drinking in, as I believe I may say  
I did to day, every thought of your  
discourse, one after another, with  
the most hearty acquiescence, &  
assenting, as far as my present  
light & knowledge will allow me,  
to all that you delivered, as the very  
expressions in words of ~~so~~ truths I  
have been familiar with in thought,  
I could not resist the joy of finding  
at least one resident friend in  
Cambridge, with whom, though duty &  
occupation may ~~keep~~ allow us but  
scarcely opportunities of personal  
interview, yet it will be a comfort  
(to me at least) to believe that  
there exists a fellowship of spirit,  
& an union of desire to persevere  
together, & with others round us,  
<sup>if it may be,</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>in</sup> the presence of our God -  
To close this letter, so much  
longer than I intended, let me



add that I wd. not expose the  
Sermon, if you consented to lend it,  
to criticism or examination, for which  
it was not intended - but it does  
happen so thoroughly to express  
the views I believe myself to entertain  
that I should very much indeed like  
to be allowed the permission to read  
it for yourself to one friend only,  
& that a Lady, & a young one -  
but whose mind has been more  
deeply exercised in Divine Truth  
than most of her age -

May excuse my long intrusion  
on your time, as I am sure, in  
Christian Love you will, and

Believe me to be

Ever your truly

H. Platts

S. H.

Sunday Evening.

## **John William COLENZO Letters 1842-1864**

### **PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:-* Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand

*Location:-* Johannesburg

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### **DOCUMENT DETAILS:**

*Document ID:-* AB2086-A

*Document Title:-* Letter, 1842 (watermark) to "My dear Sir", 6 pages, writing of his early religious beliefs and of Cambridge where he studied

*Author:-* John William Colenso

*Document Date:-* 1842