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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Cyril Forster Garbett (1875-1955), the son of Reverend Charles Garbett, was educated at Portsmouth Grammar School and Keble College, Oxford. He was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1900 and served for nearly twenty years in Portsea. In 1919 he was ordained bishop of Southwark where he became an expert on housing and other social problems in south London. In 1932 he became bishop of Winchester and in 1942 he succeeded William Temple as archbishop of York. He was an efficient administrator and he took on new roles as a popular speaker and writer on religious issues and as an international ambassador for the Anglican Church. Among the countries Garbett visited were Russia, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, the United States, Palestine, Australia, New Zealand and the Straits Settlements. He was 76 when he toured Australia and nearby countries but he maintained a busy schedule, travelling nearly 10,000 miles by plane and car, staying at 30 places, and delivering 80 sermons and addresses.

William Thomson (1819-1890) was educated at Shrewsbury School and Queen's College, Oxford. He was ordained as a priest in 1843 and in 1847 he returned to Queen's College, where he held the positions of bursar, dean and provost. In 1861 he was consecrated bishop of Gloucester and Bristol and ten months later he succeeded Charles Longley as archbishop of York. He retained the position until his death nearly thirty years later. He took a strong interest in social, economic and political issues and, through his sympathy for the conditions of industrial workers and their families, greatly strengthened the influence of the Church in northern England. In 1855 Thomson married Zoe Skene and they had nine children.

Sir Basil Home Thomson (1861-1939) was the third son of William and Zoe Thomson. He was educated at Eton and New College, Oxford, but depression caused him to abandon his university studies in 1882 and migrate to the United States. With help from his father, he obtained a cadetship in the colonial service and in 1884 he arrived in Fiji. He was appointed a stipendiary magistrate. In 1887 he joined the staff of William Macgregor in British New Guinea, but he contracted malaria and returned to England. In 1889 he married Grace Webber. They returned to Fiji in 1890 and Thomson was appointed commissioner of native lands. Shortly afterwards, he was sent to Tonga as adviser to the new premier, Tuku'aho. He was subsequently assistant commissioner of native affairs in Suva, but he resigned from the colonial service in 1893. His later career was varied and at times controversial. He was governor of a number of prisons, secretary of the Prison Commission, assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, head of the Criminal Investigation Division, and a novelist and crime writer. He was knighted in 1919.

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COLL 1973/1 Papers of Archbishop Garbett

L Travel diaries

Select:

Visit to Australia and New Zealand, 21 September – 10 December 1951. (typescript, 54 pp.)

The typescript summarises briefly Garbett's voyage from England to Australia on the *Dominion Monarch*. He arrived in Perth on 16 October and from then onwards it reproduces the full entries in his original diaries, with occasional slight changes. He travelled widely in Australia, staying at all the capital cities and also visiting a large number of country towns. He made a particular effort to visit cathedral towns and meet bishops and local clergy. His itinerary began in Perth and took in Bunbury, York, Adelaide, Griffith, Sydney, Brisbane, Townsville, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Casino, Lismore, Armidale, Cessnock, Newcastle, Camden, the Blue Mountains, Bathurst, Wellington, Canberra, Goulburn, Wangaratta, Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong, Melbourne, Sale and Hobart.

When Garbutt reached Sydney he was annoyed to find that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, had directed the Australian bishops to limit his engagements to one a day. Most of the bishops, with the exception of the Primate, Howard Mowll, took little notice of this direction. The diary entries contain numerous references to civic receptions, meetings with clergy and diocesan officials, church services, sermons, public addresses and broadcasts, and visits to schools and theological colleges. As well as general impressions of cities and countryside, there are references to visits to the Fairbridge farm schools in Western Australia and New South Wales, bush fires in Queensland, visits to a sugar mill, a sheep station and a coalfield, a reception at Parliament House in Canberra, and news of the British general election. Individuals mentioned in the diary include his chaplain John Kent, Sir Willoughby Norrie, Archbishop Howard Mowll, Robert Menzies, General Sir John Northcott, Bishop Ernest Burgmann and Sir Dallas Brooks.

On 2 December Garbett flew from Sydney to Wellington. His week in New Zealand was essentially a holiday, mostly spent at Rotorua and the surrounding country. There are references to a few receptions and also a contretemps with John Simkin, the bishop of Auckland.

Visit to the Pacific and South East Asia, 11 December 1951 – 30 January 1952. (typescript, 60 pp)

On 11 December Garbett flew from Auckland to Fiji, where he stayed at Suva and also visited Lautoka. On 19 December he flew to Papua New Guinea, staying at Port Moresby and also visiting Popondetta and Bulolo. On 1 January 1952 he flew to Sarawak and British North Borneo, staying at Kuching and Jesselton, before moving on to Singapore on 5 January. He subsequently visited Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Malacca. On 15 January he flew to Ceylon and then sailed from Colombo to Marseilles on the *Oronsay*. The last entry in the diary records his meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury in London.

The entries covering this tour are a good deal more detailed than those of the Australian tour. There are more detailed descriptions of the cities and countryside, social conditions, race relations and local customs, and Garbett also recorded conversations and discussions in more detail. As well as civic receptions, meetings with bishops and missionaries, and visits to schools and colleges, he referred to the strength of Methodism in Fiji, Fijian feasts, unpleasant insects, a housing estate near Port Moresby, music and dances, an aerial view of the destruction caused by the Mount Lamington eruption in New Guinea, the effects of the Japanese occupation in New Guinea, visits to Christian communities in Borneo, friction with Bishop Henry Baines in Singapore, the high level of security in Singapore and Malaya, visits to military and naval bases, Chinese churches, resettlement communities, and the political situation in Malaya.

O Personal engagement diaries

Select:

Entries for 21 September – 31 December 1951, 9 January – 2 February 1952

The entries are extremely brief, simply recording place names, meetings, church services and other engagements during Garbett's tour of Australia and the Pacific.

COLL 1982/5 Papers of Archbishop Cyril Garbett

13 Diaries

Select:

Diary of visit to Australia and the Pacific, 21 September 1951 – 30 January 1952.

The original handwritten diary is, with a few exceptions, identical with the typescript account of his journey. The main difference is that it provides a more detailed account of his voyage from Southampton to Perth on the *Oronsay*.

COLL 1985/10 Papers of Archbishop William Thomson

2 Letters from William Thomson to his family

Select:

- 2/46 William Thomson (York) to his son Basil Thomson, 25 Jan. 1885: family news; Wilfrid Thomson's new job; advises Basil to turn to natural history in his leisure time. (typed copy)
- 2/47 William Thomson (London) to Basil Thomson, 8 Feb. 1885: Basil's new post at Suva; meeting with John Thurston and discussion about Basil's position in Fiji; after 35 days in London Thurston has still not met Lord Derby; family news; public feelings about General Charles Gordon in Sudan. (typed copy)
- 2/48 William Thomson (York) to Basil Thomson, 15 Feb. 1885: family news; advises Basil to stay on in Fiji; despatch of photographic equipment and *Pall Mall Gazette*; tinned meats must be a great resource in Fiji. (typed copy)

- 2/49 William Thomson (Invergary) to Basil Thomson, 11 Sept. 1885: family news; incidents in their Scottish holiday.
- 2/50 William Thomson (Rotherham) to Basil Thomson, 14 June 1886: advises Basil not to return to England on a visit as it would almost certainly mean an end to his career in the colonies.
- 2/51 William Thomson (Crieff) to Basil Thomson, 1 Sept. 1886: his holiday in Scotland; family news.
- 2/52 William Thomson (York) to Basil Thomson, 9 Jan. 1887: engagement of Ethel Thomson to Rev. Frederick Goodwyn, who had been nominated as Bishop of Bathurst; Beatrice's baby son; other family news; refers to case of Tongan Wesleyans; political situation. (typed copy)
- 2/53 William Thomson (York) to Basil Thomson, 6 Feb. 1887: family news; marriage of Ethel Thomson. (typed copy, incomplete)
- 2/54 William Thomson (Garlants) to his wife Zoe Thomson, 30 April 1889: his meeting with Basil Thomson; his appearance; picture of him in the *Graphic*.
- 2/55 William Thomson (London) to Zoe Thomson, 2 May 1889: instructions about a parcel of writing paper and envelopes; family news.
- 2/56 William Thomson (London) to Zoe Thomson, 4 June 1889: interview with Sir Robert Herbert about Basil Thomson.
- 2/57 William Thomson (London) to Zoe Thomson, 12 July 1889: a lecture by Basil Thomson.
- 2/58 William Thomson (Moresby Park) to Grace Thomson, 29 Oct. 1889: their wedding presents to Grace and Basil Thomson; invites them to stay at Bishopthorpe.
- 2/59 William Thomson (York) to Basil Thomson, 8 Jan. 1890: climate in Fiji; need for Grace and Basil to take suitable medicines with them.
- 2/60 William Thomson (London) to Grace Thomson, 16 Jan. 1890: farewell on her departure for Fiji.
- 2/61 William Thomson (York) to Basil Thomson, 23 June 1890: family news. (typescript copy)
- 2/62 William Thomson (York) to Basil Thomson, 1 Feb. 1890: family news. (typescript copy)
- 2/63 William Thomson (York) to Basil Thomson, 27 Feb. 1890: his poor health; family news; warns Basil and Grace against catching a fever in Fiji. (typed copy)
- 2/64 William Thomson (York) to Basil Thomson, 13 April 1890: Blackwood has accepted Basil's paper; money sent to Basil in Fiji; family news. (typed copy)
- 2/65 William Thomson (York) to Basil Thomson, 18 May 1890: meeting with Sir George Baden Powell; money sent to Basil; has written to Sir Charles Mitchell in Natal about possibility of an appointment in Africa; describes a trip to London. (typed copy)
- 2/66 William Thomson (York) to Basil Thomson, 14 June 1890: progress made in securing Basil a transfer to Africa; family news; engagement of his daughter Zoe Thomson. (typed copy)
- 2/67 William Thomson (Keswick) to Basil Thomson, 20 July 1890: his holiday in the Lake District; family news. (typed copy)

2/68 William Thomson (Keswick) to Basil Thomson; Aug. 1890: family news; progress made in getting Basil a better appointment; hopes he will avoid a quarrel with Sir John Thurston. (typed copy)

4 Letters from members of the Thomson Family, 1878-95

Select:

4/7 Zoe Thomson (London) to her brother Basil Thomson, 25 May 1890: her stay in London; her engagement to Rev. Fielding Hoyle; Basil's article 'Last of the cannibal chiefs' has been accepted by Blackwood; discouraging lack of prospects for Basil in Fiji.

4/11 Zoe Thomson (York) to her son Basil Thomson, 19 Oct. 1890: looks forward to a letter from Basil with his impressions following his arrival in Tonga; talks with John Bramston in London about Basil's career; health of Archbishop Thomson.

4/14 Zoe Thomson (York) to her son Basil Thomson, 7 Nov. 1890: his career prospects; meetings with John Bramston; improved health of Archbishop Thomson.

4/16 John Bramston (Colonial Office) to Zoe Thomson, 4 Dec. 1890: has talked to Lord Knutsford about Basil's career in Fiji; his popularity with the Tongans; possible transfer to Zululand. (copy)

4/20 Zoe Thomson (York) to Basil Thomson, 26 Oct. 1892: quotes a letter from John Bramston about Basil's appointment as Land Commissioner; his prospects and marital problems; he must keep on friendly terms with Sir John Thurston; family news.

4/21 Zoe Thomson (London) to Edmund, 29 Nov. 1895: Basil's code of laws; he passed his Bar examinations; his legal experience in Tonga and Fiji.