

a new edition is preparing. I will with pleasure send you the second edition of my mixed essays, which has just appeared, since you take an interest in what I write and have difficulty in getting my books in Sydney. . . . ”

Adams replied to this and the second letter (July 7th 1881) is Arnold's response. He assures Adams that he is no relative of Edwin Arnold (Adams had apparently been enthusiastic about *The Light of Asia*—this feeler produced no autograph letter). He adds a line of comment on the position of letters and then follows details of Arnold's real interest in Australia :

“ I have a son, my only son, at this moment in Australia. He is in the Union Bank at Melbourne. He was idle at Oxford, and I sent him to Melbourne that he might learn what regular work was. I have excellent reports of him from the authorities of his Bank, and he is very popular in Melbourne society too, but he wants to come home and says that a clerk in a Bank has no future in Australia any more than in England. It is not likely that he will be at Sydney, but if you ever are at Melbourne, I wish you would go and see him. . . . ”

A gap of over a year follows. The correspondence lapsed or (if we can judge from Adams' practise) was continued in a letter or so which must be accounted lost. The third letter (October 28th 1882) is a reply to one of Adams' wherein the Australian correspondent had apparently commented on a newspaper report of Arnold's projected American tour to which the newspaper had hinted that Australia might be added. Arnold has no intention of visiting Australia and even the States seem impossible :

“ Indeed so long as I continue to inspect schools, it would be extremely difficult for me to get the time necessary for a visit to America, still more for a visit to the Colonies in Australia. Thank you very much for your kind letter . . . if ever I do come to Sydney, you may rely upon it that one of my first visits will be to you. Believe me, Sincerely yours, Matthew Arnold.”

In spite of Arnold's pessimism the projected American tour took place in 1883 but unfortunately for Australian letters Adams' persuasions were insufficient to extend the tour across the Pacific. Had time been more merciful the *Discourses in America* of 1885 might well have had their counterpart in *Discourses in Australia*.

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