

The Church is exceedingly
well-attended; and the School
invariably gains a good report
from H. M. Inspector. — —

But I am by no means
displeased at these suspicions.
It is no disparagement —
far otherwise — to be
placed in the same
category with my Patron, and
to be suspected of entertaining
the same tastes & opinions —
In fact it is a Compliment
which I value very highly.

Notwithstanding
Agricultural depression

Melcombe Horsey Rectory (L1109)
Dorchester, Dorset
17 November 1854

Dear Sir

I beg to thank you very
much for your letter of the
12th; and for the returned
drawings and plans for the
proposed 'Restoration' of
Melcombe Horsey Church.

Your words are an
exact description of people
who make so much fuss
and stir about what they
call 'Church Restoration' —
— "They are religious; from

their point of view; and
think that something bran
new with plenty of money
spent on it must be what
they call pleasing to God."

Of those Philistines - and
there are more than a few
of them - who in their craze
for more demolition and
re-construction spoil Churches,
ancient & venerable in their
antiquity, a more accurate
description was never written.

Those plans did not
come into my hands very
readily. My views

were pretty well understood;
and I think there was an
impression that I had some
underhand purpose of
obtaining from the Patron
a Veto - at least on certain details -

^
- and there was something
more than a mere vague
and shadowy intimation that
by such Veto I should
jeopardise the Co-operation
of my parishioners -

I try to live on good
terms, - and am on good
terms - with all my
parishioners & neighbours -

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money comes in apace — ⁽²⁾
already nearly £400 raised —
Some departments of
Agriculture certainly are
depressed; — wheat-growing
does not pay very well —
Still those who are themselves
engaged in Agriculture do
not seem to suffer proportionately
— in no wise proportionately —
to the Landlord and Parson —
I had heard of the enormous
— very enormous —
reduction of rent in this
neighbourhood — But if
rents had been reduced to
zero,

The Landlord would still be
expected to be foremost in
Contributing to all local
work, - and especially if
that work was to substitute
something smart and
new in the place of
what was antique,
venerable & beautiful.

But that is not the
sentiment entertained by
the Parson of Melcombe
Horsey.

It will be my aim to
reduce the inevitable
mischief to its minimum.

They to remain
Faithful & Respectfully Yours
Joseph Hall

To
General Pitt-Rivers F.R.S.
to to