

Aisly
Wellenreden Avenue
Rondelorch, C.P.
Dec. 6th 1945.

~~PELYS,~~
~~KENILWORTH,~~
CAPE.

My dear Pease.

Thank you for your letter of Nov. 16th. Which I am sorry to have left unanswered so long. It is quite exciting, & I expect I can tell you all you want to know about H.B. & Masey, as I was on the spot all the time. I do hope, however, you are not going to pursue the line of argument we saw attributed to you in the Press a short time ago which spoke of the old cathedral in C.T. as a more worthy architectural masterpiece than the new 'pseudo-Gothic' building in course of erection! Surely the old building—even if it had been built in stone—was only a pseudo-pseudo interpretation of an exotic production born in about the lowest ebb of the Victorian period in England, & not very well suited to its purpose then! The adoption of Gothic for the new cathedral was the result of much dereliberation on the part of the highest church dignitaries in S.A. & some in England, as well as some leading architects. I think I may say also that the quality of the masonry in the new building has not many rivals in the country, & in itself is something of a lesson in architecture. (Forgive me for a little outburst!) Well, then—

I'm sorry indeed that Baker's book is so exclusive as to some of those who helped him. It was a surprise & a disappointment. I wrote to him about it, & got a very apologetic reply in which he said he had hardly touched upon his C.T. work beyond that which he had done for Rhodes—as this was all his personal work—and that is quite true. But, as you say, he might have been more liberal in his recollections. Of course, tho' he is 83 or so, & memory plays strange tricks with old people: & we must admit that he is a great man, who has had a very brilliant career, & influenced art in this & other countries in a fine & remarkable way. I quite agree that the Bank of England & S.A. House, & probably Delhi—
are not a patch on Union Buildings & some other things
in S.A.

I believe I am right in saying that some form of Gothic was more associated
→ with that style than any other.