Dear George,

Having an hour to spare this Sunday evening I have determined to employ it for your amusement by telling you as much of Bush life as I can do in small compass. We are now busy shearing sheep & preparing wool. Having finished washing the sheep a few days ago - the sheep are now

by men - almost all emancipated convicts - who go about the county shearing - when they have finished at one place they shoulder their baggage consisting of a blanket & a pot to boil their tea and off they go to some other station where shearing is not finished and have only 15s - some of them gain 10 or 12s per day but going as mainly dependent on weather - many of them will go to town & spend between 50 to 100s in a single week & return to their labour to make their dinners. They have less knocking down than they do in London. Now however it is so much as settlers can well afford at the present low price of wool. Many settlers in this colony, professing of many thousands of sheep & cattle live in huts that are not so good as the cottar houses of Lumbury.
The furniture is of the same stamp generally consisting of a wooden chest or two and a (stretcher table) and portable bedstead — and nothing more. The usual fare of Messrs. Dampier's, mutton etc.

I know settlers myself, who have upwards of a thousand cattle who have not a single drop left. Another family to Deh... careless are people about their living in this country — Where I am however the case is not so, as Captain Horeburn has a family and a very managing wife — This circumstance makes comfort a little more attended to — I have not been in town since this time last year but the accounts I hear are not very encouraging — As nothing but failures are going on — My late master has become insolvent since I left him and I am not quite sure that I shall be altogether exempt from loss to you George who are accustomed to everything with the greatest order & punctuality forever — It would be rather astonishing to see the manner in which money matters are conducted in this land of man after having served twelve months or perhaps more it is of course entitled to his wages in cash that every day — But instead of that some settlers give a cheque for the amount or an order payable upon sight — which is very good — but other give an order payable ten days after sight so that supposing a man has got 100 dollars more to travel which takes him three or four days He has to wait ten days more for his money or else cash it at a great loss — This system of paying wages — (in what is worse not paying them at all) is the worst feature in this Colony for the poor industrious man — who cannot fail to find that a serious obstacle in his way to independence
Your much need no purpose. Dear George, from my style of writing that I am taking a jaundiced view of things so that I am in despondency for I candidly assure you that I am in excellent health & spirits, I have never for a moment regretted my leaving the old Band of Brothers for here. I could do nothing here. I have at least a chance. I have saved 195 last year & this year I have 200 for annum which is much above the ordinary rate money. If I can only get my wages always after I earn them, I shall soon be my own master & although fortune making is out of the question nowadays I shall be able to make a comfortable livelihood & also to provide a home for Cecilia & Isabella if ever they choose to wait themselves. If I was very much gratified the other day on receiving a note from Mr. Robt. Simpson informing me that he had settled within 2.5 miles of me & inviting me over—I went & spent a Sunday with him. He has in company with his cousin Mr. Stokell—purchased a fine farm & some good stock & I believe they have got a good bargain. He is in good health & highly pleased with his new mode of life. I had a call yesterday from Mr. Thompson from A. Annes to know Mr. New Hall, & to whom by the way they you will give my kindest remembrance—I was very much gratified on receiving the joint letter from Cecilia & Isabella dated April 20th. All this I have read it twenty times over, & will write a reply soon.
and I can — Now George I wish you in your next letter to let me know particularly how you all get on at home & what you would all think of coming out here to adopt Australia in place of the wilds of America as we once proposed — I wrote my father about two months ago showing what he could do in this country.

Now of course I should scarcely expect for I am afraid you would scarcely like to rough it out in the Bush — But my Mother who has been toiling on for so many years — without any remuneration — could hardly fail to find the change advantageous unless things have got very much better since I left home which I am afraid they have not — Here we could at least have all the necessaries of life in abundance — Mutton & Beef at present fetches little more than 1 penny per lb.

Wheat 1/- per bushel — Tea about 1/- per lb & sugar 3/- per lb.

Eggs & Butter are very cheap — Sheep, Horses & cattle are very cheap — £500 now will go farther in the purchase of stock than £1000 would have done three years ago.

You must understand that this is the 21st Dec — I thought I began this letter on the 10th — We had a visit two days ago from Sir John & Lady Franklin — who are taking a view of the country before leaving for Britain which they do next week.
Sir John Franklin is the same whose travels & sufferings in the Polar Regions have rendered so famous & my employments & cousin's namesake of the John Hopperton of whom such honourable mention is made in the works of Capt Franklin.

Sir John & his lady with another young lady having started from this place in the evening had to bivouack in the bush all night. The ladies slept on the ground. Their only canopy the nondescript vehicle with which they travelled.

What would your home ladies think of this?!!!

Tell Mr. Mathers that I have never met with.

Tell Mr. Ogilvie & Dr. Hask & Messrs. Shaw & all who enquired for me of above all be sure to write me a very long letter immediately.

Upon rest of this - Give me all the news you can political & domestic. And this letter up to my father that my aunty Cecilia & Isabella may see I am still alive, let me know how old George gets on, let your next, Dear George,

I remain, Dear George, your affectionately,

P. S. This is long time with us while you are loading your toes.