Skeaton Hill Feb 1st 1845

Dear George,

I received your own & Cecilia’s joint letter of July 1844 - I would have answered it sooner. But you did not give me your address & unless Captain Hepburn brings another letter I must just chance this by sending it to the Bank from which you date. I had some time before receipt of your last letter received one from my Father intimating his intention of coming out to this Country. Delighted with the news I immediately wrote to him & our sisters advising them all strongly to come later. Mr & Mrs Hepburn gave me every encouragement. The former having promised me 1000 livers upon arrival & the latter was anxious for one of the girls or both to go to & teach the family. With all these considerations I was very sanguine of succeeding even if my Father did not bring one penny with him. But your last letter has blighted all these prospects for the present at least, & it seems that it is all through one of my own letters that this has occurred. Now as far as I can recollect, I only warned them that in case they did come they should not expect to make fortunes in no time without much pain or trouble & I also said that if they could live comfortably at home they need not come out here. For of course who would come here if they were well off at home. But
But I deny the existence of any such thing as comfortable subsistence for those who are in the situation of my father. For the meanest servant in this country would turn up his nose at this style of living which thousands of respectable people are obliged to adopt in this country. They may be enabled to keep up an appearance I would therefore advise my father to come out here immediately. For it is not likely that he will be able to make a living at shop keeping... I would have written to himself but I did not know whether to address him without waiting any longer. I would have him to come out. Taking a passage in the Intermediate Cabin. If they do not bring a penny I shall be able to provide for all of them easily with much more comfort than at home. I see an advertisement of an estate about to be let out in North at 150 bushels of wheat per acre. Then my father write me that they were all coming out and purchased some two at 15 per head. I have since sold them at a small profit. I have yet got about 750 sheep out on farms. I have yet an in amount to deliver Hopburn and I shall not settle upon anything until I hear what father has decided upon. The Wheat crops in this country are looking most beautiful. We began to reap yesterday. It is strange to say I have been almost three years in this country and I have never yet found anyone who could tell me anything about
Mr. Mathews Shepherds wages are about 1/4 per annum. The Country is very much dried up past at present & had you been here three days ago you might have seen the fires burning forming a line of fire many miles in length. Those fires burn fiercely in the daytime. But they generally go out at night when the dew falls. When I think they are likely to do any harm I go & put them out at night at that time. They are easily put out, if Father comes & all the Family which I hope they will. You must tell them to bring some good Harm clothing. Light clothes not being so useful here as is generally supposed. Let Cecilia bring also her books, musical or others, study. French & Italian all the way out. Suppose they will all see this letter & I may as well address themselves.

Dear Cecilia & Isabella, I am in great hopes for all that has passed, of seeing you out here soon. If I think you would be much better here than where you are I do not wish to hold up to your view a perfect Elysium, but I have seen many letters at home representing this Country. At the same time you must not suppose because I write in a plain manner of fact style, that I am low spirited, for on the contrary I think that if you come we will very soon attain independency which I am afraid the never could do in Scotland as things go now. There is also another reason that might perhaps induce you. As I am not
likely to return to Scotland for many years at least. Unless you come out you will have no chance of seeing your brother James. The fair-haired callant metamorphosed into a grayhead a day man.

And if you all come now, leaving George at home for the present, he might come too in a few years so that we would be all together once more as we once were under the shadow of Craig Farne.

The climate is very pleasant. I do not suppose there is any place in the world where you can get the necessaries of life cheaper than you can in Melbourne, meat is 12 per lb. Bread 12 per cent. 2/6 per lb. Sugar 3d. 10p.

Taking it for granted that you will all come out, I shall proceed to give you some directions which you may find useful. Bring (if you have not sold it) your night day clock, which will be very useful in the Bush, also your Piano forte. cloths & Books I have already mentioned. Let my Father bring all his books. Bring a good supply of Good Strong Toy or boots. A supply of Tartaric Acid and Carbonate Soda will be very refreshing. Also a little cream of Tartar. Furniture will not be of much use although half a dozen chairs might not be in the way. With regard to your voyage you must of course act according to your own sense of propriety. Make no acquaintances whatever. But be civil to every one & familiar with none. As there are two sisters of you you will be better able to keep yourselves to yourselves. Do not neglect your religious duties, & remember that your future fortunes may be greatly influenced by your conduct, during the voyage.
Dear George & Cecilia,

I have just received another urgent letter from you written in August last. This has almost destroyed the languag notes which I have expressed in the first pages of this letter. It is a sad thing to think that our poor father is so oppressed by cares & misfortunes, but that reason I am still more anxious than ever that he should bring the girls to Australia. I cannot think how the love of home keeps drifting to you all, especially my father, who after 25 years of unremitting toil & industry, an economy which could scarcely be exceeded is driven forth in his old age for the whole of all that he had invested in the worldly side.

And for you Cecelia & Isabella, I am afraid you will find the buller trade accompanied with harder work than wages. But supposing that you would (not step at home for a time with George, father & Isabella & that my father) might come out here, my father says he does not think he will do anything here. Let him come nevertheless, as he will at least be free from the grinding anxiety, which is now leaving him down. I can well afford to keep him besides the great advantage I will derive from his presence & advice. Capt. Reifnurn that he thinks it would be likely to be of great benefit to him to come here, as the salubrity of the climate would be very eminently to him, & after all my arguments if you still prefer staying at home I shall always be able to send some money, yearly & I hope you will in your next letter give me particular instructions for the best way of doing it, I saw Mr. Robert Simpson lately. He likes the country very much & I think he is likely to make a competency. Very soon. With best respects to all friends, Mr. A. Hale &c. I am your obedient.

Yours affectionately,

Jas. Patcharv

P.S. I had a letter from Mr. W. Shaw, some months ago. I thought it soon.
To Mr. George Butehart
Clyde'sdale Bank
Glasgow
Scotland