Sturt's Lodge 27 Dec 1837

My Dear George,

As I intend to start for Melbourne next week I shall begin in time that I may give you a long letter since I wrote you last. The Country has been almost revolutionized through the successful working of Gold. They are now working from within 10 to 15 miles of this place; the gains of some of them are really almost incredible. My dealings here at it 6 weeks of cleared back £200 but that is nothing to the sums of others. The Government, other Clerks,
are all threatening to throw up their situations off to the diggings so if any of your acquaintances want to come here they will surely get situations now in fact our experience is rather against us than otherwise for new chums have nothing else to do but go to the diggings while we are bound I cant go myself till they have built houses I intend to try my luck all classes of people are already here 1 superintendent situations are at a dis

out course there are many romancers chum to gods digging first you may not be lucky and even if you are the water is so very bad that it induces disease upon the men Robson old for the mode of working the gods I can hardly convey any idea of it to you but will try my best you must understand that these are surface digging a hole in the surface dig 6 to 18 inches and cut into the clay picked up from 6 to 18 inches cut into the clay it is then put into a cradle which rocks while water is constantly thrown upon it the gods demanding in the different departments made
In its great brevity you cannot very often see any gold on the boil. It is only when you have washed a considerable quantity of sand in the cradle, that the precious deposit is obtained. In the midst of a deep hole, the gold they pick out with a needle from the crevices of the slate rock. It is certainly a novel scene to see many thousands of men congregated on the Banks of the Creek, all busy as bees, where a few months ago not a soul was to be seen. You must know that Oldest Creek was the most lonely spot in the colony. 

You will think it strange that I should lie so near to you get one of the gold but such is my luck. A people may easily be from Scotland and have a fortune before. I am ready to begin you may be sure that they have been greatly. I hope done the plowman at £20 in another Ration pound. I am going down to the Port to try to get on our ship, where my brother...
Couldn't get done, but great was the excitement of us off to the gold fields. By the way, I forgot to wish you a merry Christmas. This was my tenth in Australia and I spent it where I spent my first—Vic Falls. Certainly it was the only happy Christmas that I have spent in the country. We had had a run of the game coming on such occasions. The night passed away pleasantly, and I was home here shortly after sunrise.