Melbourne, 12th June 1852

My dearest Ann,

I am safely arrived at this very remote part of the world from you all & my native country in good health since the 5th Inst. - the passage from Singapore having employed 48 days - This intelligence will, I am sure, be a consolation to you because the travelling which I have gone through, subsequent to my embarkation from Southampton on the 20th Feb. is of a character beyond the common run of things. I have however, under the blessing of Divine providence accomplished the voyage comparatively well & I find Mr. Hopkins & the rest of my party around me in health & spirits prepared for their respective duties. I have been very much engaged ever since my arrival with business of an anxious & novel nature - you must therefore on this occasion excuse brevity & unconnected style - my desire is to send a vessel sailing to-morrow early that you may have the first news of my arrival - by a subsequent conveyance you may expect a cursory account of my voyage home & particulars of this Colony -
I have a voluminous official correspondence with the Directors of the Company in your City to despatch by the same vessel & I cannot accomplish all that I could in respect of my confidential duties. You will take this hint effect for me.

The vessel bringing out the Expedition for the Gold Coast has fortunately not yet arrived & owing to well timed exertions, we hope to be prepared for her reception - the Expedition will consist of about 80 Men with their families.

I shall expect a letter from you giving me an account of your leaving the Sea Road & how the money entrusted to Mr. Burgin may have been dispatched - as far as appearances go at present I am pleased that I did not order more of my effects to come out as I should not have known what to do with them - the present state of the Colony cannot be described or what it will lead to is impossible to say - the Gold diggers have not been exaggerated & we must in the present Country endeavour to get over that habit of incredulity from caution on occasion when
truth is really told - this it was, which made
me so irritable at times whilst with all Brummers
on the question of the Monte video revolution
& with my old friends H. & Mr. Logan about the
& I may add what my impressions were on other
matters - The gold finding here is a wonderful fact
this came upon the population of Australia when
quite unprepared for it consequently it is a
scramble amongst the lower classes for more
wealth with as much casualty as if it
were possible to witness the Directors of the Bank
throwing sovereigns into the streets as any
very creature to ruin out of their honest legitimate
employment for the sake of securing a few of them.
the social condition of this town is in perfect disorder.
It not a thing to be had but as rules too absurd to
mention. I cannot for a moment think of inviting
you out - the climate is not disagreeable but
most sudden changes ensure - everything is not
only English but complete cockney. Most of
the community being London tradesmen. The
country is picturesque - but on all three points I
must write fully hereafter. With kindest love to my
dear Sister and Family. Yours very affectionately,
Mr. Brey.