Cromham
17 January 1862

My dear Isaac,

I was truly pleased to receive your letter and to hear you were well. I was very much surprised to find you were on the eve of starting for New Zealand and hope the adventure proves successful. Glad to hear one of the young Haywards was going with you it will be a comfort to us that you are not entirely among strangers. You will be glad to hear that most of your relatives in this part of the world are well. Dear Mother keeps up wonderfully, though thinner and looking more aged than when I last wrote to you. She would be truly pleased to see you again before she dies, did circumstances favor your return to dear Old England, but however that may be, she hopes for the happiness of meeting you on the right hand of God. I have been spending Christmas with her. Edward was with us for a fortnight. Emma Bennett and the two John Rebberks spent a few days with us. Dear Emma is not greatly altered, she requested me to give her kindest love to you. Mr. Rebber intends to retire from business in the spring, and has taken a house at Berwick. John is to continue in the farm, and I expect will shortly marry. Mr. James Pachen has retired from business and is living at Berwick. They will be near neighbours. Our friends at Boyds and Bristol are well. Poor Richard's family are in Bath. The boy is apprenticed to a Cabinet maker and Carpenter - a trade he chose himself. One of the girls is with a Milliner, the other at school. Aunt and cousins Bevan have left the farm and are living at Chappenhall. Mary Spencer has lately been to see us. She, Ann and Walter are pretty well and desire kind regards to you. They still continue in the farm, but you will not be much surprised to hear James Morris is dead. His death took place about seven weeks since, Richards Spencer is in a situation at Blendsford. He has not been very fortunate. You remember old Mr. Bryant he is quite the old man. Generally inquires for you when I see him.

Thomas Batt has been ill but is now much better. John and the rest of the family pretty well. Mr. and Mrs. Britton are in tolerable health. I continue to board with them part of my time. They have several relatives in New Zealand, by the name of 'Cundy'. Mr. Farning has got out of the greater part of his property, and is back at Clayton again, living in a little Cottage.

It does not matter what a man has, if he is extravagant and gay it soon decreases. Poor Tom King too very little or nothing left and is now in a lunatic asylum. It is astonishing what changes pass over some people in a few years. The world is full of change. Some friends die and many are in infidelity - some seem worse than dead. We too are changing - drawing nearer our latter end. Our last change will be the most important. Are we prepared for it? I ask myself, Will you ask yourself? And will you make God your friend? You know Jesus Christ died for you but will you be saved by Him? You also know "repentance and faith" are the way. Let us meet in Heaven.

I hope you will write to me very soon. Miss Cooper is still with Mother, and has just told me in fun to give her love to you. I said I would do it. We have not heard from Henry a long time. You must accept the kindest love of Mother and each of us, and believe me dear Isaac your affectionate Sister Emma Batt.