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Yarra Yarra River,

Melbourne, Port Phillip,

12 July, 1839.

My dear Father,

I wrote a long letter to you on the 11th of last March by the good old ship "Alfred", which sailed from Sydney for London on that day. I enclosed in it a parcel in which were a number of other letters, a few newspapers, and the journal which I attempted to keep at sea. When I wrote I did so with the intention of writing no more till I heard from you. I waited patiently till about the end of June, when I lost all hope of ever hearing from you, but I thought you might feel a curiosity to know what had become of me. I then wrote one more, and at the same time to bid farewell again, but when Charlotte's and Jane's letters of the 4th and 6th December reached me by the "Mid Lothian", and my dear mother's and yours of the 23rd November, all and the best of hopes again filled my breast and I tore the letter, that I had written, to pieces fearful lest the bidding you farewell should annoy you, which, God knows is far, far from my intention. But when it is considered the length of time that elapsed before I heard from any of you can it be wondered at that I felt that I was forgotten? On the 5th. of September I left my happy home, a home that was endeared to me by the warmest ties of affection, and which contained what was near and dear to me on the earth. Nine months passed away without my receiving the least intelligence from it, - can it be wondered at then, that I felt uneasy and anxious about letters and that en

awful and lonely feeling of being forgotten to steal over my mind, but now all the gloom is dispelled, and I trust it shall never haunt me again. Your letter of the 23rd. November I should have got about the end of March but it did not reach me till the end of June, after I had got those sent per "Mid Lothian", which did not leave Leith till some time in February. My greatest dilemma at present is, from having so much to say, that I do not know where to commence. In my last letter, I mentioned my prospects, opinions of the country as well as I could form on so short a trial, and my intention of leaving New South Wales. This journey commenced on the 5th. of April, and on the 10th of May, 5 weeks exactly from the day of our departure, we arrived in Melbourne safe and sound. To describe in any proper way, the particulars of this journey, and the life that we led is far beyond my power - however, I will do my best, but must leave a great deal to your imagination. (We started five in number, viz:- Mr. Campbell, Mr. Verner, myself, a young man who acted as a servant, and James Edgar. We took along with us the Dog Cart drawn by two horses, - a light common cart in which were two horses, and a spare saddle one for exploring. On the cart were the Marquee, flour for ourselves, corn for the horses, luggage, &c. You must fancy to yourself five people travelling thro' 600 miles of a dreary, dismal wood, or bush as it is here called, where often for 50, and 100 miles there was not a single habitation or face to be seen, and nothing heard but the screams and yells of wild animals; for a great part of the way there was nothing to interest the eyes - in fact, nothing but trees to be seen, not even a blade of grass or herb of any description, all burnt up

by the long drought. Certainly in some places the view was most splendid, such as from the summit of a mountain, or along the banks of a river, but they were few and far between; You can have but very little idea of the miserable wretched country we passed through for the first 400 miles, until we came within the boundary of this fertile and justly named district of Australia Felix; the change was very sudden, indeed, almost incredible and happened at a time when we did not in the least expect it. After reaching the summit of a very high hill the ascent of which was composed of as sterile and barren land as we had seen during the whole journey. What was our astonishment to find that the descent and as far as the eye could reach on that side was composed of rich alluvial soil, with grass reaching nearly up to our knees, the sight of which, as you may well suppose, gladdened both man and horse, for by this time the poor animals were very much reduced; this hill we afterwards learned was the beginning of Australia Felix. We were very fortunate in arriving here without meeting with any accident, and indeed, it was miraculous, considering the mountains, rivers, and gullies that we had to cross. One day we had an upset, smashing the shaft and breaking a horse's knees, but it was too trifling to call an accident. The rivers, owing to the long drought, were very low, so that we were able to cross them all without swimming the horses, so far fortunate for us. The roads at the time were also very much infested by Bushrangers, and the Blacks were very hostile, but we presented a too strong and a too well armed party for them. One day we met in with two gentlemen travelling, who five minutes

previous had been waylaid and robbed, and on the track by which we had to go. We hurried on in hopes that they would attack us also and to entice them, we hid all our arms, but fortunately for themselves, they did not do so, or we should have given them a warm reception. We kept a regular watch of two hours at night, which after a long day's journey, was pretty severe. We rose at daylight, and from that till we again lay down it was continual work. Our fare consisted of tea and damper - a whang of damper and a quart or more often three pints of tea to breakfast, which we partook of either before starting or after travelling about ten miles, and at night after the tent was pitched ditto as dinner - this was the whole of our day's eating, except now and then a piece of salt beef. We brought a cask of it along with us, but it was very little used, for we were always in such a bustle and hurry, that we had no time to cook it properly, and indeed we did not care for it, for we took such a liking for tea and damper, that we never wished for anything else; Perhaps you are not aware what damper is, - it is flour and water kneaded up, made into the shape of a cake and put into hot ashes till it gets hard, then taken out and ready for use. You may fancy that this must be sorry bread, but I assure you that now I am so fond of it that I would not give an ounce of it for a ton of short-bread, bun or any other fancy bread that was ever baked, but indeed I may say the same of the whole of us. When we arrived here our supply of flour was just finished, and we were obliged to buy some baker's bread - you can have no idea what a punishment it was to us to eat it, altho' the Melbourne bread is allowed by all to be equal to any in the Colony, and at last were

obliged to give it up altogether, buy some flour and bake
damper comme ordinaire. I am sure you would be highly amused,
if you could have got a glimpse of me sometimes during the
journey - at one time with coat off, shirt sleeves tucked up and
on my knees kneading bread with a brace of pistols stuck in my
belt and a gun lying at my side - at another time felling a
tree for firewood, carrying water, grooming a horse or washing a
shirt, it was all the same to me. I brought along with me plenty
of clothes, but a short time after we started, I learned that
washing in Melbourne was at the rate of 6/- a dozen, so I thought
I might save myself so much expense by a little labour. I
therefore laid out two coloured shirts which served me the whole
way. In the same way I managed with flannel shirts and stockings -
the first spare moment that I had after taking them off was
occupied in washing them, - the flannels at first puzzled me
a little - I knew there was some particular way of washing them,
but what that way was I could not make out. I however, fell on
a plan, but whether right or wrong I have not yet made out,
which was to boil soap and water together and wash them in it -
both Campbell and Verner followed my example and so did the men, -
so that if it was wrong I shall get all the credit of spoiling
them. Every night that we were all together we pitched the
marquee, which took us a long time and pretty severe work - it
was by far too large and too good for so long and rough a journey.
Several times Mr. Campbell had to go off the track to stations
looking after cattle and sheep and other business, in which case
either Verner or I must have remained to take charge of the
party, but as I always saw that he was anxious to go, I always

remained behind, and then I never could be bothered pitching the tent, but always slept under the cart. I wonder what the good folks of Scotland would say to life like this - getting a piece of dry bread and some tea in the morning to breakfast, and after a hard day's work getting the same at night, and then instead of having a comfortable bed to rest their wearied limbs, to go and lie down on the hard cold ground, with nothing to protect you from the weather but the body of a cart. I think then you say "well this must have been a very disagreeable journey", but I assure you that it was quite the contrary, at least as far as I was concerned, for I never spent a happier time. I always had a fancy for a rough roaming life, and I am sure I have now had my wish gratified. I never enjoyed better health in all my life, not even a cold the whole time - how I escaped I cannot imagine for two-thirds of the nights I was sleeping in damp clothes. You have no notion how strong the dews are in this country, indeed they are more like rain, and against them the tent was but a slight protection, for it oozes through the canvas, while rain on the contrary runs off. Unless you have plenty of covering about you you very soon feel the effect. Now I had neither bed nor bed-clothes, but slept during the whole time (five weeks) in my day clothes with the gig cushions under me and my pea-jacket thrown over, and I assure you that often when I awoke in the morning I could not move a limb so benumbed was I in every joint. The cold for the most part of the time was pretty severe - the ice being generally in the mornings half an inch thick, which for this country is thought extraordinary. I always preferred sleeping under the cart, for I could get it

nearer the fire than the tent, and I always crept in between the two men and lay as snug and warm as possible. Of course Verner and Mr. Campbell had a comfortable bed every night in the tent, and the men had plenty of bed-clothes, but poor me had nothing as I had sent my bed-clothes and bed by sea, by the advice of Mr. Campbell, who promised to provide others for me for the journey, but in the bustle of preparation they were forgotten. I never thought anything of it, for being always so very tired I could sleep on anything or anywhere, and whenever it was particularly cold I used to put on two pairs of trousers, ditto stockings and ditto vests, which made me quite comfortable. The greatest want that we experienced the whole time, was water, which was generally very bad, being found in waterholes along the road in which perchance there might be a few dead bullocks or horses, but what would we not have given for a bucketful of it, even bad as it was, on some nights when we were obliged to do without any at all! I remember how delighted we were on coming to the river Hume, - for several days previous, we had continual bad water, so you may fancy our joy at seeing a clear running stream, and I determined on having a plunge in it to refresh my wearied corpus, but as it was late in the day when we reached it, I put it off till next morning, and rose before daylight - the ground at the time was white with hoary frost as if there had been a fall of snow during the night, but I did not mind that, so plunged in, intending to swim across, but when half way over, I got quite paralysed and turned to attempt to make the shore which I reached with great difficulty, after sinking three times and at each time

thinking that it was all over with me - however, I did not feel any bad effects from it but quite the contrary - for after getting my tea and damper I felt as fresh and merry as a lark. I daresay you are aware that the greatest part of the work in this country is performed by bullocks. It was a most melancholy and distressing sight, every two or three miles falling in with numbers of them either dead or breathing their last in a most pitiable state from want of food and water, for as I have mentioned before, all the grass was burnt up by the long drought, and the water also nearly dried up and the roads were in a most shocking condition, especially those within the boundary in any part of which you might sink your walking stick fully eighteen inches into the dust; no wonder then that the poor unfortunate animals were perishing and that in great numbers, for it was at the time that the settlers of the interior were sending down their wool to be shipped from Sydney. It frequently, indeed too frequently happened that when bullocks were anywhere near a waterhole that they immediately rush into it, and if there be a muddy bottom to it, there they stick, and from their weak condition, unable to extricate themselves, they perish, and thus destroy the greatest luxury here. Very often we met in with the unfortunate draymen, who from the loss of their bullocks were unable to proceed, and being probably at the time many hundred of miles from home with their stock of provisions consumed, were obliged to beg a little tea and flour from the by travellers. Here and there also was to be met with the grave of some poor white fellow, whose bones were doomed to be laid far far from his

fatherland. A great annoyance to us during our journey was the constant loss of our horses in the mornings for owing to the want of feed they were constantly wandering and always inclining towards home, so that often we found them returned a whole day's journey during the night, altho' tightly hobbled, and often drawing heavy logs after them, but latterly they got so accustomed to the hobbles that the most of them could gallop as well with them as without them. The search for them in the mornings also led us into great risk and danger as the chances were that we would always be divided - it was in this way that Mr. Faithful's eight men were seized, cruelly murdered and eaten by the blacks, as they were looking for the cattle in the morning. Our tent was pitched quite close to where the massacre took place, and the next morning our horses were not to be found, so I and the two men started to look for them: We kept in sight of one another for about an hour, but owing to the thickness of the scrub, I lost both them and my way. In the hurry of starting, which was just from my downy bed at daylight, I had forgot to buckle on my belt with the pistols, so there I was without any arms, except a small pocket pistol belonging to Mr. C. I really thought that I should have made a dainty morning's meal to some of the black d--ls, however, fortunately I met in with none of them, and after wandering for about six hours, I at last caught a glimpse of the canvas of the tent, appearing at a distance through the trees like a mound of snow. When I reached it I found that the men had not arrived, nor did they make their appearance for fully an hour after, but luckily they had found the horses. [It was on that morning that a very serious accident, accompanied with

loss of life might have befallen some of us, but the only sufferer by it was a noble kangaroo dog. On the previous night after encamping we lighted our fires at the foot of an immense tree which, we thought quite sound, but we were mistaken, for it was quite hollow all up the heart, and through which the fire during the night blazed up most furiously, and in the morning as we were all sitting round cooking our breakfast it came down with a tremendous crash. I was sitting on a bucket just below where it fell with Verner and Campbell on either side, and the dog, which was a great favourite of mine, lying at my feet - when we heard it cracking we all ran different ways - the dog at first made towards the tent, but seeing me going in the opposite direction, it turned and ran towards me, but the tree fell on him in passing and crushed him to atoms. Had it fell on any of us, or on the tent during the night, or on any of the horses, the same would have happened. The equal of that dog could scarcely be found in the Colony - he stood fully three feet high, altho' he was not twelve months old, and his loss left us quite in the lurch, for we had only two kangaroo dogs and one is scarcely sufficient to kill a kangaroo alone - all our other dogs were large, heavy mastiffs. This served as a lesson to us for the future, and we never again made our fire at the foot of a tree. [The next day's journey brought us to Faithful's station where, after having encamped and the watch set for the night, we took a stroll to see Mr. Faithful, who was very kind and attentive to us, - he gave us a long and particular account of the massacre of his men with whom he was at the time it occurred - the narrative of which was enough to make one's

blood turn cold. As it may be supposed he and the rest of his men who escaped, have a deadly hatred against the blacks. On the next morning as we were leaving, he sent us a present of half a sheep, which I assure you was a most acceptable one. For the most part of the journey I rode on horseback, my department being to explore, and I was well mounted on a splendid, powerful young stallion - only three years old just from the breaker's hands, which carried me thro' the bush at a noble pace - Altogether I was very much delighted with the journey, and would willingly undertake another, but I daresay that others were not so well pleased with it, for certain disagreeable occurrences took place, but which did not include me at all except that if I had not been present they would have been more disagreeable - however, let bygones be bygones. I daresay by this time you are ^{now} heartily tired of the recital of this journey, so I shall/drop it.

The town of Melbourne, which I expect shall be my future field of action, is really a most astonishing place. Two years ago there were only two mud huts, where the rising populous and flourishing town at present stands, or as the Auctioneers in their advertisements style it "The beauteous capital of Australia Felix - the rapidity of whose growth stamps with a semblance of truth the enchanted tales of yore" and indeed such is the case, for it is most marvellous how quickly it has risen and more particularly so when the infancy of this Colony is considered. It is situated on the banks of the River Yarra Yarra, about 10 miles from where it falls into Port Phillip Bay, which is next in importance and beauty to that of Port

Jackson, only that the former is still in its natural state, without any works of art to adorn and better it, not even a buoy yet set down to guide the mariner through its intricate channel. The Yarra Yarra River is navigable for small vessels to Melbourne, where there is a very nice and commodious wharf. The country all round here is most beautiful as well in richness as in prospect, and seemed quite as Heaven to us compared with the Sydney district, - At the first sight of Sydney a person is struck with astonishment at seeing such an extensive and beautiful town. As soon as the vessel is within the Heads, the Harbour of Port Jackson lies stretched before him in all its splendour and it is an admitted fact that there is not a more commodious or beautiful harbour in the known world; at the head of it is situated Sydney in all the pride and pomp of a Metropolis. The shores of the different harbours, for there are no less than six or seven that branch off from the principal one of Port Jackson, are studded with gentlemen's mansions or rather palaces with gardens stretching to the water's edge, and stocked with every kind of fruit, all flourishing in the greatest luxuriance in the open air. Altogether the beauty of the sail up the Harbour is the most splendid that can be well imagined and fills the mind of the beholder for the first time with vast hopes and ideas, but when he lands, all is forgotten at the bad accounts that assail his ears - I now speak for myself, but it must be remembered that I arrived at a shocking bad season; - there was disease in the Colony, never known before, which carried off an immense number of both men and cattle, particu-

larly of the latter; some settlers losing to the extent of 20,000 sheep. The country was suffering from a long continued drought which blighted the crops of every description and destroyed the feed for cattle. Famine was threatening the Colony, there not being more than three months' supply for its then present population, which was daily increasing, no less than one thousand souls were added to it the week we arrived. The roads were infested by escaped convicts, and the natives were beginning to be very troublesome. No wonder then that I was glad to quit such a district, and try my fortune in another and a better one. (The great drawback to this Country is the want of water, and wherever it is found it is generally brackish, but it is a singular country altogether, for often by digging a hole in the sand on the sea shore you will find clear, fresh water, while on the bank of a fresh water stream by the same process you may find salt water. The Natives of this Country, as I think I have mentioned in my previous letter, are a miserable, degraded race of beings. I have seen in Sydney specimens of many nations but I never saw any so low on the human scale as they are here. In certain part of the Country they are very bad just now killing and eating the whites. Some settlers find it almost impossible to procure shepherds or stockmen to go with them to these parts, they are so terrified at the idea of being eaten and naturally so - To hear them talk you would suppose that they did not care about being killed, but the being eaten was what they dreaded. When they do go they never will take the sheep more than barely out of sight of the huts to the

great ruin of the flocks, and whenever they see the Blacks coming the most of them will take to their heels and leave the flock at the mercy of the savages. The shepherd's life is celebrated in prose and verse as being one of peace and happiness, but to see a shepherd here would quite do away with all that, for he is more like a Spanish brigand or freebooter than anything else, with a gun and bayonet on his shoulder, an old rusty sword at his side and a brace of pistols stuck in his belt. But in justice to the Blacks it must be confessed, that their treachery and ill-will towards the whites, are often not to be wondered at, for in nearly three cases out of five the aggression is on the part of the latter.* It must be remembered what the generality of the white population of the Colony consist of, which is of the most debased and vilest dregs of Great Britain and Ireland - Among such a set it may readily be supposed, that there is not the least spark of religion or fear of God before their eyes, but quite the contrary and they never look on the Blacks in the light of human beings, but, would just as soon shoot them as they would a crow, or hunt them as they would a kangaroo. Indeed in some districts the dogs used to be thought good for nothing unless they could kill a Black as well as a kangaroo, and they used to teach them to do so, by giving them some of the poor Black's blood. Another and the chief cause of dissension consists in the whites forcibly seizing and carrying off the Native women and keeping them. - Now this is enough to exasperate any race of people, but particularly one, who in regard to propriety and good conduct of their women are

so rigidly particular. It certainly must be heart-rending to them to see the white man encroaching on their dominions, killing and extirpating the wild animals, their only sustenance, and themselves driven from their old haunts and hunting places into the strange and maybe hostile country of the interior, for they in common with the wild animals fly before the advance of the white man and civilization. This must be distressing to them, but how much more so must it be, when in a spirit of amity and friendship they remain around the settlements, to have their women carried off and themselves treated as if they belonged to the brute creation. No wonder then that they retaliate on the oppressors. One kind of revenge they have found out to be very severe and that they practise very much, which is, burning the grass for it they have not the least earthly use, but they see that it is it that entices the white man with his flocks and herds and in the above way they destroy whole districts and mar the hopes of many a settler. I have seen a good deal of their manners, customs and mode of living, having during the journey down been a good deal about their encampments but always in company and well armed - With a description of them I shall not trouble you at present, but leave it for another letter.

The principal animal of this country is the kangaroo, which grows to an immense size. - Some of them when erect stand eight feet - they afford excellent sport for either shooting or hunting. - Of the tail very fine soup is made, and excellent steaks are procured from the hind legs - the rest of the body is hung up for dog's meat. A few of the other animals are the

opposums, native dogs and cats, bandicoots, rabbit and kangaroo rat, squirrels of different species, &c. &c., but the only destructive is the native dog, which will destroy a whole flock of sheep unless properly guarded at night; they are more of the species of a fox than a dog, with the untameable destructive nature of a hyena. Many a one have I hunted with the kangaroo dog, but never could kill one, they are so fleet and cunning. They afford the same sport for a hunting field as foxes do at home. They have the most unearthly howl that ever I heard - it was most wretched while on watch at the dead of night to hear them as they were prowling about. The following are a few of the principal birds:-

Emus, something resembling the ostrich, native turkeys, one of which would be enough to dine eight or a dozen men, native companions, wood and water ducks, soldier and satire birds, eagles and owls, both very remarkable, bell birds, laughing Jackasses with an innumerable variety of other birds too numerous to relate, including different species of cockatoos, parrots and parroquets, which are as numerous and as pert and as troublesome as the sparrows are at home. The laughing jackass is a most extraordinary bird - if you can turn the bray of an ass into a sort of laugh, you may form a slight notion of its notes - it is from that it derives its name, but it is also called the settler's clock from its always screaming in the above way at the rising and setting of the sun, which is the only guide to settlers, for such a thing as a clock or a watch is not to be found in the bush. Its plumage very much resembles that of the pheasant, and it has an enormous big head with a

very strong and large bill; its general food is young serpents and snakes, lizards, centipedes, asp, &c. &c. all of which are to be found in great abundance in this country - Several times when making our fires, the same occurrence happened to us, which did to St. Paul at the Island of Melita.

I must now say something of my own affairs. You would see from my last letter, my having been requested to come down here and open a house of Agency for one of the first Mercantile houses in Sydney, in connection with a very extensive establishment in London, this I at first declined to accept, thinking that I was not qualified for it, however, on being pressed, I resolved to try it, so I was not a farthing expense in coming here, and I am in a most independent way here - everything for me and every little expense I am at paid, with an unlimited command of money. In every proceeding of Donaldson's the perfect gentleman is evident. Before I left Parramatta, he wrote me a long letter, explanatory of his intentions, which we several times had long conversations about, but to prevent mistakes, he put in writing. I should have liked very much to have sent you a copy of it, but it is too long to insert here, so I can only give you a few excerpts: "By the time you have done with the houses, it will be for you to decide, whether there is such an opening for you in conjunction with me and assisted as you will be by me, as will afford you a good prospect of doing well for yourself, as well as for me, by remaining at Melbourne and establishinh a house of agency to assist my wool operations, and by being always on the spot and with my interest at heart,

"I have no fear you will manage everything very satisfactorily.
"You must exercise all your shrewdness in noticing everything
which comes under your eye, how they do business - who are
"creditable people, and who are not, and in fact all the many
"new things in a new place, which will readily strike your
"observation, which I believe to be none of the slowest".
"As to the ultimate arrangement between us, I cannot of course
go into particulars now. Much must depend upon the future but
"I may say for the present, and until I see you again, our
"affairs are so arranged as to have everything in a fair train
"for carrying into effect my present ideas, which I imagine
"open a very fair prospect to any young man of steadiness and
"perseverance. You shall not be put to any individual expense
"as far as your maintenance is concerned. You will thus at least
"acquire a good deal of experience at no expense to yourself, and
"even should you dislike remaining at Melbourne after the houses
"are built, I will remunerate you for whatever you have done
"for me in such a way as you may think fair and liberal, I have
"no idea of any young man working for me for nothing, but at
"the same time, the duty we all owe, in our relative situations
"in life be they what they may, to others whom we have dealings
with, will I feel sure, dictate on your part that conscientious
"regard for my interests in the several things you may under-
"take for me, which if I mistake not, will lead to my entertain-
"ing the greatest confidence in everything you recommend and I
"hope to your ultimate advantage and independence, and with my
"best wishes for your prosperity and success in the new town-

"ship, I am, my dear Graham, " &c. In subsequent letters he writes;- "I wish you to make the necessary arrangements to settle at Melbourne as a merchant representing me there; provided that you are satisfied the opening is a good one as I have been all along, and I wish you to act just as if you were acting for yourself, and assisting your own judgment by what you learn from others whose opinions you may find worth following you will do good for me I have no fear. I do not wish you at any time, to keep an open store, or to sell small quantities of anything. The object is to get settlers to give us wool, and give them in exchange either money at a reasonable rate of advance, or sugar, tea, tobacco, &c., at the market prices. You never become a dealer in this and the kind of business is therefore much more respectable" &c. You will see from the above and can form an idea of the fair and honorable terms in which he writes, and indeed all his actions are performed in the same spirit. (I have not yet commenced business, being at present engaged in getting built a dwelling house for myself, which will be a very handsome one when finished, store, office, &c., but as soon as they are completed, I shall make a beginning, and from the assurances of support that I receive I trust I shall succeed. My dwelling house is to be in a cottage style with french windows down to the ground, and to contain four rooms; the size of my sitting-room will be 14 feet square, a bed-room of the same, and a kitchen and another bed-room 14 feet x 9, the store is to be two storeys high and the size 40 feet x 20, and the counting room will be about 12 feet

square - the whole when finished will cost about £1,200. Besides this town allotment (half an acre) we have got one hundred acres of suburban allotments, all of which are delivered into my management and discretion. Donaldson has never interfered with anything here yet, he never said what sort of buildings he would like put up, but left it all to my own liking and in the same way he has given up the land to me to do what I like with it. Some of it I am selling and the rest I will get fenced in. If anything ever strikes him as proper to be done, he always mentions it in his letters but at the same time adds.- "But I will not offer an opinion any further than to suggest: You must resolve as to the best." When we arrived here we pitched the tent on a suburban allotment on the River Yarra Yarra, consisting of 20 acres belonging to Mr. Campbell. A few days after Verner left us and returned to Sydney, when Mr. Campbell and I lived together in the tent for about six weeks. I may here mention that the moment Mr. C. saw this country he made up his mind to push his fortune in it, build a house on his allotment, and bring down all his establishment. He remained here till he had completed all his arrangements about building, and other matters, and then returned to Parramatta by sea. Before he left this he begged of me to remain on his ground and superintend all the operations and improvements going on, which of course I readily assented to and, at the same time relieved his mind of a great anxiety by volunteering to take charge of a valuable horse belonging to him, which he brought overland, and as he was obliged to take back

Edgar along with him he was in a great dilemma what to do with it, as he was afraid to entrust it to anyone's care here - My offer he greedily accepted, and he left this he said with a light heart. The horse is a very beautiful animal valued at five hundred guineas, and although an entire is as quiet and trustable as a lamb. As we thought it would be very inconvenient for me to live alone in the tent, in not being able to shut it up in any way when I went out, I got a log hut built, which I have made very comfortable, having plastered it inside and outside with mud and whitewashed it, which makes it look very spruce; it is quite a palace compared with some of the settler's huts, for in this country they are not at all particular where they live; for a while my hut was wind and water tight, but the wood being put in green, soon shrunk, and now the plaster has nearly all tumbled out, so that for every six inches breadth of wood, there is now an inch of light, but I now think nothing of it, for in this respect I am very much changed, being grown as hardy as possible. In the mornings when the ice is half an inch thick, I think nothing of walking about in the open air, gathering sticks to light my fire, with nothing on but my night shirt, having just stepped out of my bed, and often for whole mornings I go about with nothing on but my trousers and shirt - this I would not have done for the world at home, for the sore throat used to keep me in great subjection there. I have not had a return of it since I left, thank God, and now hope that I shall not be again troubled with it. My only ailing at present is a touch of your complaint, rheumatism, which I have

in my right elbow, having caught it from sleeping one night on the wet ground and lying on that side, my elbow sunk in and stuck fast in the ground and ever since I have felt a slight pain in it, but it is only in the mornings when I first wake that it affects me for work soon drives it off. I got my hut made 21 feet long, and through the centre of it I ran a division and made one end a stable for the horse and the other forms my kitchen, dining room, bedroom, &c.,&c. I live all alone, not a soul with me except the horse and three good and faithful dogs. As a matter of course I do everything for myself, bake my own bread, cook my own meat, wash my pots, pans, dishes, &c., sweep my floor with all the other little etceteras in house-keeping. I am now a great adept in baking damper, very few in the Colony can beat me at it, and as for cooking a beef steak or mutton chop or a roast of beef or leg of mutton or making potato or pea soup or barley broth, I would not give in to anyone here - I astonished Mr. C. very much at all my first attempts. We sent a barrel of oaten meal down here by sea and lived for a long time on porridge, which as you may suppose was a great treat to us - A number of our Scotch acquaintances here used to come miles in the mornings to get a plate full of porridge and I was acknowledged by all to be the best maker of it in the Colony. If I succeed as well in Mercantile matters as I have done in this department, there will be no fear of me; you may perhaps think that I must feel very lonely living out here, but I assure you it is quite the contrary, for I now have so many acquaintances in Melbourne, especially since the

(16) "Mid Lothian" came in that I always have some young fellows out with me at breakfast or dinner. Nearly one-third of the population of Melbourne consists of young men, among whom the greatest dissipation is carried on, but I am glad to say that I can't yet be included in that set, altho' many are the temptations that are placed in my way, for I am scarcely ever in town without receiving at least a dozen invitations to remain to dinner, but my grand excuse at present is, not being able to be away from my hut after dark, but I can't get off on that from going to breakfast, so that now and then I have to trudge in the mornings to town; however, it is better then than at night, especially as I can never be prevailed upon to qualify my tea with a glass of brandy. I am intimate with most of the young men in town, but particularly so with all the Officers of the 28th. Regt. at present quartered here, who are a very gentlemanly set of young men, and who are always most incessant in their invitations to me. I live about three miles from town, to which I go generally three times a week. - On Sundays to go to Church. - On Mondays when the Sydney mail arrives, and about the end of the week to see if there are any ships come in. The best of the days I have abundance to do. I rise at daylight and after kindling a fire, making my bed, sweeping the floor, I put the horse out to grass and do up the stable, and after feeding the horse, I then take my breakfast, tea and damper, after which I go and look after the men and do not return till after sunset. - What with looking after the work going on here, buildings in town and the various improvements on our suburban allotments I assure you

I have abundance to do, and often wish the days to be longer to get well thro' with all. The housework delays me always, for I am very particular in having everything as neat and clean as possible, but when Edgar returns, which will be in about a month hence, I shall have less to do. After returning at night and cooking my dinner, tea and damper again with a piece of salt junk, the same that we brought with us overland, I do up the horse and feed him and feed the dogs - after which I pass the time with a book or newspaper or writing letters till I feel inclined for sleep. - Oh! the bush life is a glorious independent one with will to roam wherever you choose and do whatever you like, with nothing to annoy and interrupt you or stone wall fences or "Notice trespassers will be prosecuted" to stop your ramblings. I should have been very glad to have spent my future residence here in the bush and I would never ask to see the town again - however, I did not come to this country to enjoy myself but endeavour to make a respectable livelihood or may be a competency, and where there is a better chance of following it up of course there I go. (I have twelve of the men living in gunyahs around me here at a respectful distance, they have all been convicts with the exception of three and some of them are no less than thrice convicted villains, but they are all good workmen and behave well, as they know if they did not, I should soon march them off. It is a great privilege allowed them to build their huts on the ground, as it saves them the enormous expense of house rent, and it is much better for us in the end for we get more work out of them. The three free men

are all Scotch, and two of them are no less than Fifemen. They are worth their weight in gold, they are so decent, respectable and hard working fellows. - Of course the two from Fife are my right hand men. - I could entrust them with anything; three of the men are married and have families, so you can imagine that I have got a little village here. / Mr. Campbell is building a very nice house here - At home it would not be thought much of, but here it is considered a splendid building. In this country money is the great idol, and for it they will do anything or undergo any hardship; they think that money spent on comfort, especially on a house is quite thrown away, and for this reason Mr. C. is thought very foolish, but he little cares for that if he can make Mrs. C. and the children comfortable. The site that has been chosen for the house is an excellent one, being on the prettiest part of the river, and at the head of the upper of two waterfalls, close together and which are the only ones on the whole river; it commands an extensive view of the country all round and a long stretch of the river; the bank on this side is bold and rocky, while on the opposite side it gradually rises from the water's edge to a very high and beautiful hill. + You see from this what a romantic spot my hut is situated, among Mamosa trees now in full bloom, with innumerable species of parrots, cockatoos and parroquets hopping in the branches. (I don't suppose that you ever made your dinner off a number of those birds, if you once did you would again if you could. During our journey down we used to shoot scores of them every day to feed the dogs. One night we had the curiosity to roast

one of each kind and taste them, which we no sooner did than we all exclaimed what a delightful flavour they had, and after that whenever time permitted we used to cook a number. Many a time when giving them by dozens to the dogs, I have thought what Jane would have given for some of the pluckage. I did not forget her but made a collection of the prettiest feathers, which if I knew any one going home, I would send to her. [As soon as I heard that the "Mid Lothian" was in the Bay, which was not for several days after, I started early one morning to Melbourne, where, with a few friends we hired a boat and went down the river, and spent a day and night on board. I was in hopes of meeting Fife friends, but none could I see; I heard of Tom Horsbrugh having come out in her, but he was then away at Geelong about 60 miles distant; it was our intention to have returned that night but it came on to blow great guns which rendered it impossible to leave the ship. - However, we were in good hands and a very happy night did we pass - I fancied myself in Scotland again from hearing so many Scotch songs, and toasts and sayings, we sat about 30 to dinner and every one was Scotch. The Capt. is as nice and gentlemanly man as one could wish to meet - the Doctor (Duncan) is also a very nice person; he intends to return here and practise in Melbourne, at my request he promised to call on you, as he said he would likely be in Cupar before he returned. Any letters or parcels that you may have to send me, either he or Capt. Morrison or any of the mates would willingly take charge of as I believe the "Mid Lothian" comes to Port Phillip again. [I returned from the "Mid Lothian"

very much disappointed at meeting with no Fife folks, but before I left Melbourne for home I had occasion to go to one of the principal Inns, and just as I was going in the door at which there were a number of strangers standing, I stopped suddenly short at recognising a face - I spoke to the person and told him that I thought I knew him, he answered that I had the better of him, I then told him that he came from Fife, that his name was Kirk and that he lived at Kinglassie, at all of which he stared as if it had been a ghost that was speaking to him. I asked him if he did not know me - No, - I never saw you before - Did you know any one of the name of Graham? Oh Yes! I knew a James Graham very well in Cupar - Is there no likeness between him and me? Not the least, "Well Kirk," said I "it is all that is for Jemmy Graham, and with that I put out my hand to shake paws, but no hand of his was forthcoming, till after a few minutes severe scrutiny he gave in, exclaiming "Tut man, Jemmy Graham, it maun be you after all, though it's no like you." With that he put out his hand and a hearty shake we had. I know I am terribly changed since I left home, some of my most intimate friends on board the "Alfred" scarcely recognised me after a week's absence, they all tell me that it is for the better, but that may be flattery. (As soon as Kirk acknowledged me, he told me of all the Fife people who had come out, and took me to where Farmer from Pathcondie and Nicol from Pitlessie Mill were lodging. - You may be sure that I was glad to see them all and they as delighted to see me. They have all been several times out with me to spend a day and were delighted with the bush life.

There is not the least fear of their succeeding well here, provided they keep from Colonial habits and do not take the Rum fever. Dissipation is the great ruin of both gentle and simple in this country. Many a fine promising young fellow falls a victim. Kirk is engaged as a superintendent, with Dr. McCrae who also came out in the "Mid Lothian" and Farmer and Nichol have also got situations. It was Kirk that told me of young Wilkie, brother to Mr. Webster's clerk, having come out as a sailor, and of his having two parcels of letters for me, which he promised to get, as I was at the time obliged to return home after being away so long, and could not again visit the "Mid Lothian" before she sailed, which was fixed to be in two days after. The next day I was in town, and got the two parcels in which there were no less than eleven letters, the sight of which nearly drove me out of my senses, I was never blessed with very much, but any little that I have very nigh forsook me that day. I hurried home with my treasure and having carefully laid it by I performed a few of the necessary house duties and determined that nothing should interrupt my enjoyment. I just made my bread and having put it in the ashes I drew my stool near the fire and sat down to devour the contents. How long I remained so occupied I cannot tell, and it is uncertain when I should have come to an end had I not been awake from my reverie by the neigh of a horse quite close to my door. I started up and found my bread just bruning and nearly as hard as a stone, and the poor horse longing for his supper, - he was tethered a little distance from the hut but being left far beyond his usual supper time he had

by dint of pulling, broken his rope and came to enquire the cause. Having set all to rights, I again sat down and did not stir till the lamp went out from want of oil, when I then went to bed. Oh! how glad I was at getting so many letters and indeed no wonder, when it is considered that nine months had passed without receiving a line. [The passengers by the "Mid Lothian" are a remarkable gentlemanly set of young men, I now know them all as well as if we had been all our days together. Nearly two-thirds of them remain here, quite charmed with the place. Tommy Horsburgh was a great favourite on board from having so many fine stories to tell about game cocks and dogs, adventures with Jack Henderson. - Indeed Jack's name was so often quoted and extolled that Johnny never got any other name but Jack Henderson during the whole voyage from the time they left the Downs. - I understand that Johnny was obliged to leave Cupar some time previous to the sailing of the vessel, to be out of the clutches of the law for some misdemeanours which could be proved against him. He is in a situation along with Mr. Russell, a fellow passenger, down at Geelong about 60 miles distant. Dr. McCrea and his family are a great acquisition to this place, for we are in great want of a few respectable families. - He brought out his mother along with him, who is about 90 years of age, and who for three years before they left had been bedridden; she was carried up by the sailors in a large arm chair from the boat to their house, accompanied by her son and two daughters and Dr. Duncan. She is now much better in health and in great spirits, and is really a fine old lady. There are a great

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many ways of making money in Melbourne. Those who came here first, have in general been very successful. At the first sale of town allotments there was very little competition and as a matter of course, they went very cheap. It was but lately that the importance of this place was found out and then the value of the town allotments rose prodigiously. I shall mention a few of the profits realised on them since I came here. - One allotment originally purchased for £25, lately fetched at an auction £980. Another bought for £75 sold for £1,300. A £250 one brought a few days after it was bought £1,250 and a £95 one sold two days ago for £2,010/15/- ^(scribble) and so on some more and some less. I know several gentlemen here who would not take anything like the above prices for some allotments belonging to them, the original price of which was considerably below £100. ^a It is most astonishing the number of speculations that are entered into here, in fact, there is nothing but what is attempted. I could get £1000 clear gain on a few acres of land for either Mr. Campbell or Donaldson, but we would not take such a small profit as that. Another very money making employment for young men is taking charge of cattle sent from this to South Australia. A Mr. Snodgrass has just returned after taking down 800 head, for which he got from the proprietor, as a remuneration, one pound a head, with all his expenses and cost of maintenance paid for - thus giving him £800 clear gain on his trip. The distance is much the same as to Sydney, but it is even worse off for water - it often happens that they are obliged to kill both horses and bullocks, in order to get their blood to drink. I

often think what a wide field of employment there is here for hundreds of the young men at home who are either idling away their time or toiling from morning to night and night to morn, and yet gaining a scarce sufficient livelihood for themselves, and nothing to lay by for old age fast approaching, while here, though there cannot be said that there is a certainty of gaining a competency, yet the chances are ten to one in favor of it.

A common engrossing clerk, if he writes a good hand, will easily get here £150 a year, and if he is any way superior in his line, would readily get £250 or £300 per annum, but while people who are interested, hold out this inducement to young men at home they should at the same time state the prices which provisions, clothing and other necessaries cost here, for it must be remembered that from the very high rate at which everything sells here that £150 a year is equal to no more than £70 or £80 at the farthest at home, for everything here is triple of what it is at home, as for instance, flour which sells with you at about 20/- to 30/- per cwt. costs here at present 80/- the 100 lbs., with every possibility of it soon being raised to 100/- and everything else in like proportion, but I trust that it will not continue long so, for as soon as we have vessels coming here direct from home with the necessaries of life, the prices will come down. At present everything here is retailed from Sydney and Van Dieman's Land. I wonder what the good folk of Scotland would say, if they had to give 1/- a pound for flour. I see by the papers that ye are all getting up in arms already about the corn laws. Tea is the only article that is at all moderate here. What I get, which is about the very best, costs me only 4/- a

pound. At home, tea is considered a luxury, but here it is a necessary - the poorest man thinks himself wretchedly off if he has not got his quart to breakfast and dinner, for here in the bush tea is invariably used at dinner in the same way as water and beer at home - I have now got quite bushized in this respect, and cannot do without my quart of tea to each meal.

When I am alone my daily consumption is one ounce. [In my letters to any of the young men at home, I have given a fair and candid account of this country, but I have never expressed an opinion as to whether they should come out or not. I have left that entirely to themselves, for peoples dispositions are so widely different, that although some persons might be charmed with this country others on the contrary might be disgusted, so that I might be reproached for having held out inducements to them to leave home, or perhaps that their blood might be laid at my door, for it sometimes happens, that when young men come out here with vast ideas, and find themselves disappointed, then in the desperation of the moment they put an end to their existence, a melancholy example of which, we had here the other day. [The young man who came down with us as a servant and who had been for a few years in a Mercantile House in Belfast, the day after he arrived here, obtained a situation as clerk in the Crown Advocate's Office of £150 a year with a house, fuel, and candles allowed him, and a servant boy to wait on him, yet he did not know a soul here nor had even a letter of introduction to any one, only he happened to come at a time when there was a great demand for clerks. A situation of this kind is worth taking

for a while, as house rent is enormously high here. But while a person is thus occupied in town, he can have any little capital that he has invested on sheep, cattle or some other speculation in the country, as mostly every town gentleman does in this country, for every Parish Doctor or Lawyer is also a sheep farmer. You know what my prospects were when I left home - my only hope was in obtaining a situation from McPherson - when I landed, I found that we were all sadly mistaken in the man, but now instead of looking for a clerkship, I trust soon to be looking for clerks to myself - however, I will not be too sanguine, but hope for the best, but I feel an inward confidence in myself that I shall be able to maintain myself in a respectable manner and as a gentleman. I have never yet despaired, not even after McPherson gave me the cold shoulder - he behaved most shabbily to me - the second time that I met him, he pretended not to know me, so after that I did not trouble him again. (When I heard that I was going to Port Phillip, he sent word to me that he wished to see me - I went accordingly when he told me that he had been endeavouring to procure me a situation, which was to take charge of a wharf - I told him that I had been brought up a gentleman, and that it was my intention to remain one, he then asked me to write him now and then, so that he might be able to inform his sister how I was getting on - but the scrape of a pen he will never get from me. Don't mention any of this to the Terrybank folk for I am sure they did their best for me. (It certainly is a great change to a young man coming out to this Colony, but particularly so in my case, when it is considered the comfort and luxury I

lived in at home, with everything provided for me and nothing to trouble and annoy me. For the last five months I have never slept in a house in which there was a pane of glass or a proper door - during the same time I have not drunk tea out of a teacup, or eaten off a plate more than eight or nine times at the farthest - I have washed my own clothes, baked my own bread, cooked my meat and in fact have done any thing and every thing, but I do not look on that as a hardship, or feel ashamed of it, but on the contrary, I glory in it, and consider it as the best way in which a young man should commence his career, besides it is a variety and if any person would not feel happy and comfortable in roughing it in the bush, he is indeed hard to please. Were I at home and know as much as I do now about this country with its privations, hardships and pleasures, I should not have the least hesitation in making up my mind to come out at once. It is the earnest and sincere wish of my heart to be able to do something bye and bye for the youngsters and I almost feel confident that I will be able. I would certainly advise you, if nothing better in your opinion casts up for Johnny to send him out to me, but of that we will be better able to speak bye and bye. One thing that reminds me very forcibly of home, is when returning in the evening tired and hungry, instead of sitting down to dinner with a happy and endeared circle of friends, and hearing the merry prattling of the bairns, to come to my lonely hut, and kindle a fire and cook my dinner, and then sit down all alone, which, now since bad weather has set in is always the case.

[It is very singular the attachment which dogs take to me. At Parramatta a pointer of Mr. Campbell's showed the greatest

affection for me, she would never follow anyone else and would always stick close to me. During the journey all the dogs did the same and do so still - My great favorite at present, is a beautiful Kangaroo lady dog, the property of Mr. C. but which would neither follow him or James Edgar when they left this, so that they were obliged to leave it with me. She is a most beautiful animal and was mother to the one which was killed by the falling of the tree. Her love to me is most extraordinary, she never leaves me by day or night. - Whether I am going to Kirk or Market she is at my heel, and in Melbourne she is called the pilot fish, for whenever she is seen they are certain that I am close at hand. - Another favorite of mine is a large brown dog, between a mastiff and a bull dog, which was once the property of the celebrated and now deeply lamented Allan Cunningham, Uncle to Mr. Pagan. - Mr. Verner purchased him in Sydney and brought him down overland, and when he left this on his return the same way, he was most anxious to take him back, but not a step would the dog go with him, so Verner made me a present of him. I can't say that he is always at my heels for he is never off the chain, as he does not make any distinction between a white or black men, but would tear them indiscriminately. I have got another very fine bull dog, given to me by a gentleman in Melbourne, but he is as ferocious as the other; (although I have not the kindly voice of a friend to welcome me home at night, I have the noisy and uproarious congratulations of the dogs, as soon as I appear in sight. Dogs are of great value in this country - there is scarcely a station where there are not at the least 20 kept in

order to keep away the Native dogs and the Blacks. (This is the depth of our winter just now, the middle of the day resembles the summer at home very much, but the mornings and nights are very cold. A person would suppose that so sudden a change would be prejudicial to the constitution, but it has not that effect here for a healthier climate there cannot be. - We have had pretty severe weather of late, very high winds with continual rain, hail or snow. My hut is now neither wind nor water tight, and often at night, I am awakened by the hailstones pattering on my face, but I never think anything of it. - Very often just now the ice is half an inch thick in the morning, while the middle of the day is what you would call broiling at home, again in the evening keen frost. Some people say that it is cooler here in the summer than it is in Sydney, while others say the contrary - however, as this place is superior to Sydney in so many respects I trust that it will include this also. On the heat in Sydney was dreadful indeed almost insufferable - there was no going out at all during the day, but in the evening all were astir like the bats. It is not the heat of the sun that affects a person so much, it is the hot winds, which almost suffocate the new comers. The country about Sydney suffered dreadfully from conflagration, occasioned, as is supposed, by travellers kindling fires to cook their meals in the bush, or from the trees rubbing together, and from their dried up state, taking fire. It spread all over the country at a fearful rate and came to very near where we were living at Parramatta. It would have destroyed the Government House there and a great part

of the town had it not been turned aside by the united efforts
of all the military convicts, and inhabitants of the town, which
they with difficulty accomplished by beating about it with
bushes. The smoke of it during the day was very disagreeable,
but at night the effect of the blazing was splendid. (If all
went well with the good old ship "Alfred" she will have arrived
long ere this - she distinguished herself very much here in
taking home the largest cargo of wool that ever left Port Jackson,
namely, 2,232 bales, nigh the cargo of two ordinary vessels.
Before she sailed, Capt. Flint gave a very large party on board
at which I was, and enjoyed myself very much. I was also at
St. Patrick's Ball, having received a public invitation - till
the day arrived I had not made up my mind whether I would go or
not, - however, I thought it would be a pity not to see one
before I left, so I went and spent a very happy night. Their
Excellencies Sir George & Lady Gipps and Sir Maurice & Lady
O'Connell honored it with their presence. Altogether there were
about six hundred present, among which there was a great display
of female beauty. Among the matrons our friend Mrs. Campbell
carried off the palm and Miss O'Connell among the unmarried. (If
it were not for Mrs. C. I don't think that I would have gone,
but she would hear of no excuse. What a charming good natured,
kind person she is, - I would go through fire and water to serve
her. - Many a pleasant day have I spent in her company. I
Mr. Campbell used to be a great deal from home, looking after
land and stock, when I of course never left home, but always
remained with Mrs. C.; during the day I used to sit and read to

her while she was working, and in the evening we used to take a walk in the bush. Many an hour on a moonlight night have we walked under the verandah, talking of days of happiness gone by, and many a love story did she tell me, and many curious tales of some of the Fife folk. - Indeed I daresay she told me every secret she had. I very often receive long letters from her, in her last she made many enquiries about Jane and expressed a hope that I would finally fix to remain here and be beside them - this indeed would be a sufficient inducement for me to remain here. I expect them down in about two months for their residence here is quite fixed on. At a recent sale I bought 640 acres of land, which I am sure Mr. C. will be glad to get. All the children are well and in great spirits. What remarkably nice boys they are, they were all great favorites of mine and I with them. I always went by the name of Misser Dayum, an attempt at Graham, and I was always remembered in their prayers, "God bless Papa and Mama and Misser Dayum". All the servants are behaving remarkably well and liking the country - only one has left, at least got liberty to leave, which was the housemaid, Jean Beveridge, whose husband was anxious to get her to keep house for him, which was granted. Mr. Campbell now possesses a goodly quantity of land, with flocks of sheep and herds of cattle and horses. He has begun on an extensive scale and has every prospect of doing well, which I sincerely hope he will. { I have just had a long letter from Donaldson wishing me to name all the furniture that I would like to have in my new house, which I expect to get into about the middle of October, as he would send them

down from Sydney. I pride myself very much on the good name which I have already got in Melbourne - something like yours in Cupar, for from the many money transactions which I continually have for either Mr. C. or Donaldson, and the punctuality with which I attend to them, that I think I may safely say that any order of mine would be cashed by any Banker or Merchant in Melbourne. The ^{books} Journals I get, but not very regularly, as I may get one say, of February and the next of December, but that depends on the vessels. Now and then there is an odd one missing. I trust and beg that you will send them regularly. I wish I were at home for a short time - what a number of little odds and ends I would pick up to bring out with me. I am sorry that I did not bring a gun, - had Mr. C. not taken compassion on me and left me one when he went away I do not know what I should have done, as it would be dangerous to live here alone without plenty of arms. Somehow or other I was not astonished to hear of Uncle William's failure. It is really very hard on poor Charlotte and Aunt Browne and also on Uncle Simon, he is by far too good natured and obliging. I however trust that Uncle W. will be so honorable as to strain every nerve to repair the losses. What would Charlotte think of a trip out here, but joking apart, I wish she were here after my house is built only that I am afraid she would not remain with me long. I must now draw to a conclusion for want of paper, tho' I have a great deal more to say, but you would not like to pay a triple postage for such nonsense. I was sorry to hear of poor Thady's illness, but your next letter relieved me of all anxiety. This of course is a joint letter to all, and

I hope that my mother, C. and Jane will accept it as if it had been addressed to each separately. You are always asking for long letters - I think that you will never ask for one again after this miserable production. Adieu,- my best blessing is for you all.

JAMES.

22nd. August, 1839.- Since I wrote this letter, I have waited patiently, or rather impatiently, for an opportunity to send it to Sydney in order to have it forwarded home, but until this day I have not had one. There is a ship just about to sail for Sydney, so that I have just but to seal this and gallop in with it. I know there will be a great number of blunders and mistakes in it as I have not had time to read it over and it was written in a hurry. I forgot to mention that I had sent a parcel of newspapers to you along with a like number of letters to some of my quondam companions by the ship ^{the *Meridian*} "M.L." I did not write to any of you as she was going round by Calcutta and would not be home for a long time. I know I shall get a scolding for not writing sooner, but it was not my fault, however, I hope that the length of this epistle will compensate for the length of time that has elapsed since my last. Write soon, and give my kindest love to all my friends. I shall write soon again.



