

101 William St

Melb[?]

9[?] Decr[?] /91[?]

My dear Padre,

I break the long silence there has been between us to write you on the eve of Xmas and the New Year, and to wish you and yours all the happiness and content I desire that time to bring to them. Now that another notch is about to be cut on the Stick of Time we think of sad days and of those dear to us who are still spared, and try and think of how "the strong god Circumstance" has really dealt with us.

Since I last wrote you there has been nothing of moment[?] happen to me. I have been confronting certain difficulties, and doing the best to get over them. I am glad to say I have succeeded somewhat in this, and I trust next year will be more propitious. I owe you £ 1.15. 0 [?] still in respect to money you advanced. I have brought myself to put off the return of this to next month. You see I am still guilty of a certain dilatoriness[?] of character.

I saw Dobbie[?] when over here. I met him accidentally in the Street near the office, where he was looking for some peace. He had been several days in Melb then; and I thought it rather lacking in cordiality that he had not troubled himself to see me, and wasn't even then[?] thinking about it apparently. On the eve of departing he called at the office with Furcham[?]+[?] that was all I saw of him.

I saw Dawson both on his going through Melbourne and on his return. His holiday appeared to have done him a lot of good, and he determined that we should have one evening together, on his return. We had dinner at the Caffè d'[illegible] and saw a farcical comedy at the Bijou[?]. We had a long pitch[?] on many matters, of which probably he has told you something.

G B E has been for some time in Qland. at Brisbane on the business of Peacock + Co'. At present he is in Sydney on similar account. He has written me from both places, and finds life in lodgings very dreary. He says he is going to get wife + family up to Sydney where he is likely to stay some time. I think George is restless and dissatisfied in his present position; but he gives no sign of abandoning it yet.

I see next door[?] to nothing of Walter. F.G. comes to our house sometimes. She was there yesterday + stayed till this morning. She has been distinguishing herself recently in Melbourne literary circles. particularly by a paper on Cleopatra read before the Austral Salon + the Shakespeare Society. A lecture on the interpretation of art has been well received. She is supporting herself entirely by her literary work, and is having a pretty hard [illegible] of it. She never visits Walters house, as she says Mrs G Juror[?] will not let her and influences Walter in many other objectionable ways. I do not know Walter's wife, but I hope she is better than Miss G makes her out to be.

Mrs W and Wui[?] are well. Wui[?] has been successfully weaned, and completed his 1st yer on 11th just. We are going to "Wanedite"[?] Station at Xmas, and probably from there for a little while to

Port Campbell, where the "Lock Arid" was wrecked. This trip will be restful and economic—[?] both desiderated[desirable?] .

Present kindest regards and wishes to Madre, Esma, Alex and all of them from Mrs W' self[?], and in hope that you will take a good and well earned respite from business.

Believe me dear Andrew

Ever affectionately Yours

JG Whitton [Signature]

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