

18071

P.S. Has thou any remedy for snake bite besides cuttg. out & cauterising?. a large one to my great concern my wife tells me was under & about our house lately: -she watched for it with a stick but did not see it – alas. But as a forlorn hope in case, I shd. like to have any remedy at hand that thou can advise.

[Added at top of page]

Sofala - Turon R^d. –

9/mo/59

u

My dear Friend

Dr. Story

It is now some time since I wrote to thee but both by my dear wife & self has they visit been held in very pleasant remembrance, both for the personal intercourse, - & for its far higher object. I am by no means clear whether I answered or not thy last letter: but not havg. It by me just now cannot recall; sh^d. it be so, I trust thou will excuse it, abt. the time of receivg. it being to us a critical & anxious time, but I bel^e. on thinkg. over it I did reply shortly after receivg. it. – We were both much pleased to hear from thee again. The “Rooty Hill” Sawmill wh^h. seemed to promise so well to us, - failed at last primarily thro’ lack of means, it having required a much larger outlay in sevl. ways than my employers had anticipated. A kind of arrangement. was made with the larger creditors, the concern was sold under sheriff’s writ really to 2 or 3 of these cred.^r) & one of the late partners installed as manager. They offered me terms, both in pay & position very different from my late & in the former certainly not what ought to have been; I did my best to alter them (it being ab^t. the pay of a workg. Engineer whilst they allowed that they required & that I was fully entitled to be really their responsible manager of the whole machinery part) - but failing to do so, told them that I sh^d. take them for a time only: - upon the issue of the Government. Rept. of the Fitzroy Gold field, I left with a young Friend L Alsop formerly of Whitehaven: - we had upon the whole a most delightful & interesting trip, altho’ it failed as a mere matter of business; - altho’ duty to my much loved little family will never allow much time in an ordinary way to follow some of those tastes & particularly in natural history so natural and charming to me, yet when opportunity lawfully offers I deeply enjoy those scenes where the foot of man does not often tread, -where [page break] Nature’s rarities & choicest beauties are to be found. And [illegible] may judge therefore that about 100 miles river tracking, - the first 50 in a small steamer, - & the last 50 in a sailing boat furnished many new objects: chiefly wild flowers: but the whole character of the country was to me novel & beautiful: - rich river banks, - tropical foliage, - every beach & nook alive with water fowl: - we saw one alligator lazily crawl off the bank into the water at the mouth of a small creek or opening into a lagoon, many large land lizards & several water snakes, ~~on our~~ [?] it may interest thee to know that we did wash out for curiosities’ sake a few specks of gold, it being easily found in minute quantit^s, but finding so poor a chance from our walks & careful consideratⁿ. of all we cld. see & hear on the [illegible] we

judged it not worth while ei^r to buy tools or stay, & theref^e after a few more walks amongst the ranges once more took steam for home. – Favoured to reach safely, & nothing offering just then, I soon decided not to lose time, I with the same companion (after ab^t a week's rest) started for here. Rather curiously the day after we left home came A. Dewy [?] to our cott^e, to ask me to go up to the iron mines with him wish^g in some shape or other to get me into that affair, - & in 2 or 3 days after wife's letter telling me of this – came me from E [illegible symbol, possibly crossed out] Palser that Jmo [?] Moring ^my^ had bespoken me a situation on the Railway, & that I was at once to go down to make formal applicatⁿ, to manage a valuable machine (wh^h I bel^e. Is now shipped & part way here) as soon as it arrives, - I see no sense in tak^g any situatⁿ just to throw it up agⁿ in a few mos. - I have all along wished, to (if I may so speak) acquire a character for habilit^y: - I believe it to be the sound one that will stand time's test: in opposition to colonial changefulness, wh^h how^r must be admitted to be often unavoidable. It seemed therefore best to try this wh^h is so easily taken up, & laid down at briefest notice, if I c^{ld}. At all make a living out of it:- this I am thankful to say we have thus succeeded well in doing. after sundry trials in varied kinds of ground we took up an old shaft abt. 30 ft. d. that had been partially worked [page break] before, followed up one tunnel & struck out another; & the yield has thus far been tolerably steady, & with times of partial richness: thus the week bef^r last it gave us nearly £1 pr. day sd. & since the first wk has always yielded more than a comfort^e living. for the 2 digging bees up & the patient wife bee & her dear little charges at Rocky Hills. I bel^e I scarcely need to tell thee that it is no small trial to us to be thus separated, but happily there is a daily post from Bathurst ^to Lyones^ 3 times a wk. fr. Sofala to B. so by parcels & correspond^e ab^t. twice a wk, we know pretty well ea. o^rs. lot; - Shortly after that place failed it pleased the Great Giver to take from us our youngest little one my namesake: ab^t 4 mos. old. We both felt it much, his mamma (like all true mothers with a child still at the breast) deeply; - the other two [illegible] are I am glad to say much favoured in health, & are indeed a treasure to us: I often send them a pressed flower or a hasty sketch of some cur^s insect, how we dig & wash out the gold to, & I hear they are delighted when a "letter fr. Papa" comes & eagerly ask if, P. has sent any flowers or drawings for Minna and Willa; - Willie is beginng. to talk well now & both are very eager I hear to learn their letters, whenever they find a larger one in a chance book turning to ask ~~abt~~ [?] "What this letter Mamma". We are just now ra^r wistfully awaitg. a 'box of letters' sent along with some other little kind tokens by ship to our home relatives for them. I have been much interested of late in ~~reading~~ observing the attention that seems to be awakening amongst F^{rds}. at home as to the state of the society, - hoping that under the Divine blessing great good may ultimately arise from it. Believe me it is no "hereditary or traditional" acceptance of Friends' principles that attracts me to them. – I have felt of late impelled to draw up a few particulars of F^{rds}. here to forw^d to the Editor; I bel^e that somethg. of the sort has been done before (I think S. Dalton told me he had done so or knew of it) – but my desire is after a few partic^{rs}. of their numbers & location to [illegible], - to draw the attention & good desires of F^{rds} at home & any here into whose hands it might hereafter fall to the scattered state outwardly & spiritually; - I had intended before I [?] left to seek the favour of copy of thy list of F^{rds}. in full; as I might some time find myself in Melbourne or elsewh^e & glad of it for other purposes:- & such obliged to thee if thou w^{ld}. give me a^{bt} the numbers so far as thou knows ~~af~~ For convenience & brevity, I have arranged the partic^{rs}. wished [page break] under several heads. I have been inspired over & over again, at how many, out here of one sort & ano^r, in various 'conditions in life', - & all manners of present [illegible] have belonged to, - or came from the Society, and often indeed has it, & does it – mournfully affect me, - to see how far they have fallen, - or wandered, - I will not say from that Religious body wh^h we both esteem & I believe love, - but from the one fold – the one true

shepherd. – immeasurably beyond any ideas of wealth, - & far before scientific or intellectual [illegible, crossed out] pursuits, - both of wh^h ^latter^ I was trained to & find deep interest in, - do I desire & crave to be made useful in gathering together the scattered ones, - & recalling to the precious truth. – I ~~believe~~ heard ab^t a week ago fr. E. Allen that her mother, our friend Ruth W & the family were well. Our pleasant & kindly intercourse with her as far as possible fully continues. – Lainl. [?] & and Mrs. Darton left a little while ago for Melbourne. I bel^e not quite decided as to their next steps. – Jos. Simms I am sorry to say lately had a severe illness but was recoverg. when I heard: Mr. Palser & famy. pretty well & as usual. Jms. Moring I grieve to say, F^{rds} found it right to disown. Thus by Mr Murnier's [?] death, J. Ms' disownmt. & the Dartin's rem^o ^val, what a thinning of our handful! But, ~~something crossed out~~ it is written that the prayer of even a few humbly faithful shall avail, & I yet trust to see in due time an awakening & gathering. At thy leisure I shall be glad to receive the particu^{rs}. ment^d, - & with much love to thyself & to all Friends - & "all who love the name of Jesus" in thy parts

I remain

Thy sincere friend

Theodore West.

Please address

Theodore West

Rooty Hills

care of Geo. Shields ^Mr Palser

~~Railway Tavern~~

Brickfield Hill

Paramatta

Sydney

~~It is a long address but unavoidable: it is the only way we have now of gettg. our letters~~ the mill mailbag is given up. I may leave here or be recalled any hour.

Obliged to

~~R Pastis~~

~~Richmond Coach~~

}