

Feb, 6. 1868

8.p.m.

Dear Brother,

On account of the dangerous state of the bar, the Harbours Master's boat came off this morning to advise us, that the Pilots did not think it safe to attempt to cross, but that we might have a chance to-morrow morning (Friday). It came again this evening, to tell me to be all ready at high water, 7.a.m. so I think now that we shall get away to-morrow. I hope so, too, for I am tired of laying here in the stream. It has been raining almost all day, heavily, with the wind from the south 'ard, but I hope that there will be a change before morning.

None of us have received any newspapers so do not forget to send some to the Mauritius. Cap. Walters (Sea Bird.) Cap. Fox, (Prarie). & Henderson (Bella Vista), are here. Freights for the Mauritius' are quoted at 32/. but I cannot say if that is obtainable. I heard to day that Cap. Rae is still in Sydney, I should not be surprised to hear that he is hard up. The vessel is making about 20 inches of water a day, but she has been a long time out of the water and may take up. If she does not it will be best to get her caulked in Mauritius, for labour is cheap there, and work well done. I am glad to say, as yet, nothing comes strange to me, and I am quite at home. She is very heavy rigged, our top. gallant sails being larger than the brig's topsails, I hope that we shall have a quick passage, and do a little good. I do not see any thing to prevent it. I bought a new sextant in Sydney, for £4. and an Epitome, for 8^s/6. I have given it, and my other sextant to Charley, so he has now an opportunity of getting ahead in Navigation, I have nothing else to write, except,

Goodbye, to all, W A Pearce