

C.4/C.196

90 Mercer St., Jersey City, N.J.

January 19, 1901.

My dear Sir:

In December, 1899, I was retired from active service on account of age, but at the same time I was promoted to the rank of rear admiral, and therefore did not suffer any reduction in pay. For a good while previously my health had been showing the effects of overwork, but I thought I could hold out until my retirement, and then I would be able to rest, and would soon recover. When the rest came

Hon. A. Inglis Clark,
Hobart, Tasmania.

it did not produce the expected effect, and in February 1900 I broke down completely from what the doctors call "nervous prostration". I then came here (to my Mother's house), and have scarcely been on the street since. The doctor, and the people about me, insist that I am getting better, but the process is so slow that I feel anything in the world but happy. I have lost nearly a year, which I had hoped to employ in finishing some of my scientific work, and preparing it for publication. In particular, I was anxious to get the work of all the United States transit of Venus expeditions ready for the press, because if I do not do it I fear it will never be done.

I had charge of all that work, and the computations were finished more than ten years ago, but instead of being allowed to prepare the manuscript for the press, I was put on other duty which occupied the whole of my time. Now I am anxious to finish the Venus work merely as a labor of love.

My object in writing this letter is to thank you for a copy of the Sydney Mail of Nov. 17, and possibly for a good many other papers which may be lying in my rooms at the Cosmos Club. You see all my mail goes to Washington, and as a rule only the letters have been forwarded to me here. I had intended to send you the Nation, but that also is lying in

Washington, beyond my reach at
present. However, I ^{hope} to be back
there soon, and then I will try to
straighten out things. Meanwhile
I remain, with kind regards to
yourself and family,

Yours &c.

Wm. Harkness.