

Government House.

Hobart Town. Oct. 4. 1838.

From Lady Franklin to her sister
Mrs Simkinson

Dearest Mary.

I wrote to my father a few days ago ^{by the "Wave";} the present letter will perhaps arrive as soon as the other. There are on board several people of our acquaintance; one is a recently formed one, & Mr Stewart, ^a naval surgeon, who was in charge of the last female prison ship; (the "Nautilus") two others are Capt. and Mrs Mackenzie of the 21st Fusiliers, a regiment which is now leaving our island for India, but the Mackenzies are going home on their way to Canada where they have property.

x x x x x x x x . They are worthy people. I believe, not particularly interesting, tho' he has on more occasions than one and especially in the last affair of Regan and his associates, distinguished

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himself by his activity in the capture of Bushrangers. The inhabitants of that district where they were taken, or which they had most disturbed, have presented him with a piece of plate in gratitude for his exploit; he will not be displeased if he finds you aware of all these circumstances. x x

With regard to Captain ~~Walker~~^{S.} of the "Lord William Bentinck," we were by no means enraptured with him in spite of Mrs Lee's glowing praises and in spite of his evident satisfaction with himself. We were ^{especially} struck, (as we often are with persons freshly arrived from England) with his tone of confidence and equality; so different from that which is habitual with those around us, tho' of higher rank than they. This is of course a very natural consequence of the novelty of their position, and of the habits of ours, but in ^{Captain S.} ~~capt. Walker~~, a much less correct, seemed at the bottom of it, but it looked more like ~~formal~~ ^{formal} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~vanity,~~ ^{vanity,} than mere ignorance.

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I am quite glad to hear that young Wheeler the Quaker is in better health. I had a nice old fashioned letter from the old man ^{his father,} with the printed extracts from his journal. I must give a sample or two of his style. — "Daniel Wheeler, under a grateful sense of that true and disinterested nobility and kindness, the remembrance of which, the mighty waters which now intervene, cannot quench, nor cause to be forgotten, hastens to forward per first vessel since his arrival in the land of his fathers &c. ~~W~~ * * — "The weather was at times very rough, but D. W. has long ago found out that ~~that~~ there is nothing like an interest in the Master of the Storm, who not only commands the raging tempest, but at his pleasure, rebukes it, and, lo! there is a calm, ^{and} the undulating waters are at peace. — D. W. and his son Charles, beg leave to assure Lady Franklin of their ~~un-~~ ^{= ceasing} regard and best wishes for herself and Sir John Franklin, desiring at the

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"same time that the malicious designs of unreasonable and wicked men may not be permitted to break in upon their tranquillity and peace of mind." ~~2 do~~

E I do not know how far Mrs Fry and Daniel Wheeler may associate together but I should think they ought to be mutually interesting. **P** I have never written to Mrs Fry and am afraid I must be very low in her estimation on that account. As for doing any thing with the women here, in the factory, it seems next to impossible, huddled as they all are together, and such impudent creatures, almost all of them, there in order that they may lie in, and then go to service again.

I think the whole system of female transportation, - and particularly, of female assignment in service, - so faulty and vicious, that to attempt to deal with the women who are the subjects of it, seems waste time and labour. I have been always looking to have a little leisure to give this subject more

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In the mean time, I have attended as much as I can to the recommendations of Miss Fraser of Camberwell, and endeavoured to obtain the information she desired of some of her former proteges, but ~~at~~ ^{as to} the last, I have not succeeded; To her also I mean to write, but I am overwhelmed with writing. In the mean time, perhaps a kind and respectful message ~~to~~ ^{could} be conveyed to her ~~through~~ ^{through} Miss Luggins, or some other channel. x x —

The Goulds have arrived, and seem nice sort of people. We were very anxious to pay them every sort of attention, and I wished we could have lodged them in the house; indeed some proposal or attempt of this kind was made, but domestic embarrassments obliged me to interrupt it.

I have not been able to get ~~from~~ Mr Gould who seems a very unassuming diffident
 The famous ^{ornithologist} painter and describer of Australian & other birds

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person, to call on me first, ^{though} ~~and~~ various hints have been given her. Whatever may be the cause, I am not disposed to quarrel with them about it, and I have invited them to accompany me in the Government Schooner to visit Port Davey, an interesting but somewhat inaccessible part of the Coast, where I am now building a small vessel of from ^{thirty} 35 to 40 tons for the service of my new settlement on the Huon. She is building at Port Davey, on account of the ^{timber called the} Huon Pine which abounds there, and which is particularly adapted to ship building purposes. On this account her name is the "Huon Pine". She will cost about 300 £, and it is probably money well laid out.

The Goulds are much pleased at the idea of this excursion, and seem to feel much interest in the country, and to admire its aspect and peculiarities. Our shrewd observer of manners, young Elliot thinks Mr Gould seems fully ~~conscious~~ conscious of his importance as a lion, and he is one

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of those who has no indulgence for any
-weaknesses of the kind. I have somewhat
more, and do not see why, a bird fancier
should come all the way ~~from~~^{to} the Antipodes
in pursuit of his peculiar game, and not think
the better of himself for it. x x x x x

I hope dear Louisa Hewing is by this
time in possession of my long letter, which was
begun before, and ended after, my tedious
illness. A letter I have written to my
Uncle must be now on its voyage. Tell
my Aunt I will write to her also, - but
nobody can tell how much I am occupied
and how many things I have to think
of. - All these are urgent and immediate,
the letters are not so. My freshest and
healthiest moments are given to the pressing
things. The moments of leisure are few,
and are generally those of exhaustion.

When the ship is going, and not till then,
the strong impulse is in exercise which
alone can suffice for the effort, but then
so often time fails. x x x x x

This letter runs on for 25 or 30 pages all about home & family affairs. WZB