Melbourne 5th Augt 1886

My dear Fader,

Walter & I were very sorry to hear of your reverse in the S H election. We had been led to believe that your prospects were so sure that it was only a question whether you or the working class would lead the poll. But disappointed, however, is blended with the assurance that these reverses appear to be such more upon the surface than when the matter is analyzed. Be hopeful. Have trust in the people though they appear fickle and adhesive to old forms and names.
They will reward your faith in time - albeit like yours so not recognized and appreciated at first by the mass. It takes some time to filter. Your motto must be "Unflustered unresting." I am sure you will take your defeat in a manly and philosophical way and I do not think of offering you any hysterical consolation.

I was surprised to hear that you were coming over en famille this month. This is not the best time to come over I think although I should be pleased to see you all at any time. It will not however be cool although the weather may be dull and possibly rainy having regard to the exceptionally dry season.
that was serious prevailed. I consulted Walter to ask questions about hotels. As he knew Wimpole and knew the hotel of the George, he undertook to see him last night. It was thought better that he should do this as he knows him well and is under certain obligations with to him, and Walter is therefore likely to make better terms for these reasons. Just before posting this I have received a note from Walter in which he says he is writing you fully on this subject by the present mail. His letter therefore will answer your enquiries.

Thanks very much for the programme of the 4th and the papers you forwarded to me. I followed the incidents of the election with great interest.
and am pleased with the good impression you evidently made manifest your defeat. The 14th gathering was very limited in point of number, but of the quality made up for it it must be regarded as on a par with previous meetings and I feel very glad to think so.

I have suffered for 3 weeks with a distressing and unconquerable diarrhoea. I feel very worn and depressed but made head against my mental and physical aches as much as I can. As Mark Tapley said there is some credit in being sick under some circumstances and when you have your opportunity it is best to try and come out strong.

Looking forward to next year personal greetings and with affectionate regards to you. Ever yours 1833.