

101 William St
Melb
13 Sep. 1905

My Dear Andrew,

I have your letter of 8th incl. [enclosed]

I was pleased to meet poor old [Ted Piesse's] son in Melbourne – Matt Simmons sent over a letter of introduction with him.

Am rejoiced to hear that you intend paying us a visit at beginning of next year. It would be still better if you were coming this year, but we must "take the goods the gods provide us". I share the hope with you that you will on this occasion be able to give some time to your friends – and not be the shooting and pre-occupied meteor of a day.

Through a letter Willie B wrote me when I was ill I am to look forward to his appearance in Melbourne later on this year, accompanied by Don his eldest scion who has not yet seen Melbourne. If these visits prove faits accomplis, it will be quite a revival, and I shall have to bring the things that were from out the pearl cabinet where they repose swathed round with the calm of the past.

I read some portions of your first edition of Constitution Studies – I notice your literary sentences are still rather long. If your judicial ones were the same, it would be rough on the culprits. Forgive the feeble joke. I am going to read the second edition and hope to speak more seriously about it to you some day.

I have one of the books in the Commonwealth Law library I am [forming] in the office. I have also read your [contributions] to the "Commonwealth Law Review" which is also a feature in the foresaid library - I am sorry that the Constitution Studies did not pay better – I understood some time ago from Maxwell's that they had a very satisfactory sale in the American States. By the [way], I have not thanked you for the papers including the well-remembered old "Christian Register" which you sent me when I had to spend those painful weeks in bed. That was an original and well thought out article upon Browning in the New York paper – at least it so shaped itself to me. But then, I am not anything in the nature of a Browningite.

I sincerely trust that your silence on the subject of the health of all at your house means that it is satisfactory.

Am pleased to say that I have now recovered – that my wounds healed at the first intention as they say; and I have no reason to fear a recurrence of this dire trouble.

I have not yet seen the wattle in its native [?] but I have seen fine cut specimens of it in Melbourne – at the Bot. (Botanical) Gardens. I notice all the acacias are dressed in the gold which "trembles 'tween shadow and shine".

With kind regards to Madie and all the olive branches from Mrs W & myself

Ever yours affectionately,

J. G. Witton