

55 William Street,

Melbourne 18 Decr 1886

My dear Andrew,

You will have learnt from my letter to Madie lately that I was in much doubt as to whether I could come over at Xmas - This doubt has been quite resolved - I shall not be over at Xmas - This, however, does not mean that I am not to get a holiday and that I don't intend to come to Tasmania - The fact is a number of the staff at the office are going away at Xmas - there is a dreadful amount of work in the office, and through the death of

Buckland Whiting prospects
of getting a holiday are more
remote than ever - Under
the circumstances I have
foregone my holiday at
Omas and arranged to take
it farther on some time
during the vacation in
January if possible - If
things are right then I shall
try and have a look
at the old faces.

Walter told me the
other day he might go to
Hoford about the middle of
January in connection with
business concerning his
lumber - but he is so
dreadfully uncertain that
I don't attach any seriousness
to what he says. Should
it turn out so we might
come together - I am
unable to regret that I am
unable to partake of your

well remembered hospitality,
and mingle in the Annas
gatherings and greetings which
will cluster round Rosebank
- but so it is - the spirit
is willing - but the creature
of circumstance is weak.

That I want some holiday
I feel plainly enough -
I am exhausted and
apathetic, and the weather
is trying in the extreme.
I remain in the hope of
seeing you later on.

I am glad you were
pleased with your books.
The 2nd vol of Garrison
has not turned up yet.

I have next door to
nothing else to say about
myself, and I couldn't
make outside commonplaces

for the life of me - Dave
has also increased the
measure of my anxiety
as he has done absolutely
nothing for some two or
three months and does not
seem to have much prospect.
Comment on this state
of affairs is needless.

Give my warmest greetings
and wishes to Willie, Bobbie
May & others of the circle
for all happiness at Amastide
kiss the chickens in token
thru' and receive the same
in the most heartfelt way for
Mads & yourself, & believe
me to be

Dear Andrew
Ever affectionately yours

J. W. M.