

55 William Street,

Melbourne 30 June 1886

My dear Andrew,

I hope you  
got the Magazine brought by  
the last post. I am

glad to find from Mrs. G's  
very welcome letter that  
you got the photos I sent.

I very much regret  
that I shall not be  
represented on Fourth of July  
celebration by any contribution  
towards the enthusiasm of  
the evening - when you suggested

that I should write something for  
the brotherhood. I caught at  
the idea and I shortly had  
a conception which I have  
mentally sketched out and  
even written some of the  
verses in my head -  
Unfortunately I have had an  
anxious press of work for  
some weeks past, and my  
spare time has been taken  
up with relatives, chess,  
and other social engagements  
which I have not been  
able to escape - In addition  
to this my head has been  
bad, and the excitement of  
practical composition was  
too much for me - I regret  
my silence on this occasion,  
but I am sure that you &

The Brotherhood will accept  
my paternal wishes for a  
successful & harmonious night,  
& will know that I am  
& that the Cause is still dear to me  
with you all - In these  
sentiments Walter joins.

Mr. Francis Knowles Miller,  
the much-examined - much  
plucky - much unabashed young  
man - is now in Melbourne  
and favors me with his  
attentions - Commenting on the  
death of Collier he said  
he (Collier) had frequently  
stated to him "Oh! Miller,  
you'll never get through while  
I'm alive" - And as Mr Miller  
jocosely observes, "The old cock  
was as good as a prophet!"  
He will be over in July to  
undergo his usual ploughing.

The Examiners would make much  
out of ~~them~~ <sup>time</sup> in fees, will they?  
But perhaps they don't look  
over his papers - Very exhausting  
proceedings, truly!

You will be glad to hear  
that I have looked up  
financially since I last wrote,  
now, as my principals, in a  
very handsome manner, and  
quite unsolicited, have raised  
my salary to £250 p.a.  
This is very good considering  
the short period I have been  
in the office -

I write to Willie next -  
Tell him I have received his  
disregards (per Mrs G) and that  
he can leave off looking through  
the obituary notices of the Melbourne  
papers, as I am still alive.  
Give my thanks to Mrs G for her  
kind letter, and with love to all.  
Believe me always affly yours  
Johnston