

2 Balmoral Terrace
 St Vincent Place
 Melbourne
 4 July 1885

My dear Andrew,

Your last favor
 duly received - I should
 have answered it ere now,
 but what with indisposition
 (arising from a bad attack
 of influenza) and a press
 of office work at the close
 of the half year, I have
 had little time or inclination
 to do anything.

I mislaid the small ase
 due to Robertson, and when

I called to pay it they could
not trace it in their books
& did not care to take
the money without discovering
the debit. Directly I find
the etc I will pay it.

This is the period of
the year when, perhaps, I
feel loneliest in Melbourne.
I think of the goodly gathering
which is to take place
where I have been so
often privileged to be,
and this large city seems
very depopulated for me.

I send you some lines
to be used in connection

with the tract of Australia.
They are imperfect and
crude, and written just on
the eve of writing this letter.
I send them now as a
token of what I would
do, and my undiminished
regard for the cause.
If you agree with me that
they are an imperfect offering
put them on one side;
but do not forget to convey
my congratulations to all
the brothers, and tell them
I shall be undoubtedly in the
spirit with them on Monday
next. In these sentiments
the other child, Walter, joins
with enthusiasm.

Give my warmest regards
to Mrs C. I am a long time
fulfilling my promise to
write her a letter - She will
not, I am sure, attribute
this to any forgetfulness
of her and her many
kindnesses - A few kisses
for the children who I hope
are, with Mrs C, quite well.

Maternal salutations to Willie
Loobie, Ivey & Edwards.
The first named quite well.
I fear sometimes it must be
otherwise he remains so quietly
silent.

Trust the evening of the
6th will be an unqualified
success. Believe me, dear and dear
ever affectionately yours
Alfred Stone