

C4/C347

2 Balmoull Yeor  
St Vincent P S  
S meet  
8 Nov 185



My dear Pedro, I trust you will excuse your  
 indulgence to ~~my~~ me for my very long absence  
 from writing & will not deem that it indicates you  
 & yours & the circle are absent from my thoughts.  
 The winter has been an exceedingly trying  
 one for me. I have been more or less unwell  
 during the whole of it. For a period of 3  
 weeks I was very so so, and at one time  
 was afraid I was going to have trouble with my  
 lungs. Happily, I did not; and the warmer &  
 lighter weather now about us is doing me  
 much good both physically & mentally. In the  
 last 2 weeks I have had an excessive amount  
 of office work - indeed last week I was working  
 from 12 to 13 hours a day. This means a little  
 money, of course; but it is dreadfully wearing.  
 I am testing on my oars today in order to  
 have a little energy left for the Chess Match  
 with N. S. W. tomorrow in which as I daresay you  
 may have noticed I am one of the 'colours'.  
 This mention of Chess reminds me  
 that Walter gives a singular reason for my  
 silence - absorption in Chess matters - this is  
 scarcely correct - I devote very little time to chess  
 beyond what I am paid for, and this devotion  
 is very far indeed from an absorption - Moreover,  
 it does not form the reason why I have

not seen very much of Walter of late. This, in the greatest measure, is due to his own engagements - I have frequently tried to get hold of him on Saturdays with no success; and I had, for instance arranged to see him this afternoon and received a note at midday that he was not likely to be able to come - I mention this matter for I do not wish you to think that I spend my days and nights at the chessboard - The game has <sup>value</sup> brought me friends & money here; but these <sup>value</sup> advantages would be largely discounted if they were obtained at <sup>the</sup> such an expenditure of time.

I have not thanked you for the numbers of the Round Table Series you kindly sent me - I do so now - I have ~~an~~ read Whilman & Emerson - The first, though the author writes in a somewhat unevath diction, (somewhat apropos perhaps) is real grit, and finely appreciative. The other is much better workmanship in style, & both that and its critical insight pleased me very much - The other two I have not yet read - Walter has them - He was also delighted with the two I have read. We found that this series was not obtainable in Melbourne.

I generally go to church on a Sunday morning but I rarely say anything to Walter or any of the congregation. I stuck up Mrs Givner <sup>to</sup> Walter on <sup>the</sup> other Sunday and sought some information about Mrs Webster. I learnt that she was quite well but appeared to be desirous of being left alone in her wanderings. I also enquired after ~~her~~

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Mr. Webster (John) and Mrs. Turner smilingly  
informed me that she had made no reference  
to him so the presumption was he was  
all right - His defects, and not his virtues  
will secure him publicity at her hands -  
"John" is doubtless contented if he gets his  
proper vegetarian diet and is not bothered by  
steam whistles which appeared to be his  
especial abhorrence - She has not written Y.G.  
but she writes you?

The attendance at the Church continues  
to be large, and Waters appears to be in  
great favor with the large majority. The erection  
of the new Church will be shortly proceeded with.  
It will be more than double the size of  
the present tabernacle. As you get "Modern  
Thought" you will know what the programme  
of his addresses for this month is so I  
do not send you one. I have not seen  
the contributions of the "Minerva" to this paper.  
Have any appeared? Don't forget when you  
write to tell me how the old club is progressing.

I am very sensible of your kindness  
in the trouble you took about Dave. With  
your last letter I received one from Murray &  
Watchorn offering him a situation on terms  
which you were aware of - Dave is not in a  
situation yet, but it will not be decided till  
some time next week what answer to send to  
their offer. There are several things in view  
one of which would take him into a new line  
of life altogether, and away from Melbourne.

24/03/07  
This is a critical period in his life and  
a pebble will turn the current of his  
career - If he can enter upon a calling  
which will afford more ultimate prospect  
for him than office work I should not be  
anxious for him to go into the drudgery  
of a Solicitors office. It is a great way  
towards success the doing of work congenial  
to ones tastes and if there is an available  
method of putting him on this way with  
some reasonable remuneration to commence  
with it would be best - Personally I  
would rather he were at home and if  
he could get some fair salary in Hobart  
it would be more helpful to them than  
if he got it abroad. Besides although they  
have not said so I feel sure my mother &  
sisters parted with no little sorrow with the  
only boy left - I will let you know directly  
it is definitely decided what to do.

I saw Stops when he was in Melbourne  
and went to the "Royal" with him one night.  
I showed him a picture from his symptoms that his  
complaint is meningitis. I'm afraid he'll not be  
up to much work after this. Please give him my  
best wishes if you tumble across him - Mrs  
Mary Ann Wise was with him and explained to  
me that on receipt of the letter I wrote to her  
in England she spoke to Shand who saw that  
precious Fabius old Patten who told him he  
had (out of regard for his own costs) decided



to act as Bondsman for the administration  
under the Chancery suit. As I have heard  
nothing from you I presume you have had  
no communication from him either about  
the suit or the sale of the reversory  
interest. Mrs Wise tells me Patten is a  
poor wretch and that she has reason to  
believe it was an unhappy chance which  
led to his selection as your agent in this  
matter. Five years have elapsed since the  
Jarndyce suit dragged us into its coils.  
If there were some respectable sum at  
issue I should take means to deal  
with Patten sternly and summarily; for  
I feel persuaded she has acted badly in  
the conduct of the agency.

When am I to have the pleasure  
of a letter from Mrs Clark? Will not her  
domestic cares remit sufficiently to enable her  
to give me a few lines? Perhaps her silence  
is part of the punishment to be meted out to me  
for my own silence towards the circle - If  
so I cry peccavi and Madie must relent.  
Please convey to her these reflections with my  
best love and unchanged regards. Nurses and  
children - chess to Emma, Alice, Anne, John, & Wendell  
(this is a fine thing in speaking parlance)  
with hopes that they think of "Buddie Joe" now & then  
- these <sup>hopes</sup> does not apply to Courtenay & Wendell.  
Give maternal greetings to Willie, Lobbie, Joey  
& others. I will make myself known to some of them  
soon by letter. And so dear Andrew good night.  
It waiteth late. I feel tired and there is hard work  
before me to-morrow. With best love regards  
ever affectionately yours  
J. W. Mason