

C4/C329

2 Balmoral Terrace
St Vincent Place S
South Melbourne
12th Oct 1883,

My dear Andrew,

I am happy to say that, as I advised you yesterday by cable, I have cemented the contract with Conway. I had two interviews with Smythe yesterday, in the first of which I submitted the guarantee, and in the second, after some discussion, it was agreed that Conway accepted the guarantee, should lecture on four consecutive nights about first week in November, and that Smythe should accompany and perform agents duties - a form of telegram to this effect was settled between us and

I wired you immediately - at
the first interview I felt a little
doubtful about the result -
You will observe that Smythe
in his letter to me distinctly
says he wants a guarantee of
to go and does not say whether
this is gross receipts or not.
This point occurred to me
before I wired you but Smythe
had then left Melbourne and
I did not wish to lose time.
I was glad therefore that your
telegram was distinct on this
point, as I should, in making
terms with him have had this
very important question distinctly
settled & this would have
probably involved more communication
with you & delay. On learning
the terms of your reply, Smythe
said he meant in his letter

that you should engage him
& ~~guarantee~~ ^{pay} him ~~to go~~ ^{to go} ~~for~~ ^{deso}
the four lectures, and that he
(Smythe) did not contemplate
going himself. I pointed out
that his letter ^{to me} did not stipulate
for an engagement on these
terms and that it was
perfectly absurd to think that
you would pledge yourself to the
uncertain expenditure which this
involved. I also insisted
that he must go himself
& work up the puffing. As
to the date of lecturing that should
be such as should come in
with his plans and engagements.
I was much relieved to find
in the afternoon that he had
come over to all our requirements,
Company will go to Adelaide on
the completion of his Victorian
course & thence via Melbourne

to Tasmania, winding up at Sydney whence he leaves for home on Decr 4th as notified in Smythe's letter to me.

The choice of lectures will be the next thing to decide upon. The prospectus I sent you gives the lot - Smythe suggests that these three should be included.

Woman & Evolution
Law of arrest & development
in Religion
London.

The ^{latter} lecture he says to a deeply interesting one, and would form what we might term the popular one of the series. I would not advise you to include "Emerson" - it is a poor one - "Carlyle" is better but not knocking over by any means. "Mother Earth" which I heard last night, has some

fine things in it, and is the most characteristic one I have heard next to the Law of Arrest &c - These remarks of mine of course are merely by the way; but I expect you & the others will have no little difficulty in making a selection. I am only positive about the wisdom of including one lecture & that is "The Law of Arrest &c", and perhaps it would be as well to put "London" in also as not being such caviare to the general. Smythe was facetious about the requirement for him to "accompany", & wanted to know whether it was to be on the piano - It might be as well seriously to let his managerial instinct accompany in the way of choosing one lecture. I was much annoyed

that you should have been put to trouble and expense with regard to your reply stating terms. I had expressly guarded against this contingency by having my name and change of address sent to the office in a printed form used on such occasions. It now turns out that in consequence of some informality this notice was returned by the office to the Lady of the house, and I was not apprised of this. Hence the information was not in the office when it was most particularly wanted. It was known by the neighbors where we had gone to, and if the messenger had acted with ordinary gumption no delay need have occurred. I mention

these facts to show that it
was not my want of foresight
that caused the bother.

Since I last wrote Conway
has sat to Gutter & Co and
I have secured a cabinet
which I send herewith -
There is a full face one,
but I chose this as I
consider it a perfect likeness
and one giving a truer idea
of the man than the other

Believe me

dear Andrew

Ever affectionately yours

J. G. W. Brown

P.S. Since writing the above
which has been delayed in
consequence of missing the post,

I am in receipt of your letter
acknowledging receipt of my wire
intimating Conway's acceptance
of guarantee. I have also seen
Symke and he thinks that
the Gasmanan Hall would be
the most suitable place to
engage, & he will write you
very soon - He is not in
a position just now to say
whether Conway will go to
Hobart direct or via Launceston.
He leaves for Adelaide on
Wednesday next -

By the bye, tell Willie to
remember me to Kogg & to tell
him I received his prompt letter
& hereby withdraw my objections
on his dealouness -

A.G.W.