

C4/C337

2 Balmoral Terrace
St Vincent Place &
South Melbourne
24th Febry 1894

My dear Andrew,

I duly received your letter enclosing PO order for 10/- for which thanks - this leaves a balance of 4/6 to your credit

Since the receipt of your letter I have devoted some time to poring over round in the second-hand Palaces of Intellect and I regret to say I have not been able to get what you require. - Sole of the Book arcade has an edition of Ferdinand & Is in 2 Vols pub by Routledge & stamped cloth & small print 3/6 vol. This edition has a cheap & gingerbread look about it and I don't think it would suit you at all. Scott has got an edition of Ferd & Is in one Vol (Routledge) new & recent for 3/6 - The latter has also got an edition of 3 Vols (Routledge) of the History of the Conquest of New Mexico this is new & undated and he will sell for 8/6 - If you cared for this history it would be a very

good collar. I can also get from Alexander
an edition as good as new in two
Vols cloth (white edge) of Philip II for
£1 a vol. All the booksellers inform
me that Percotts histories come into
their stock rather rarely, but if the
volume you require ^{turns up} ~~is~~ now they
will reserve it.

During the present year I have
only seen Water 2 or 3 times. He and
his people have been in bad health,
and his office work he tells me has
been particularly onerous. You will
recalled he took a position in Klugenders
vacated by their Managing Equity Clerk
Mr Hodge, this has entailed upon him
a great deal of work of a character rather
new to him. Besides this he is supposed
to exercise some supervision in the Com
Law Department. In my last conversation
with him a week before last he told
me his health was better but he had
a faded look.

I have not much to chronicle in
my non little lot. I am still with J. J.
Wylburn on the same terms. He has
gone into partnership with his son and
this has caused me some extra work.

I have been elected a member
of the Victorian United Law Clerks'
Society - the subscription to which
is 10/6 a year. It will not be
unprofitable for me to be known
in these circles, and the proposed
objects of the Society are to assist members
in want of employment or money by
using the influence of the Society to
obtain them engagements and also to
assist them with loans on personal
security without interest. I attended
a quarterly meeting at the Alhambra
Queen's Bank Place - Mr Orlando
Bull Chairman of the Law Clerks to
Lisp Rivers of Huddersfield was in the
Chair, and there was plenty of wine
& spirits, fruit, cigars & the knocking
about after business harmony &c
was indicated in the end by a
the number present lessened the
inevitable smutty phase set in, in
which the Chairman particularly
distinguished himself. A manager from
from Blake & Higginbotham also had
unreportable eloquence with much rhetorical
power & nobody got tired. I may

interest you to know what my
drinking habits are. In the worst
place I have avoided liquor as
much as possible since I have
been in Melbourne, but inasmuch
as one must drink something now
and then I have restricted myself
to three drinks - French brandy
alone or with lemonade and
sometimes if the weather is chilly
rum and milk. Rum figures here,
but also a certain amount of true
religion, seeing that the scale is
framed. I flatter myself on very
fair temperate principles. Late hours
are my greatest bane. I rarely get
into bed before midnight, it seems
to matter little whether I go out
or stay in. If I stay in I write
and read, or there is a kick up
among the boarders. If I go to
Melbourne I never seem to catch
any train but the last one. These
are the general habits here. The
midnight train is generally crowded
up with people.

In my last letter to Willie I stated at length certain matters in the chess world here affecting me. I am Burns lieutenant in the Header chess column - now, and if either that or the Australasian chess column become vacant I should have a good show for the appointment, and such an appointment would mean a good increase in my income - about 2 quats a week. Andrew Burns is a very good type of Scotchman outside chess matters. In everything but chess he is amiable and generous, and can laugh attractively, when you begin to know him well, about many things, particularly of art, but he is a perfect tiger in the chess world - he cannot tolerate a rival - with him it is out or in. In the chess world he becomes divested of all his best qualities. This is strange, but nevertheless true.

It is likely that before the
summer closes you will have a
visit from a real live Victorian
Poet with whom I have become
on very good terms; this is
E. B. Houghran who is a member
of the Victorian Thousand Staff.
He lives in East Melbourne &
has a nice little wife and one
child a boy about 4 years old
You have probably seen some of
Houghran's poems. They appear
occasionally in the Australasian.
His style is rather of the light order
- almost tending towards vers
de société. but I consider he
has a genuine ring. He has
a delicate ear and a command
of pathos. The evenings I have
spent with him are some of the
best I have had in Melbourne. They
are slightly reminiscent of Kottlinger.
He is of an impulsive temperament.
Mrs H. makes a passable maîtresse
and Gerald makes up well for

Johnny - these set in a good
library of Books, have power
"to carry us back to old Virginia"
He knows I have written poems
and wants to see some, but I
have not shown him any, and
don't want to. He is very agreeable
with me and often reads me some
of his unpublished poems. He
is away at Phillip Island just
now, if he go on the Tasmanian
trip I shall take the liberty to
give him a letter of introduction
to you - you will be surprised
at his appearance - He is only
33 but his hair and beard are
heavily sheathed with snow white
hair - a peculiarity which he
says is hereditary.

The weather here has been
extraordinary for the summer.
Here and there there has been a
hot day but rain mist and absolute
wetness fill up the greater part
of every day. I have had
trouble especially with protracted ho-
wears

I saw Mrs Webster last Sunday,
She has not the number of the
Australasian Review. She does not
subscribe to it now - She
informs me that she will leave
for England at the end of the
year.

Just before posting this letter
the photographs of Rosebanks
and Göttingen come to hand.
My loving thanks for them,
they are excellent - I would
look at them for hours. It was
very good of you to send
them -

The date of this letter is
one that long ago I celebrated
in verse. I refer to it now in
prose but not the less do
I wish with my hearts best
impulse that you may have
many bright returns of that day.
God bless you and yours.
Give my warmest regards to Mrs
C and kisses for the children.
Tell Willie to write and tell Bobbie
I write to him soon Ever affectionately
A. G. W. Cotton