

22 C4/C29
1 George St. E. M.
26 Nov. 1874

Dear Clark-

This is the 26 Nov &
your last Pic is dated 8 Sep! ought
I not to be ashamed of myself? I am
some. I have a few excuses to offer
however & I hope you will admit of
their validity. In the first place I have
little or nothing to tell you, secondly,
there is nothing very pleasant in
telling even one's friends of disappoint-
ments & moody forebodings; these feelings
are best locked up in our own bosoms.
Lastly I have lately been, if not
exactly ill, at all events so indisposed
that both mental & physical effort
becomes unendurable. For the last 3
weeks - part of which time I have
been absent from the office - I have
been a martyr to a complaint in
which I can at least enclose G.W's

sympathy - viz. neuralgia - to teach the teacher - to much for my
excuses - I hope you will look over my sins as a correspondent give
me another chance -

I am in receipt of long kind letters from both Fulbourn & may
ask you never to remember me to them with the feeling. And towards
you of old, but, for the reasons I mentioned last, my correspondence
has got into arrears, it will be late to night before I clear off
those who are entitled to priority.

Your last I deemed lies before me - adopting a plan. My
old schoolmaster used to calculate. I will answer & recollect
before attempting to give you any news!

You commence by hoping that my present unsatisfactory position
would lead to better things - I too indulged in that hope but up
to the present time, it has been a barren one - I am in debt
you, despite strenuous efforts to alter the state of affairs. I dare
say I have applied for a score of situations since that time but
without success. Still I know that this will not last. Every week, better
my chance. By becoming known & appreciated. Meanwhile, things
go quietly & ignominiously pleasantly. My salary will be raised at 25%
if I stop - I get over my work each week satisfaction. make the
most of my opportunities than slow but sure, mastering the
Victorian law - no easy task by the way? I think told you that my
principals are both young men - one of them - Eggleston - a Jamaican
& an A.T. - The business is almost entirely common law & Agency - there are
many novel features I could dwell on, but I fear to weary you. However, I

may mention the fact that strikes ^{is} prominently & that is the carelessness with which things are done here - Two circumstances account for this - the principals leave a great portion of their work - a whole branch, such as common law - to the Clerk who has charge of such branch - His Clerk is one who has never passed any examination holds no certificate, but ^{or} as a general rule they will have nothing to do with persons, strictly speaking, qualified - but the principal reason is, I think, that this is only an example of the red-hot speed with which everything is rushed thro' here - they never stop to elaborate; as long as the work is somehow done, the matter settled, the bill paid & the deed registered within 15 mins after execution, they care little. Elaboration (of which I have had painful experience) has no place in their work - The mistakes I see almost daily would make old Allport's hair stand on end & my brother to rise out of his grave.

The language is vague bald & often inaccurate. The use is not always declared. the recitals incorrect & the operative words, parcels & conveyance always more or less incorrect. In three instances lately we have had to move the Court to get "Executors according to the tenor" appointed; & this in Wills prepared by Solicitors! Only to-day, we have an application for Probate refused by the Court on motion. because our Managing Clerk (a more than usually correct person) omitted in the preliminary advertisement to state that there was a codicil to the Will. I prepared the Brief & only made matters worse. because I used no draft & stated the matter correctly in the Brief (which was never looked at in the office after it leaves my hands) we; our Counsel, Purves, thus thought everything was as stated in the Brief & got a rap over the knuckles for wasting the Court's time. However no one was surprised. took it as a matter of course & the only difference is to the unfortunate client

-re the Quat. First, I have to complain that I have not rec'd the Oct + Nov
nos. + the Nov no. was not sent to a lady whose address I gave to J.M. Injuria
I hear from her that the last no was so highly thought not, of course, that
this surprised me. Well, since your last I have conferred with those friends
whose tastes are literary - very, very few in number, I'm sorry to ~~say~~
+ after revolving every scheme I can think of, have reluctantly come to the conclusion that
no efforts of mine would increase the ^{size} ~~number~~ to ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~work~~ a substantial benefit
for the Magazine. This is both a surprise + a disappointment to me. Of course we know
all along that the "ou raddoc" would never take to it, but I certainly did think that
in this large city there would be plenty whose sympathies it would enlist. Now I
think differently. Although there are many men who are identified with literature
still they are not to be got hold of for this purpose: This is such a curious place.
The feverish "forcing-house" element prevails all. The Universities are only for - with
few exceptions - for "exams"; another large section depend up literature for their bread;
+ even those who are aesthetic from inclination are so rushed + bothered that they
can only give sympathy. Remember, I only write thus for after careful cogitation, but
I dare say you have a pretty correct knowledge of the curious, composite state of
society here. Down to the truth of my remarks. As for the "great mass" they are worse
than in Tas. With perhaps a dozen exceptions the number of my leading friends are
from the fatherland; with the ~~and~~ others, this + other topics would be voted a bore or
worse. Still I hope that your somewhat gloomy forebodings with regard to the Magazine
are unfounded + that it may still, for some time at all events, lead the Van in its
career of merit. Needless to say I have done all ^{it} words could do, to forward, at least, its perusal.

Many hearty thanks ~~and~~ for your speech. I read it with keen pleasure not only
for its intrinsic merits, but for the bitter-sweet memories that it brought of the scene +
the emotions, thoughts, + doings that those two nights conspired up. Ah! that it were I miss
perhaps most keenly the friends I have left behind - Nothing like that presents itself here.
As to other matters -

My own life here I regard as a self imposed
Exile - Believe me, it has done & is doing me
good & when the term of my probation ends
I confidently hope it will find me better housed.
Let me give you a sketch of our - or rather my
daily life here - say, tomorrow.

We rise at 7.30. have the daily indispensable
shower bath - for it is getting very sultry.
Breakfast at 8 - down to office thro' the Fitzroy
Gardens - which are in beautiful bloom now -
down Bourke Stth & peg away at Routine till
12. or 12.30 - Then lunch with sundry friends
at one of the Cafes - The Post. Peanical smoke
& stroll, either in the Station, the Arcade, or
one of the quieter streets - back to office -
peg away till 4.30 (never later) & then a
walk home, generally solus, along the Banks
of the Yarra (of which to her place a
fuller description on request) & Botanical
Gardens & - some "home" - read or write till
6.45 - when we have dinner - After this another
Smoke - a stroll in the Gardens - or Fitzroy,
Richmond or Collingwood - a glass of beer
perhaps - always meet some Tasman! - home
early - about 9 - read or write till about
Midnight & then - Morphous - This quiet life
has its natural worth - I am better, healthier
& on the whole, happier, than I was in N. Town.
Sometimes of course this naturally varies - We
may have company, or spend the evening elsewhere,
but save Saturdays & Sundays, the picture is pretty true.

I am getting on well with my law
General Studies - have mastered Conveyancing
& the Transfer of Land Statute (RP Act).
Agency work - County Court law & Common
Law, I commence next week - Next week
too (tell Lucy this) I commence Scotland
Greek with Fred Edwards - I have almost
made up my mind to go in for the Feb'y
Matriculation. Carlyle & Emerson form
my general reading - Poetry I have done
little at - in fact you can well guess
I have little time for it - Other parts of my
spare time are taken up with preparing
my sisters M.B. for the press &c - Tell William
she desires to be remembered to him - with
sentiment - Has Tale & Poem coming out
next month in A. Journal ⁴/₇ copies of which
I will send him - Altogether, I am trying
hard to lead, in any one humble way,
"the gentle life" & hope to do something yet.

So many thoughts & ideas crowd
upon me as I write that with my limited
time I cannot help omitting many things
that I wish to tell you. however I must not
forget to ask you to keep me well acquainted
with the Trios' doings - especially, your own legal

Studied - to know generally how the
old place is getting on - &c

The subject of Religion I have abandoned
- depend for the present - but I thank
you warmly for the kind caution you
give me, the truth of which I admit.
Still, I must confess, I am "a doubter".

I wrote a long letter to the Frod (C)
which he has not answered yet - Please
remember me kindly to him, his brother
Halter - Should you see them - How is
Stops - the same tinterabulatory cuss?
To naivn too I should like to be rememb.

Oh, before I forget it, will you & the
others send me at intervals a newspaper
if not too much trouble. Also let me
know the amount of my indebtedness
to the Dead.

This is an unsatisfactory chaotic
affair letter but I must better it, so I
had better conclude with a hope that
you will repay good for evil in the way of
correspondence. I still keep a nook in
your affections for
Your faithful friend
W. Hill