

C4/C127

19 Caroline St, South Yarra,
9 June 1881

Dear Andrew,

I have not time to
write you more than a few hurried
lines to inform you of my proceedings
for the last few weeks, but as
my affairs generally are still in
a very chaotic state I must
ask you to forgive any lapses
or omissions in this epistle.

My mother & family
arrived here safely 3 weeks ago.
They stood the voyage very well
& are now all in good health.

They speak most gratefully of
the kindness shown to them by
Wilson, & yourself & Mr Clark &
I seize this opportunity of
thanking you all on their & my
behalf for your thoughtful care.

Please remember me most
 affectionately to your wife & to Milton
 & say that I hope some day
 to be in the happy position of
 being able ~~to~~ to require
 you. I trust you are all
 well & happy & hope that
 your paths through life will
 pleasant & prosperous. My heart,
 dear friend, is too full to say
 how proud & happy I am to
 find I still hold an endeared
 place in your regards & believe
 me I will do all in my
 power to draw still closer the
 bonds of friendship & esteem between
 us. I must not forget to be
 send my kindest regards to Burn
 Edwards & Jey. As soon as possible
 I mean to copy my correspondence
 with the first & last named.

To return^{3.} to the record of events
here :- For the first two days
I had to locate my mother
in lodgings & after considerable
trouble we^{then} succeeded in getting
a furnished house at this address
Here we have been moderately
comfortable - The house is small
but answers our immediate wants.
The expense however is something
startling; - £2. 10/- per week for
Rent, 8/- for expenses of living;
trains, omnibuses &c help to make
up a very heavy total - My
time has been busily occupied
with office duties & I have
not been able, until tonight,
to find any time for private
affairs - The Civil Listings have
just concluded & we have got through
a heavy list - Owing to this

I have not ^{As} been able to find
time for more than an occasional
hour or two to devote to
the duty of finding a suitable
house - My sister, however, has
been very busily employed in this
duty & we have at last pitched
upon a decent habitation in
Mindsa, whither we remove tomorrow
& the next day. More expense!
The furniture has to be removed
from the Customs shed & carted
to our future home as also have
the effects in this house. There
are fees to be paid for
wharfage, cartage, packing & unpacking,
fresh articles to be purchased
& many bills to be paid. All
these items have made so heavy
an incroad upon my slender
purse that I am reluctantly

Compelled to postpone payment of
the loan you so kindly made me
for another 6 weeks or so. I
trust this will not inconvenience
you, but if it does, please let
me know & I will manage
somehow to pay it off earlier.

Of course, you will not be
surprised to learn that my
brother is very dilatory in
contributing his agreed quota of
the expenses, but, poor fellow, I
cannot blame him for this as I
do not think his pecuniary
affairs are in a very
flourishing condition.

I suppose it will be
some days yet before we
are comfortably settled, but as
soon as we are I will
resume our correspondence—

I have to night been turning
over my books & papers to
find the copy of Milton's verses
alluded to by you, but cannot
trace it, although I distinctly
remember seeing it when I ~~was~~
was packing up my effects on
removing from Mrs Fairbairn's - I have
no doubt I shall be able to
obtain it shortly.

Fred. Edwards left our lodgings
about a month before I did
& I have only seen him once
since - I understand that he is
living comfortably with his sister
in Windsor near to the locality
whither we are removing, but I
do not think we shall ~~be~~
ever again be on intimate terms,
owing to circumstances which I
have not time to mention now, but
which you can doubtless correctly surmise.

briefly I have only time here to mention
that part of your letters which
relates to your professional prospects
in connection with myself. I am
at present so beset with cares
& difficulties that I am not in
a position to do more than say
that I have read your remarks
with mixed feelings of pleasure &
sorrow, - of pleasure to note your
prosperous career & of sorrow to
think that I may be debarred
from participating in that progress.
There are difficulties in the way
but I do not regard the
settlement of our family here as
a bar to our re-union -
They ~~can~~ ^{could} live comfortably here
if I returned to Tasmania, but
there are many things to be first
carefully weighed & considered - I
have been so long out of practice

in Tasmania that it would save
me some time, - a long time, to
qualify myself as your useful
partner, but these difficulties
may be overcome & the project
is too delightful to be readily
relinquished - Let me therefore
ask a great favor of you, viz
to postpone the consideration of
the scheme until the end of this
year next when I will, if
nothing goes wrong, re-visit you
in Tasmania & we can
then finally & exhaustively discuss
the subject. All I can now
do is to thank you, with
gratitude no words can sufficiently
express, for your disinterested kindness
in the matter. - There are
many circumstances to be taken into
consideration but most of them
will doubtless suggest themselves to you.

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My sister tells me to send
you Mr. Clark & Milton her
kindest & most grateful regards.
She will write to Milton as
soon as we get settled, but
at present she is very busily
occupied in household duties.
I am glad to see that
I maintain my usual good
health & spirits, although I
find that every succeeding year
makes me unpleasantly sensible
of the trying nature of this
most variable climate.
I have had very little
time indeed to devote to
literature but I hope to do
something this winter in that
direction & thus add to my
income. I will return to this
subject in future letters.

I have ¹⁰ not had but
little time to devote to
my love affairs, but you will
be pleased to know that
they are progressing very
satisfactorily. As I informed you
in one of my recent letters,
there is no necessity to resort
to extreme measures, in fact
I imagine that I am not
an unwelcome guest at Albert
Park - I mean to the young
lady's parents.

I intend to have
my photograph taken shortly
& will send you a few
copies for distribution.

With the exception of
matters previously referred to
my life has been rather
monotonous & I have nothing

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of interest to Chronicle, even
as regards professional matters.

I note that your
prediction as the misdemeanour,
you defected lately, was verified
& that you received ~~an~~ acquittal.
Another feather in your professional
Cap.

I will conclude by
reiterating the expressions of my
Thanks & affectionate remembrances,
& trusting to hear from you
soon, remain

Ever your affectionate friend

J. H. Hill

A. S. J. Clark Esq
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