

"Wauston House" Henry B.,
 Windsor, 12 Augt 1881

Dear Andrew,

This letter is written to inform you of my proceedings since the date of my last letter & to give you an insight into my intentions & plans—

We have been in our new home 2 months & are now comfortably settled— I have got through a lot of miscellaneous work devoted to the purpose of putting the place in order, both inside & outside— The garden takes up my Saturdays (and I tell it not to be, since 'find) my Sundays— I have also disposed of many long standing arrears of correspondence, annotations, memos etc & can now spend

my evenings in uninterrupted
work. The programme from
day to day is much about
the same: The usual exhausting
fagging at the office; home
to tea; noting up the days work
& the knowledge gained; then
briefs or preparations for the
days morrow's engagements
then correspondence. If, after this,
time & the weather permit, I
stroll round to the residence
of Mackenzie or Edwards (both
of whom live within a stone
throw) & play Chess or "Shite"
home about 11; then literature
(at present Aweona Leigh) &
then repose - Sometimes I take
my mother or sisters out &
return early. You will be glad
to learn that my people
are all well & in fair spirits.

They go out frequently & the change has evidently worked much good in them. They desire to be kindly remembered by you & Milton.

If this were all, there would be nothing amiss but I confess to being oppressed by a feeling of restlessness & of a desire for change which is overmastering. My office work daily gets more arduous & I see no other prospect than an unvarying round of toil & unremunerative activity. I am very, very lonely. I have not a single friend. Edwards & I do not maintain an intimate cordial & there is no human being here to whom I can unbuckle my cares. I cannot help thinking that

The future is a blank & I can see no outlet, like most weak natures I pine for sympathy & so it comes that ever & anon I afflict you with my groans. Heavy of thought & unable to decipher the future I come again to you for solace & advice. I read with greedy interest anything that tells of the progress of Tasmania hoping that the day is not far distant when I can return to its shores. I feel all an exile's anguish & the thought that life here is banishment from all that makes life enjoyable. If this be, as I believe it is, a settled conviction, ~~but~~ ^{the} conclusions follow :- 1st that

I made a fatal mistake in leaving
 Tasmania, 2^d that my 7 years
 servitude here has been a
 mistake & a profitless labor
 & 3^d that I have crowned my
 other self by establishing my
 family there. And it is chiefly
 on this last point that
 I seek your advice - So that
 Establishment a mistake is
 it remediable - I should premise
 that although the thought of
 a return to Tasmania is
 seldom absent from my mind
 there are other thoughts that
 constant bleed with that
 idea - Some of them may
 appear to you childish but
 I will detail to you, in
 perfect frankness, what they
 are - On the one hand I
 tenderly cherish the pleasing

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Prospect of your & my own
joint labors; of the pleasant
hours of work, cheered by
your society & that of other
dear friends; of mental relax-
-ation; of achieving a name,
a home & a competence.
On the other side there is
the tacit admission of failure
here; of repining & broken;
of disagreements with my
brother & his newly formed
relations; of shame & of
the dispiriting effect of having
to commence a fresh; of
learning much that I have
forgotten & unlearning much
that I have with pains &
difficult learned.

My brain grows
bewildered when I contemplate
all these things - pride

avoids of the idea of returning
 like a beaten hound, but
 common sense whispers why
 waste the best years of
 life in an un congenial soil &
 in monotonous labor. How
 foolish to settle one's family
 here; how pleasant to
 have a recognized status &
 a friendly fellow workers

The only way I can see
 out of the muddle is to
 solicit your opinion upon
 the points at issue & to endeavor
 to be bound thereby. Writing
 last night to my brother
 I gave him to understand
 that I am contemplating
 another change & told him
 that I was in correspondence
 with you upon the subject.

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Having thus believed my
soul by this expense I
wish to add a few words
on other topics -

You will not be surprised
to learn that my brother
has altogether failed to
keep his promise of remitting
his agreed share of the expense
of keeping up this household -
In fact for 2 months he
took no notice of the letters
we have sent him & although
we receive one from him
last night it was an evasive
one & contained no remittance.
I wrote him full on the
subject but do not hope
much from good will result.

I have lost money
steadily up to the present

Please ask Misses if they let my address as the Post office as requested by my father - the work - so do

I am now penniless & in difficulties - I have spent upwards of £50 in keeping up household expenses, purchasing furniture &c - I have lost all my mining shares; got into debt & have even been obliged to take in expiring at night to make both ends meet! I have sold books, clothes & whatever could be turned into money & am yet harassed, pestered & - cheerful. Yes, cheerful - I have "peeled off" for the encounter with Fortune & am doing my best manfully to weather the storm - I see the truth of Beaconsfield's (was it his?) remark that "most men are ruined by despair". Cheerfulness can

be cultivated & am cultivating
it. I can even banish
thought (sometimes) at will &
forget my troubles. Still, I
am now the less desirous
of achieving happiness & I yet
will do so, if I keep well
in body & mind.

I will ask you to
analyse this map of incoherent
sentences & to give me your
opinion upon the whole case.
I must add, in justice to myself,
that I have put the facts
faithfully before you & have not
exaggerated or distorted anything.
I shall await your reply
with the keenest interest.

I had forgotten to add
that I must give my present
employers 3 months notice
& that I shall be greatly

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discomposed at having to do so.

I trust you are well
happy & prospering & I should like
to be affectionately remembered to
Mittie - I will be writing him
next week - Please present my
kindest regards to Mr Clark &
don't forget do the same
to Revue - I sigh sometimes
off the happy evenings you
have at your hospitable home
& feel doubly lach when I
contrast my mode of life with
yours -

I seldom see Whiting now -
His marriage effectually severed
our intimacy. Edward lives
with his sister & seems
pretty comfortable - He is un-
-altered - I do not see
Frank now except at Court.

The appointment of Mr. Marley
Williams to the Bench affords me
much satisfaction for, although a
thorough snob & greatly overrated,
he makes a capital Judge &
supplies a long felt want.

With my I suppose you
deplore the loss that literature
has sustained by the death of
Marcus Clarke - Pirani, whose
recent death you have doubtless
noticed, may be described as having
been a mathematically minded
Fring - You noticed, I suppose,
the peculiarity of the obsequy.

Please to thank Hyman for
the newspapers & all the kindness
he has rendered us in the past.
I write with a fevered
brow & throbbing brain, so please
excuse inaccessibilities &c.

With the most affectionate
regards, believe me
Yours truly
H. Chapman
1002 Hobart