

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 Palace 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 "Lerdinand & Lo 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 "Lerd & Lo 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 <sup>turns up</sup> ~~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 & Hiddon was in the  
Chair, and there was plenty of wine  
& spirits, fruit, cigars & the knocking  
about after business harmony &c  
was indicated in by and by as  
the number present lessened the  
inevitable smutty phase set in, in  
which the Chairman particularly  
distinguished himself. A manager Clerk  
from Blake & Higdon 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, butasmuch  
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, and 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