

5 Douglas Terrace
 Montague St
 Albert Park
 15 Sept 1883

My dear Andrew,

I must pray you not to think that my somewhat lengthened silence arises from neglect or indifference which absence is said to breed. I trust my love is not "a plant of such ~~of~~ such weak fibre that it withers in the treacherous air of absence" (the old man again). I have postponed writing to you in the desire to write you a good long letter; but whatever the outcome is I must write you now.

There is not much for me to chronicle since I last wrote. I am very thankful to say my health continues good in all respects, and I am certainly far better than I have been for some years past. I lead a regular life and take care

of myself, and I feel I am laying
up a stock of energy, which will
be of service to me, when the
time comes to make greater
demands on myself than I have
to do at present. I am still
in Wyburns office; and without
solicitation he increased my
salary to £130 a year, in consideration
of my doing some account work
for him during office hours -
This work doesn't amount to much,
and I jog along with a serene
ignorance to my G & B slavery.
In a letter to Dobbie I drew
a rough sketch of G. J. Wyburn
which I needn't, therefore, repeat
here. He is certainly a curious
stick, but I get along with him
very well. He has some odd
ways of conducting business - one
of his peculiarities is to ~~to~~ perpetually
have drafts made for prospective ad-
verts copy former drafts word for

word on half sheets of foolscap
writing on every other line, and
when he uses these he adapts
them by making red ink alterations.

Of course there are folios upon
folios of irrelevant stuff; but
this doesn't trouble him a bit.

The most remarkable thing is that
he hardly ever uses these drafts, but
has drafts specially made for matters
in hand. Hence there are piles
of drafts continually being added to,
which are so much waste paper
and waste time. Another of his fads
is that he examines every mortal
thing written in the office - ^{Yancy}
a principal doing all this! - Another
of his cheerful practices is to engage
counsel in pretty well everything that
he does. There was a case in the
County Court this week, in which he
had engaged a barrister of good
standing (Cheon), the (Wybrow) and

two of his clerks were up at Court
the better part of the day - The
sum at issue was £2 - and as
£1. 10 was paid into Court all
this eruption was about 10 bob -
of course a Barrister must be
engaged in Court work, but Wyburn
employ them to a ridiculous excess -
If you could see his Bills of
Costs they'd stun you. They are
studded with Counsel's fees. I didn't
know what a Bill of Costs could
be till I studied the works of this
Old Master -

You are of course aware that
the Judicature Bill has passed,
and will come into operation in
February next. There is a great
diversity of opinion as to the wisdom
of the change. I don't think the
public are likely to benefit by it on
the score of cheap ^{and quick issue of} law. The experience
of the English practice points to the fact
that the technique can be introduced

as much as ever and the demurrable
business flourishes finely - These
opinions are founded on conversations
I have had with Walter.

You will be pleased to hear that
Walter's health has manifestly
improved, and we are going to take
some walks together soon - a pleasure
which his weak state has hitherto
deprived me of. His mother and sisters
are also quite well - Perhaps you
might communicate these matters to
J.M.G. for I don't think he has written
or been written to for some time -

I have not been to public
places much for a good time past.
I heard Poussard the French
Violinist - His execution is extremely
brilliant but in real moving power
he is far below William F. - I also
went one night to the Bijou and
saw the the Dajeronis in "Jealousy".
They are artists, and I think it is the
best thing in the dramatic way I have
seen here - indeed, I am sure of it.

I saw them in Hobart in the same play; but age cannot further nor custom &c such acting as this. I heard the Bishop of Melbourne for the first time the week before last. He took the chair at a meeting of the University Oratorical Society held at the Athenaeum. It was an address ~~the~~ speech he made - he was evidently in the comical vein - Deakin & Purves were also among the speakers.

I go every Sunday morning to the little temple on the Eastern where Priestess Patty dispenseth the milk of rational Christianity. Her sermons have not been of especial note, but they are all up to a good average, and I am very well pleased to hear them. I notice she ^{sometimes} wears a large ebony & gold cross. I think she looks better without this little ritualism.

I have not yet called upon her
privately, but I mean to do so -
The congregation is limited but
appears refined and earnest; and
I think I have before told you
that the choir is a fine one.
After service which concludes at
10 minutes past 12 I walk into
the Troop or Treasury Gardens,
and particularly at this time
my thoughts are wandering back
to all I am now parted from.

There have been some lovely
days during the last three weeks,
and there have also been some very
bad ones - last Monday & Tuesday
were close and sultry, with a North
wind blowing all the time. On
Wednesday the wind veered to the
South, and it was extremely cool
with heavy rain - So far back as
the Sunday before last there was
a gigantic dust storm which enveloped
the city and suburbs in heavy yellow clouds.

What must it be like in Summer!
I feel all gritty at the thought -

I am familiarising myself
with that grand institution - the
Public Library, so far as my time
will allow - I confine myself
at present to the Colonial department
from which I have gleaned
some interesting matter - The
Picture Gallery is now lit up
an evening with electric light,
but I have not been yet to see
it under these conditions, I
understand it is satisfactory.

My lodgings are still as desirable
as heretofore - The mercantile clerk
has left us - gone to Sandhurst - and
his place has been taken by
an Engineer from Stockton on Tees
with an accent redolent of the
Northern provinces - I have been
promoted to the head of the table
and do the paterfamilias quite a la mode

I am in receipt of your letter about the English suit - just before I received it, I called at Crisp Lewis and ^{Hedderwick's} ~~Wells~~ and saw Bull their town law manager, who showed me some papers received from England in this matter on behalf of my Uncle William Witton for whom they act. These did not disclose all the information you gave me, but they led me to anticipate that things would not turn out very bright - Well, do no use fretting about the matter. My only trouble now is that you may be refunded and remunerated for your services - There is another anchor out yet, the reversionary interest and I am deeply anxious that this holds, inasmuch as it may be a providential means for me to relieve myself of that indebtedness which weighs so much on my spirits at times - The indebtedness in its pecuniary aspect might be lightened, although

there would remain another
indebtedness, which would be far
more a pleasure than a pain for
me to remain under, seeing that
it would bind my heart still
closer to the creditors - of course,
any communication from England
to me here, shall be notified to you
at once.

When you write don't forget
to tell me about the Amieva Club.
I heard that A. J. and Geo: Richardson
were to be proposed as members.
Taylor will be an acquisition, if
certain manumissions of his can be
repressed. Richardson I rather
liked from what little I have had
to do with him; but he is one
of the last individuals I should
have thought to have seen, in
fancy, hanging upon the lips of
of the 'Gothic' R. M., or the 'you-
I can't see me for dust. Susy.

So, Iney and "The Nestor of
the Choice Spirits" have plunged
head over ears into avowed
Spiritualism - Willie says that the
former is rationally gone; but
the latter is idiotically so - My
~~sect~~ ^{sweet} ex-jew will caper round the
word on his beam of light in
grand form now - What does Rule
think of it I wonder - May I be
kicked into the middle of the
Effulgent Hecce if I am not
killed most mightily at this new
departure -

I have not done much literary
reading since I have been here -
The three principal books have
been Byron's life & letters, Biography
of William Beane, and portions of
Balzac's Comédie Humaine - I also
got through Paul & Virginia in the
bench reading and marking it up
as I travelled in the train during the
day.

Please commend me to Mrs Clark
I beg her to accept my best regards -
And Emmy & Johnny, too, - how
are the radicals? Whatever position
they are in when this comes to hand
- that is whether they are undergoing
discipline for any offence or not,
they must be kissed for Budder's
love at once, Diici.

Brotherly regards to Willie & Edward.
I shall be writing to the former presently.
Shi up the latter - he owes me a
letter - Please also convey my best
wishes to Ivey - I must have
something on the stocks for him.

My hand in yours, dear
Andrew. I dare to think we are
sundered only by a few miles of land
and sea, and that what has been
between us lives on as before. I dare
to think that your affection is in no way
changed, and that I may be permitted
to justify it ~~at a time~~ ^{at a time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~you~~ ^{you} Ever affectionately yours
G. W. How