

W. W. W.
 TAYLOR, BUCKLAND & GATES,
 CHARLES & WARD GARDEN,
 JOSEPH HENRY GATEY,
 ROBERT SALMON GENTING.

101 late 55 William Street,
 Melbourne. 12 April 1893

My dear Padre

I was gratified to find that your frozen ink had at last liquefied and rapped along to the time of your last welcome letter, which although not anywhere near so long as my desire would have it, makes some slight amends for your absent face and long unheard voice -

It will concern you to know I met with an accident on St Patrick's Day, which has confined me to my house a fast prisoner for 3 weeks

I was batting on the Melbourne
Cricket Ground in connection
with the annual cricket match
between our office Messrs & Seddon
Mulleum & Co & Blake & Riggall.
and in playing a ball I
managed to hurt my right ankle
so badly that the ligaments
were ruptured and I had to
have it put in splints at
the Melbourne Hospital - I am
back at office now (since
last Monday only) and manage
to crawl about a bit, but
am still very lame and likely
to be for some time. I
suppose all this is a fateful
indication I must acknowledge
the weight of advancing years,
plus 14st lbs and do as
the apostle of the Gentiles
did - put away childish things.

or as Whiting more bluntly put
it, reserve myself for other
purposes.

I was interested to learn
that the Minerva had blossomed
forth into a more public
institution, as it were, and
I hope the innovation is
an augury of its being about
to take its second round
and enter upon its course
with renewed vigor. While
I wish this I must at the
same time say that the
old coleridge with their
surroundings and methods
must ever to me image
the Minerva Club, and if
I bestow any tenderness upon
the more-developed Club,
it will be in the vein of
Allingham's lovely thought

in a little lyric of his, where he
meets the grown up girl -
"I was but in my soul I kissed her
as I kissed the child."

Your reference to Mrs Edwards
reminds me I have had no
word from George for a good
time. I will stir him up with a
letter in a day or two. Yes,
I noticed when I saw him about
6 or 7 months ago his hair had
bleached very much - What a
lot of old fogies we are getting
to be sure! (This is chiefly
entre nous and not to be
mentioned to Madie).

I have not heard a word
from Walter Gill this year. I
understand he is progressing in
his new "spear".

Thanks for your suggestions
as to books &c. - I will look
them up when I can get about
more freely.

Love to Madie & the children
and the Boys & believe me
affectionately Yours always
John Alton