

55 William Street.

Melbourne 12 May 1888

My dear Andrew, I duly received your letter with Bill of Costs re English matter and your firm's cheque for £8. 3 3. I have looked over the costs and think that the amount is reasonable enough - I have not been informed however what was the amount 'Patten' received and what he deducted for his costs and expenses. I should like to know this - No adequate reason was ever afforded by him, as far as I'm aware, for the enormous delay which characterised his conduct of the negotiations for the sale of the reversionary interest;

and although the matter is now closed I should like to see whether he made me pay for his dictatorialness. As far as I'm aware, he has not returned the family bible which went to England on a wildgoose errand. If this is not done I trust you will kindly attend to it. In conclusion, let me thank you for the way you took the matter up, and for the efforts you made to make the best of what has proved so wearisome and unprofitable a transaction.

Thanks for "Mercury" containing your memorandum on Chinese question. The paragraph referring to the "indicated and retinent" habits of the Mongolians particularly

shook me and recalled the
flavor of the ~~so~~ celebrated
opening sentence in the
"Wael Whitman" article in the
Quad. - I think the
whole memo is a very
able one and puts very fairly
a matter which is of vital
concern to All Australia.
I think it was Judge Boucaud
who said when he was a
minister in S.A. years ago
that the real danger to Australia
was from Asia not from Europe.
Events will justify the assertion.
In the meantime no efforts
must be spared to avert the
catastrophe implied in an
influx from an inferior race.
It is dreadful to think that
the best fight made by the
manhood of this colony should
end in the degradation of
labor consequent to the occupation
of our country in large numbers

by a race which as you
well express are alien to
our institutions and our
genius. In one sense I am
thankful that the question
has combusted. I well I
hope irretrievably scorch and
desiccate that blasted fetish
- Imperial Federation. You
will probably have observed
that the Australasian Values
Association are speaking with
no uncertain note on this
subject. I send you with
this a part of a paper containing
a good old Republican
trumpet blast blown at Holthaus
last night. In the same paper
you will notice a contribution
by J. J. Thornton to a controversy
recently started on the subject
"Was Jesus God?" which some
orthodox fellow named Rev. ^{Dr.} Hewitt

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started by wheeling a barrow
of scriptural texts into the
columns of the "Herald" and
challenging Waters to reply to.
of all matters connected with
theological disputation this
fighting over mere texts seems
to me the most puerile &
ridiculous. It puts me in mind
of the opening of an English
judges summing up which I
came across in the Law
Reports the other day. The
said that Counsel on each
side had advanced judges
decisions to support their case,
and then he went on frankly
to state that he should have
no notice of these for judges
decisions could be made to
prove anything. ^{then} Horton avoids
this weariness, and 'no doubt
puts his case very ably from

the Swedenborgian point of
view.

Waters will be leaving
for Sydney presently. I have
not heard who will take
his place.

I had a bit of a
holiday last Easter when
I went to the Western District
on a road to "Dunedile" the
manager of which is the
husband of my cousin Alice.
I had quite an ideal
holiday in point of quiet
and loafing about just as I
liked. As she has a family
of 11. I had also the
cheerful, unaffected society of
children who I am pleased
to say, are nice little people
and make the place very bright
for me. One of the children
is a girl of 18 with a
young man from Camperdown

bound to her humphal ear
of maidenhood. However
I don't think I made him
jealous. Life on these
stations is for the most
part a curious dreamy
existence - The plains stretching
away to the horizon with
never a house or tree break
an isolated sense as though
one were out on the lonely
ocean. Near by the station
is ^{the} Orangamite, which is 80
or 90 miles round. I visited
it just before dawn one
morning and so great expanse
of livid, intensely salt water,
set hard and still like
the face of a corpse, with
the low rocky shores fringed
with grey-white briny scurf,
made a picture that Poe
would have brought up into
fine curdling effects.

You must permit me to be selfish enough to urge Madie to write me the promised letter as soon as possible.

I hear that Dave is in Roberts & all ports. I hope ~~that~~ ^{he} will make a stay there and put his shoulder to the wheel.

Walter is all right. We do not see much of one another now, but we have an occasional jaunt to the playhouse, and a bottle of wine to wind up with in the course of ~~this~~ which we are happy in talking over old friends and times.

With affectionate regards to Madie and kisses to Knichis from "Budder Joe,"
Believe me, dear Andrew
Ever affectionately yours
Ed. M. M.