

55 William Street,

Melbourne 5 March 1887

My dear Andrew,

Your last letter duly
 to hand, and I at once made
 enquires at Robertson's & Mullen's
 for the Chief Records &c -
 Neither had it - Robertson never
 had it - Mullen got out about
 a doz copies of these were
 disposed of. Mullen ordered
 some fresh copies 2 or 3 weeks
 ago. Shall I secure one
 of these?

Thanks for paper containing
 report of your address at
 Town Hall. I also read it
 in a Tasmanian News sent
 to me - It reads very well,
 and seemed to have produced
 a good impression - I should

gather from your utterances that
You are not such a bigoted
free trader as erstwhile. I
shall be glad if you develop
into a same protectionist -
I have considered protection
from a democratic standpoint,
and I am painfully aware
that its principles jar against
the doctrine of brotherhood
- against that free fellowship
of states and nations which
we dream shall lead up
to a federated world -
We are far from the realisation
of this, and I think it behoves
young communities to adopt
such measures as will give
their internal resources a
show - This is only a temporary
expedient. It is not desired
to form part of ~~that~~ those
communities' policy, ^{where} ~~where~~ they have
strengthened and ^{matured} ~~matured~~. Young
in this colony, I am impressed

by one thing more than others,
and that is the remarkable
energy and dignity which
the protective policy of this
Colony has given to labor
of the more intelligent class.
It is true that mistakes have
been made and a principle
good up to a certain point
has been carried too far;
and so far as it has thus
been passed it is no worse -
The movement of the Gippsland
hopgrowers to shut out foreign
hops is an infringement of the
principle seeing that hop culture
will never be a success in
this Colony, and the attempt
to develop it will be utterly
wrong. A good deal has been
said about baneful monopolies
arising under protection. These
have not arisen here - Competition
has been encouraged, and living
is quite as cheap as Sydney
where free trade principles prevail

but will be soon supplanted
by protection ones.

When I opened the "Age"
this morning I was greatly
pleased to find that you had
been returned for S Hobart
by a large majority. I
congratulate you very sincerely
and I hope that your
presence in the House will
influence legislation in a way
that will make our native
isle more attractive to us than
it has been in the past. Your
former labors have never been
properly acknowledged.

I intend to write presently
to that remarkable mute Willie.
It is a subject for commiseration
that Mahumony has struck him
into such a Sphinx like silence.
It would appear that Maxon
has got much to answer for.
With love to Mrs Clark all
the boys and the Kinchins.
Believe me
Ever affectionately yours
J. A. Aton