

55 William Street,

Melbourne 30 June 1886

My dear Andrew,

I hope you
got the Magazine brought by
the last post. I am

glad to find from Mrs. B's
very welcome letter that
you got the photos I sent.

I very much regret
that I shall not be
represented on Fourth of July
celebration by any contribution
towards the enthusiasm of
the evening - when you suggested

that I should write something for
the brotherhood. I caught at
the idea and I shortly had
a conception which I have
mentally sketched out and
even written some of the
verses in my head -
Unfortunately I have had an
anxious press of work for
some weeks past, and my
spare time has been taken
up with relatives, chess,
and other social engagements
which I have not been
able to escape - In addition
to this my head has been
bad, and the excitement of
poetical composition was
too much for me - I regret
my silence on this occasion,
but I am sure that you &

The Brotherhood will accept
my paternal wishes for a
successful & harmonious night,
& will know that I am
& that the Cause is still dear to me
with you all - In these
sentiments Walter joins.

Mr. Francis Knowles Miller,
the much-examined - much
plucky - much unabashed young
man - is now in Melbourne
and favors me with his
attentions - Commenting on the
death of Collier he said
he (Collier) had frequently
stated to him "Oh! Miller,
you'll never get through while
I'm alive" - And as Mr Miller
piously observes, "The old cock
was as good as a prophet!"
He will be over in July to
undergo his usual ploughing.

The Examiners would make much
out of ~~them~~ ^{time} in fees, will they?
But perhaps they don't look
over his papers - Very exhausting
proceedings, truly!

You will be glad to hear
that I have looked up
financially since I last wrote,
now, as my principals, in a
very handsome manner, and
quite unsolicited, have raised
my salary to £250 p.a.
This is very good considering
the short period I have been
in the office -

I write to Willie next -
Tell him I have received his
disregards (per Mrs G) and that
he can leave off looking through
the obituary notices of the Melbourne
papers, as I am still alive.
Give my thanks to Mrs G for her
kind letter, and with love to all.
Believe me always affly yours
Johnston