

I enclose a letter (and +
yesterday's paper)

Melbourne

20 Dec 1885 (Monday night)

My dear Andrew,

My life has been such a turmoil
of business & trouble of late that I have been unable
until this present time to write you a long letter
& "pour out my soul" before you. Now, however, henceforth!
In the brief note I sent you yesterday
I mentioned that I had been that day admitted to
practice in this colony. The court sat yesterday, not
of course to deliver reserved judgment & Dipjibothan
kindly allowed Fink to renew my application. In admitting
me Dipjibothan showed me the pleasure it afforded
him to be able to declare that I had proved to the
entire satisfaction of the court that the standards
of legal & educational qualifications in Tasmania &
Victoria were substantially equal; & so on, with much
that almost recompensed me for the trouble & anxiety
I have had in this tedious affair. The matter is of
importance, not from a personal point of view, but
because I have seen the means of removing the
stigma that lay upon the dear old ^{Island} ~~continent~~ that
we now were not so well qualified for the
discharge of their professional duties as their counterparts
in the various prosperous colonies. You, I know, will
appreciate my efforts in the matter & I would suggest
that you see the matter is mentioned in the Hobart
press. I must not forget to tell you that amongst

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my materials I embodied a letter I got from
Professor Irving to the effect that the Degree of
Sci. B. was in his opⁿ. an Equivalent to the M.B.
Matriculate Exam. & that such a Degree as I took
was decidedly superior to that of any ~~university~~ ^{position in the} ~~university~~
in the Matrix. —

To all I enclose a copy of
yesterday's Evening Herald, wh^{ch} contains a para on
the subject, & wh^{ch}, tho' maybe, sets out the substance
of the judge's remarks. For all that you have
done in the matter I tender you my hearty thanks
& I hope you will also tell Mr. Adams that I am
much obliged for his kindness in making the thing off!
he did (I thought he would have bound it down a little)

Now as to my prospects, I have an offer of
a partnership with C. M. Watson & an offer of an up-
Country business, but I do not think I'll accept either
of them. Mr. Smith has hinted that he would like
to take me into partnership, but he is a funny,
timid little fellow I have not spoken out plainly. I
will probably get something definite out of him in a
day or two when I will write you again. If I had
the means I would ~~write~~ start ~~my~~ my own office as I
am sure I wd. do well if I could only ~~last~~ ^{last} over
the first few months. Unfortunately I am at my
wits end for money. I was never so hard up in my life.
My admiral cost me about £1000 to get but now I
had to mortgage my salary for a long time to come. My
old Mining transaction remain as a mill stone round

my neck & are likely to keep me down for many
 a long day to come. I am ⁱⁿ ^{over} ^{with} ^{traps}
 Jews & altogether in a very sorry pickle. I have
 however 2 great set offs: - my health is all right
 & my spirits as buoyant as they were 20 years ago.
 You of course see that owing to these
 circumstances & to the rupture ^{with} my brother it is im-
 possible for me to visit Tasmania this time, tho'
 I would dearly like to see you & "the beautiful town
 that is seated by the sea". There are a thousand topics
 I would like to discuss with you wh. we cannot satisfactorily
 express in correspondence.

Wilton, for some mysterious reason, has decided
 not to visit Tasmania. From the vague remarks he
 has made on the subject I gather, though with
 doubt, that the reason is connected with family affairs.
 He is going to Sydney a Wednesday & I have promised if
 circumstances permit to follow him there to cheer him round. It
 is most improbable that I shall do so, for 2 very
 good reasons, lack of funds & lack of inclination.
 I begin to think it is time for Wilton to
 "convinced himself" & do some work. Surely he is not going to
 let him fine abilities "rust in him unused" & to sink into
 a state of quiescence. We do not hold our gifts in
 fee, but in common, & I think he ought to be doing
 something more than earning a miserable pittance. He
 seems (entre nous) to be too contented with his lot. He
 seems to possess a rude kind of health, but at

times he has attacks of illness which in my opinion are entirely attributable to inattention to the laws of health - as to there being any lurking kind of insanity in his constitution I am skeptical, - I suppose you were somewhat mystified by the 2 mysterious letters about Miss Matt. As I said to Wm yesterday, "I should not wonder if Andrew thinks I am at the bottom of the affair." No; the individual who is so deeply interested is none other than our friend Fisk, (who conducted my application with the greatest ability & attention) & as he intends, if he can possibly do so, to marry the girl I could not refuse to his request to ask you for the information - The peculiar tone of the letters is accounted for by the fact that they were written from dictation - As for me, I don't know the girl, even by sight.

The year now about to close has been a troubled one for me - but I am well satisfied with the way I have got through it - In the teeth of great difficulties I have managed to retain my health & spirits - I have got through an astonishing amount of literary work; so much that I am fearful that I have disregarded Milton's caution: - "Knowledge is no food, And needs no less her temperance, over appetite" - I say - how I find that "L' appétit vient en mangeant." - Of late my studies have been principally Biblical, with large doses of Matthew Arnold. (Did you read his "Comment on Christmas"?) - I must call your attention to a fine article in the October no. of the Edinburgh Review - Entitled

c.4/c164

"John & Paul." If it does not delight you write me down ASS. I fancy ^{the author} ~~it~~ must be "Rufus" whose letter you liked so much & whom at first I took to be the Revd Geo. Doth.

The McDillon whose paper you liked so much is a clerk in the Mint. He was at my house one night but the result ~~of~~ was not of a very favourable kind. He is very young & will doubtless do good work.

I will send you the "New Book of Lords" by next Mail. I don't think much of it -

No good was ever done by
abuse of this particular
work - to me - savours of
paid abuse - Better let the
thing wither out in Contempt.

I find on looking through
this letter that it is very dull
of meagre - I have many
things yet to say & wish I
could tell you that I ~~was~~
could see you in the vacation.
There are some matters I would
very much like to obtain
your advice upon - It is a
long time yet to the 1st

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Leby & I may yet be able
to run over before then - so
strong in this hope that I
will end this letter & reserve
what I have yet to say
either for a long talk or
a future letter - But you must
write me a long letter & tell
me all about yourself & the
madre ~~to~~ to whom & the
children please give my love
& sincerest wishes for their
health, happiness, a Merry
Christmas & Happy New Year.
So, too, to all the members of

The delightful circle I
 mingled with last year, - to
 Miss Ross (if she is with you) Mrs
 Minnie, Burn, Dobbie (& their
 fiancées), dear old Jey &
 his wife, & many more (Rip
 - ho, my Christmas will be
 as gloomy as yours will be
 delightful.) & so for you, dear
 Andrew, I cannot tell you
 how every year makes you, if
 possible, dearer to me & increases
 the beneficent effect of your
 friendship - You know better than
 I can express what loving wishes my
 heart has for you & that I am

Ever sincerely yours
 W. J. Kelly

1 Dupin Clark &
 101 Stobart