

c4/c95

21 Moor St. Detroit
Melbourne. 21st Dec 1875

Dear Andrew,

I have only time to write you a comparatively short letter, - like yourself I will go in for a long one in the holidays - By the way, I'd half a mind to commence this letter "Dear Sir". Did you think I'd let 3 or 4 posts go by that tell you if either my sister or the parcel was coming?

However, to business - You just got away in time to avoid being fried - We are in the thick of it now - At 10 o'clock the thermometer in my room registers 80°, at the office it was 88° in the shade - and this is nothing is what's coming - I like this weather & I like to see this city in it. The heat seems to stimulate the people into activity & the approach of Xmas enlivens us greatly. The hot white streets are full of blinding light & a fine & hazy dust, but thank goodness there's not a breath of air.

I was afraid you would have a dormy & unpleasant passage, but you can afford to laugh at the remembrance of it now.

The little details of our lodgings may now prove some slight interest for you as you have mixed with the people & they are some therefore something more to you than mere names. They all deserve to be remembered kindly - Mac's xxx got better but last night he told me it was recommencing. The other fellows are just the same

We have 2 arrivals since you left, - both Tamm-
Collins (brother of Col. Clark at Richmond, Va.)
& Connor. The latter is an old friend of
mine & decidedly above the others; - he has
at least culture to a certain extent.
"Pick!", you exclaim, "What about those
books". Ah, yes, I remember - I have
obeyed all your instructions literally - I called
on Miss Deane, with ma soeur, yesterday
afternoon had an hour's interview. I
found her what I expected; - earnest, quiet,
self-repressed even, & thoroughly kind -
I am to see her again to-morrow, but after
the steamer goes; to get from her the
Hymn book - which I will either send by
Post or by my sister who will arrive
in Hobt Town by the trip of the "Croft" after
the one that brings you this. He discussed
Channing & Parker to me ^{and she} gave me
an awful of "Tracts, outlines, Essays
Sermons" &c all of which I will send
by my sister - among them you will
find one, Religion as affected by modern Materialism, by the Rev
J. Martineau, very interesting - The Theological
Review (2 numbers of which she showed me)
is an Unitarian production - It cannot be
got in Melbourne - nor can the Indies of
Christianity. (I enquired at Robertson's to this effect)

I too have dropped into the old groove in
the way of life & reading - I got thro'
the books & I returned you by dint of
reading at home & at the office - I have
made moderate progress with Whitman
(of whom more hereafter) & got half way
through *Draco* worth, which I like very
much & - prepare yourself for an oath-
oid's eated - "Ligna" - which is not at all
bad, - in her pseudo style - I read it
because I saw in the *Argus* a long
critique on it, wherein it was stated
that it contained some fine wood painting
& some Ruskin-like sketches: - all this I
found was true.

I hope you will be able to get thro'
the *News* comes - I'm sure you must admire
the tender grace, the humorous, half-kind
half-serious, the unobtrusive scholarship,
the deep knowledge of human nature - and
naturalness - and the kind almost womanly
tenderness that which seem to me to breathe
thro' every page - the dear old Colonel, honest-
hearted Clive, charming Ethel - but why
particularise? The whole book promises for me
a deep undying interest & many a pleasant
reminiscence.

I felt very dull after you left & was
perhaps a trifle awfully - I have experienced

5 or 6 disappointments - including letters, hopes
of remittances &c - and am sadly dejected -
but these, - I did not mean to mention -

Don't forget Deloraine - my half-unwelcome fall-back

I spent a most delightful evening at
Sutherland's. We discussed Scholarship - Classic
& modern. Art (he paints well) Music & and
of course the conversation naturally came round
to Religion. As Milton well remarks in *At the
Window* when 2 or 3 or moderately intelligent
persons are gathered together the conversation inevitably
comes round to this subject & he might have
added it will be discovered (as in this
instance) that some of the company are latitudinarians.
2 bottles of wine & concluded this part
of reason. I like Sutherland very much
& shall aspiringly court his Society when
he returns from Sydney this holiday -

My courtship, or flirtation, or call it what
you will, is progressing very steadily - I generally
meet her for an afternoon now. I will send
her photo by this or a subsequent letter,
in which case please return it as soon
as possible - though she says her features
ought to be impressed indelibly on your memory
after your earnest scrutinizing under the lamp -
I will take her out all day at *Emma's* *the widow's*
~~house~~ (as does my sister) to be very kindly remem-
bered to her by
Dawsonell, my friend. I wish I could put
in an elegant phrase how warmly & how sincerely
I wish you all that usually takes the form of
compliments at this season but I cannot do
well, as will dear old Milton, take the will for
the deed, will you not? Yours Ever
yours

P.S. Mr. M. says he doubts to be most kindly remembered - He is writing you