

Bank Prof.
Melbourne 17th Feb 1881

Dear Andrew,

Today is being kept here as a public holiday & the offices are closed. It seems significant that this (St Patrick's day) is the only holiday of the kind & shews how strong is the influence of the Irish race in this Colony. I believe the Irish Roman Catholics count a full third of the population.

I have been so busy, both with official duties & with my own private affairs, that this is the first opportunity I have had of answering your last letter.

With reference to the subject that was most prominent in my letter & your reply I may say that soon after I had written to you I saw that it quite impossible for any one at a distance to advise me fully & that I must decide

for myself. When your reply advised the
position of matters had materially altered.
I had found that no obstacle would be
thrown in the way of Miss Brooke exercising
her choice & that no restraint could be
put on me - I have been many times
to their house since then & my plans
are meeting with the degree of success
to which I am I suppose, entitled.
All the same, I thank you for your
kindness in the matter & quite appreciate
the force of your remarks -

Another topic has taken up
much of my time. I have almost
completed arrangements for the transit
of our entire family from Tasmania
to this place & respect matters will
be concluded in a few days - This
is done partly at my mother's wish,
partly at my sister's & partly at my
own - I dare say the experiment will
be a failure, and I am not

blind to the fact that it is placing
another obstacle in the way of
my return to Tasmania but I'm now
quite dead to hope or fear & await
the outcome with perfect indifference.

I am quite without any
intelligence that may interest you
& will therefore bring this scribble
to a close. I write in the lowest
possible frame of mind & any further
remarks would only tend to perhaps embue
you with some of the gloom.

With kindest regards to yourself
& Mrs Clark & trusting to soon hear from you
believe me

Your affectionate friend,

A. Inglis Clark Esq
Launceston
Hobart

A. Gill