

49 Perth St. Peabody
 Sunday Evening
 7 Oct. 1883

My dear Andrew,

It is so long since I last wrote to you that I hardly know how to commence or how to crowd into a sheet of paper all that my heart is full of. I was delighted to receive your last affectionate letter & I am delighted to answer it. Indeed, I esteem myself fortunate in hoping to firm a hold of on your regard, - a regard that time & distance have failed to lessen but rather ^{tend} to render dearer. Believe me, dear friend, I am in no wise changed in my affection & sense of duty & I am more than ever conscious of the many material & spiritual comforts that your society, influence & precepts have afforded me. I know you take these somewhat flatteringly remarks in their true sense, as the outcome of a warm heart & a grateful spirit. You may think with just pride upon the

manner in which your efforts to succor & comfort
your children have been received. To night Wilmore &
I in this Colony, Edwards in N.S.W. & many ^a more
in our own Island home are thinking fondly of you,
recalling your affectionate friendship & steadily setting
your example before our eyes. I am loath to
quit this theme but ~~for~~ time presses & I must
come to details.

I mention first my own health for that
will explain much that follows. I have not yet
shaken off the illness that prostrated me in
Sydney - the effect of anxious days, sleepless nights
& a terribly overcooking clinic, - but I am slowly
coming round. I am still weak & nervous but
the gracious Spring season is working wonders
for me & I am now enabled to take a little
exercise. In a few months I hope to be myself
again. I have borne, you will be glad to know,
this long struggle with sickness sorrow & privation
with proper fortitude, my courage has not ^{failed} ~~partly~~
nor my hopes abated. A few wrinkles are the
only outward effects. I am not the only sufferer -
My Mother & eldest sister suffer from the like
effects, though not, I am glad to say, in so marked
a manner as myself. There has, as usual, been

a set off to this suffering. My duties are not
so arduous as of old & my leisure is consequently
greater. I am sobered, not saddened.

Milton is I am happy to say, in every way
improved since he came here - He is looking very
well & the medicine you so much prescribed
has made him whole - He is evidently enjoying
his much needed & (~~has~~ of how hardy earned!)
change of life & scene & has taken a fresh lease
of life - He has made many friends & I have
assurance that brighter days are before him.
He often spends his evenings (though we live far
apart) at my house for Saturdays when the weather
is fine we explore the many pretty paths
that surround this suburb. I need not tell you
how dear & how valuable is his society to me.
I had been too much isolated of late & his
companionship is like a shower to this dry soil.
Many a time do we speak of you & of the
happy days gone by & often do we wish that
you were once more amongst us - never mind,
all shall yet be well.

Last Tuesday we went together to hear

Conroy lecture on Emerson but you will be both
surprised & sorry to hear that we were both very
much disappointed, much of this was due to
the manner not the matter of the lecturer. His voice
is singularly unfitted for public speaking. It is
impossible, owing to his indistinct utterance, ineffective
delivery & the wretched acoustic properties of the ^{auditorium}
to catch more than half he says. But apart from this
he taught us nothing & we agreed that much of the
anecdotal matter might have well been omitted.
The lecture was more historical or gossipy than
an exposition of the great Teacher's thoughts &
influence. I learned nothing, felt no thrill of
love or truth & experienced no pleasure. Tomorrow ~~evening~~
we are going again to morrow night to hear the
lecture on Carlyle & will hear as many more as
possible. In person, Conroy is my ideal of an
American ~~man~~ of culture. He is tall, well built,
with a kind, thoughtful face, white beard & rather
long, curling dark hair. Much of the objectionable
sing-song utterance & inappropriate emphasis &
action is evidently due to his Estab. connection
with the pulpit. Weston is also writing you fully on
this subject & in reply to your last letter to him as
to attracting Conroy to your shores. I trust he will go

I am about to commence in earnest a work that will occupy some months of my spare time - I am preparing, in conjunction with Mr. Klingens, Jr., a Compendium of the Judiciary Act & Rules which come into force next July & as I have several rivals in the field, I must use all the expedition possible to bring out my work first. I say mine for the difficult part of the work falls on my shoulders - I am so well & widely known in the legal world here that I have hopes of the Enterprise being successful & I know I have your best wishes.

With this I send you a copy of Yesterday's "Age" containing a review on a recent "Life" of Mazzini - I think you will like it.

Propos of the "Age" there is a strange rumor being gravely circulated just now that Wigginbottom is about to retire from the Bench & take the Editorship of that,

paper. I do not credit the canard but
I know that he does not agree with the cf.
(Fisk, not, unhappily, calls him the Chief
Injustice).

The vexed question of Admission has been
again agitating me of late. I lately had the
subject mentioned in the "House" & the Attorney
General said that if a Petition for reciprocity
were presented he would forward it to the judges
& see that it received due consideration -
a Petition, influentialy signed, was duly
presented and - ignored - I then presented another
signed by W. D. Church, & B. Chapman ~~to~~
a Scotch Lord in our office & myself drawing
attention to the subject, that too was of
ignored & I am now about to get the
matter ventilated in Parliament & I trust
if possible get a "short Act" passed - I have
a fair prospect of success & when this is
done my future will look brighter as
I could, I think, easily get a partnership
in some of the younger offices & this would mean

A considerable increase in my income, which at present is only sufficient to keep us & to enable me to gradually pay off some of the more pressing obligations under which I groan - My brother still fails to keep his promise of assistance & I am therefore at times sadly straitened - However, I hope on.

I thank you most heartily for your kind invitation to spend part of my holidays with you - at Christmas & if my funds permit I will gladly seize the opportunity, although, as I mentioned to you before, my brother's most unfortunate marriage has rendered Hobart almost distasteful to me - I shall take the privilege of referring to this subject again in a later letter.

W B Chapman has managed to get a fair position as Copying Clerk in a good house here & at present is ~~to~~ behaving properly - I hope he will keep straight for though I keep clear of him ^{avoid} ~~avoid~~ him I

should desire to see him recover his lost position.
Just now, thanks to that infamous scoundrel
Hugh Sunderland Barrett & his equally un-
-principalled brother, the name of Tasmanian
is in great disrepute.

Please remember me affectionately to Lucy
& Anne - I am preparing a reply to the former.
You do not mention Mrs Clark's name.
I trust (though you know I need not say it)
that you are all well & happy.

I have purposely refrained from alluding
to my love affairs - Unhappily, my hopes
in that direction are overthrown, at
least at present. Forgive me if I forbear
from mentioning the subject. Some day I
will tell you all about it. At present
my heart is too sore - Indeed, I have not yet
confided my sorrows to Milton -

Adieu our farewell, dear friends, for
a time. "When" the time draws near the birth
of Christ I trust to be with you & to tell all
I have tried to foreshadow in this letter.
Always & affectionately
90 St. Mark St
Hobart
Ever thine
Phillip