

McBowne  
22 Apr 1884

My dear Andrew,

Several causes have operated to prevent me writing to you at any length before this but even now when the opportunity occurs & I have an evening to myself I find I have very little to say - certainly nothing novel.

First, as to business I suppose you got my letter, written about 10th inst, returning Johnston's Ass't. Thanks for your remarks & allowance to me for charges, but I hope you will not allow me anything that you cannot charge against your client. I send separate receipts for the amounts. to Tracy  
to Johnston & Hooby

On receipt of your Telegram I  
proceeded to the office of the Regt Genl  
& found entry of death of Tracy on  
12 Dec: 1869 & at once telegraphed you  
accordingly. I was informed that  
some one else wished search made  
for such entry <sup>or about</sup> the year 1872 & on  
enquiry I found the enquirer was yourself.  
The Regt Genl at my request decided  
not to charge the fee of 2/6 for  
such latter search as I informed  
him I was acting for you. He was  
about to write to you, - not telegraph -  
that there was no entry in his books  
when I called on him. If the  
matter will stand it, I will charge  
£1. 1. 0 for my services, but ~~x~~ if not,  
only the out of pockets, - viz 2/6.

I am glad to see that you  
doing such miscellaneous business: it  
argues well for your future. I  
am delighted to be of any assistance  
to you & you can always rely on

my giving any matter more  
prompt attention than you could expect  
from an ordinary agent. It is for this  
reason I wonder you did not write  
to me in the first instance re Tracy.

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You ask me to give you an  
account of my thoughts & doings.  
The latter I can soon do. I  
have settled down into a  
dull state of plodding, - destitute  
alike of hope & fear, of joy or  
active sense of sorrow, but a deep  
sense of melancholy pervades  
my thoughts. Doubtless this is  
mainly attributable to my lack  
of health - Despite care & prudence  
I continue to remain in a weak  
state of body which although

depressing never gives cause  
for any present anxiety. When you  
add to this that all my schemes  
for bettering myself have utterly  
failed, & that I am overburdened  
with a load of debt from which  
I see no prospect whatever of  
release & that I see nothing in  
the affairs of my household  
or relations which offers anything  
but disappointment, & you will  
easily see that I have nothing  
of interest to report. Perhaps  
however I had better give some  
details but for I have a shrewd  
impression that whenever I seek  
to depict any state of mental  
feeling it becomes scarcely obscure.

I have however been well since  
my return from Sydney - My malady

takes the form of deep seated &  
apparently ineradicable biliousness  
accompanied by great nervousness  
although I have exhausted almost  
the entire pharmacopoeia I get, if  
any thing, worse instead of better -  
This & the causes before mentioned  
render me extremely despondent &  
as the mind re-acts on the body & as  
I contrast my prospects with those  
of my compeers I not unnaturally  
fall into a gloomy, semi-despairing  
state. My hopes of obtaining admission  
are also dashed. The judges have  
finally determined not to pass the rule  
it is rumored on what I believe to be  
good grounds that the C. J. is the  
cause of this decision. A Bill is to be  
introduced next session to deal with  
the matter but I have very faint  
hopes of any good effect being obtained.

I often think bitterly of my 10  
years of hard & fruitless work in  
this city & look around for an avenue

of Escape but none presents itself.  
The difficulties of my situation are  
great. I am burdened by domestic  
responsibilities which I cannot avoid.  
I am acclimated now to this  
place & neither I nor the other  
members of my family wish to  
make any fresh changes, especially  
when we remember the disastrous  
effects of the last. I am the sole  
support of the family, for my brother  
renders hardly any assistance at all  
& it takes every penny of my earnings  
to defray expenses. Again, if I turn my  
eyes to Tasmania, what prospects  
offer? In Hobart, my relations with  
my brother are too strained to admit  
of our associating & I said before ~~my~~  
the other members of my family would  
not care to return & I am very  
anxious to do all that lies in my  
power to promote their happiness.  
Still the prospect of continuing the  
present life of profitless labor is

~~unbearable~~ intolerable, and - in a  
word - I am at my wits end, to imagine  
the best course to adopt. I am  
afraid to take any decisive action for  
fear of endangering the happiness of  
others & yet I despise myself for  
continuing as I am. Heigh ho!  
"It's a' a muddle."

So much for my thoughts & as for  
my mode of life it's easily described.  
A round of daily labor more or less  
laborious & wearisome - a rest at  
home in evening. A little more work;  
a walk or a game of chess or chat  
with McKenig who is now a  
widower & lives near me & then - officium.  
Sometimes this is varied by a visit from  
Milton or some other friends. I can  
hardly do any reading, partly from  
sheer weariness & partly from  
depression.

Milton has not been very well  
lately but otherwise he is getting on  
well & seems to be enjoying himself.

He seems satisfied with his prospects  
& is evidently making the most of his  
opportunities. We often talk of you  
& of the pleasant days of old - Oh  
how I wish they could have continued.

I hear Geo. Edwards talks of  
leaving Sydney, at least to his  
brother (whom I had not seen  
for 12 months) recently informed me.  
This seems a pity. I hope he is  
not imbued with the family  
spirit of depression & unrest.

I have nothing more to say  
except that I hope to be  
remembered to Burn, Jerry &c. I  
send my kindest regards to Mrs  
Clark & I hope you will write  
me a long paternal letter soon.

I would have written in a different  
vein had it been possible, but I  
know you will extend your kindness  
& make excuses for any shortcomings.

Write soon & believe me  
A English Clark Esq ever affectionately yours  
106 Cliff St  
W. Hill