

Clepton Cottage
 Alice St
 New Lynn
 Sydney

March 26th 84

Dear Pearl

I secured to
 I must this morning and hasten
 to express my thanks for the
 beautiful expressions of Army
 friendships conveyed by it, and
 to explain my absence. Believe
 me the "air of absence" only leads
 to mourn its duration by teaching
 me each day how much I love
 when I left Tasmania. The
 short period I have spent away,
 which I hope will soon be over,
 has taught me a double truth or

more firmly convinced me of an
old me - I never knew how much
I loved and how much I was beloved
till I found that parting strengthened
the bonds of love. Ah, my padre
I have been very unhappy! busily
employed, hurried, and cut off
from all I loved without any compensation.
The termination of each day finds
me worried and dully glad
to wash and go to bed. A thousand
times I have sighed for the
old days, the worst and most
unfortunate period of which would
be better than my present lot. Striving
by the loss I had sustained and
the thousand unceremonial incidents
of the daily worry here I set
last week to Penworth to deliver

and I had to curtail a detour
 There is nothing much to make
 with me - a touch of low fever and
 blood out of order. This induced
 Pryde to insist on me to spend
 some days with him up at Hatoomba
 where he has taken a cottage for
 the wife and children for a month.
 This was really a place of sunshine
 amid the desolation. Sublime
 scenery, mountain air, delightful
 walks in fern gullies with the pleasant
 memories of similar joys in Tasmania
 they recalled, and a visit to
 one of the most curious coal mines
 in the world. The last is a trip
 never to be forgotten. The works
 comprise two and a half miles of
 double line tramways with a
 succession of trucks constantly

moving towards the Railway and
empty trucks returning. This tramway
is driven by a steam engine on
a precipice 400 feet above an
abyss which contrary to all notions
of such formations ~~is~~ is full of
green trees and sunshine. Over the
face of this cliff at an angle of
about 65.0 the engine also draws
the coal trucks up from the
tunnel which enters the coal seams
at the very base. Looking over
the edge of this precipice is one
of the sublimest scenes in nature.
Highroads of curious rocks, some of
which are isolated peaks, cliff
peaks, and mountains with crowns,
and one splendid mountain right.

Sister Mary was married to
day. There was a genuine crying
match last Saturday when she
left. A pale-faced soft eyed girl
always dressed neatly in black
this "Sister Mary" who moves about
graciously and delicately and answers
with an earnest look shall ~~not~~
Dorsey broke into a smile behind
much has a tale of sadness, for
she had been jilted by another man
whom she still loves though she is
married now to another. This former
lover is the nurse here who also
regrets he let Mary go for the
wife he has married. A regular
tragedy full of sadness and real
as every day life

What a pleasure your photographs
gave me. For hours I was at home

again with "the boys" Luke Charles
Lamb with "Rose Cyliner" I lived
upon it for a week.

Bryant has offered me a billet
£5 a week on the Telegraph but
I refused as I must go home
for several reasons. I want to
see the old places and the old
friends, and I want to see how
the gold speculation turns out.
Up to the present I don't think
we have any reason to be dissatisfied
with our speculation. I, or rather
father for me, has not sold any
shares except a few to meet calls
and if it turns up triumphs my
future movements will be easy
to decide. If it is to a failure

Like valley rows, I can stand
apart for I have a heart for
either fortune.

Remembers me to Muller, Ted Dobbie,
Jury Hector. I have not written to
any for I was so undecided as
to whether I should stay or not.

Muller Searcher came up from
Melbourne upon receipt of my
letter telling of my desire to leave.

He tried hard to persuade me to
remain offering to build a better
factory nearer Sydney if I
would stop, and to settle at once
the interest I should have in the
business. He proved a poor Syren
though and I had but one answer
"I am thoroughly sick of it."

in the middle of the hollow which
is about two miles across. Then
the view extends over ^a hundred
miles of blue mountains in the
distance with sandstone cliffs showing
through the thick foliage and showing
like gold in the strong sunlight beaming
upon them. Lying flat down and
looking over the extreme edge of the
precipice a little town of tents
and huts is seen with a black
track leading into the face of the
cliff. The houses look like toys
and the men like insects, yet you
can hear their loud laughs and
calls and even the cocks crowing
as clearly as though they were
but a few feet away. He went
down by a winding track and

class the numerous cliffs all around
from below and went into the
tunnel a good way. It came
back to Jam, Harry, and bulging
hands after this was too wretched
to be described and I shot it more
than ever. Thais, you dear, was
awfully change but ella breast

Still there are some phases of the
life I know I will look back upon
with kindly recollections. Most of
the bonds I really like and many
of them love me. Some of them
are really precious to them I
can form to leave particularly
the people who are always my
favorites. One little Scotch girl
keeps me every other day to remain.
The best girl I had, my favorite,

Me. Although I have made a
great mistake and find everything
so hindered I cannot complain of
the treatment I have received
for the Deacons here all have
been kind and considerate to me, so
I felt compelled to state that
I would stay till they could
conveniently complete arrangements
for my successive appointment.
Nevertheless, I can now console
myself with the reflection that
whenever at its next I will be
back to the Country I love and
the people I love in June next.
I may not stay in Detroit for
that depends upon what success
we have with the monetary venture.
If it is every way fair I will

stay and take a quiet press ticket
or go into some congenial business.

If it is not good I might still
take a press ticket in Tasmania
but I am inclined if I am
not in funds to try the press
in Sydney or Melbourne. In
any case I will spend three
months at home, and during that
time I hope to have the benefit
of the advice of my friends. I have
often regretted the fact of losing
the "Examiner" ticket. It suited
me admirably and was not
at all hard work though I believe
I gave them satisfaction.

The wretched nature of the work here
and the continual presence in
a hot store has affected my health

My kindest wishes for Mrs
Clarke's welfare and the childrens
and may you prosper as your
best friends wish

An revoir till June some
fine night in which pretty
month I will pop into Gillingen
with a cheery "How are you" for
the very thought of a return
to my dear mamma brings back
to me my old optimistic mood
and cheerful temperaments.

I am ever faithfully
Yours
J. P. Howard