

P.S. Has there any remedy for snake bite besides cutting out & cauterising? - a wife near to my great concern my wife tells me was under & about our house lately: - she watched for it with a stick but did not see it - ag. - But as a forewarned hope in case, - I sh^d. like to have any remedy at hand that I can advise.

Ofala - Turon Pt.

9/mi/59
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My dear friend

Dr. Story

It is now some time since I wrote to thee but both by my dear wife & self has thy visit been held in very pleasant remembrance, both for the personal intercourse, - & for its far higher object. I am by no means clear whether I answered or not thy last letter: but not having it by me just now, cannot recall; sh^d. it be so, I trust thou wilt excuse it, abt. the time of receiv^g. it being to us a critical & anxious time, but I bel^{ie}. or think). ver it. I did reply shortly after receiv^g. it. - We were both much pleased to hear from thee again. The "Porty Hill" Sawmill wh^{ch}. seemed to promise so well to us, - failed at last primarily thro' lack of means, it having required a much larger outlay in several ways than my employers had anticipated. A kind of arrangement was made with the larger creditors, the concern was sold under Sheriff's writ (really to 2 or 3 of these Cred^s?) & one of the late partners inst^{al}led as manager. They offered me terms, both in pay & position very different from my late & in the former certainly not what ought to have been; I did my best to alter them if it being abt. the pay of a work^g. engineer whilst they allowed what they required & that I was fully entitled to be really their responsible manager of the whole machinery part) - but failing to do so, took them that I sh^d. take them for a time only: - upon the issue of the government. Dept. of the Selkirk Gold field, I left with a young friend S. Allop formerly of Whitlaven: - we had upon the whole a most delightful & interesting trip, altho' it failed as a mere matter of business: - altho' duty to my much loved little family will never allow me much time in an ordinary way to follow some of those latter & pursuits in natural history so natural & charming to me, yet when opportunity lawfully offers I deeply enjoy those scenes where the foot of man does not often tread, - where

Nature's rarities & choicest beauties are to be found. And thus may
judge therefore that about 100 miles river tracking, - the first 50 in
a small steamer, - & the last 50 in a sailing boat furnished many
new objects: chiefly wild flowers: but the whole character of the country
was some novel & beautiful: - rich river banks, - tropical foliage, -
every reach & nook alive with water fowl: - we saw one alligator
lambly crawl off the bank into the water at the mouth of a small
creek or opening into a lagoon, many large land lizards & several
water snakes. ~~now~~ it may interest thee to know that we did
wash out for curiosities' sake a few specks of gold, it being easily
found in minute quantities, but finding so poor a chance from our
valleys & careful consideration of all we did see & hear on the spot we
judged it not worth while to buy tools or stay, & therefore after a
few more valleys amongst the ranges once more took steam for
home. - Favored to reach safely, - & nothing offering just then, I soon
decided not to lose time, & with the same companion (after abt. a week's stay)
started for here. Rather curiously the day after we left home came a letter
to our cottage, to ask me to go up to the Iron Mines with him with
shape or other to get me into that affair, - & in 2 or 3 days after
wife's letter telling me of this, - came one from E. Palmer that
had bespoken me a situation ~~for~~ the Railway, & that I was at once to
go down to make formal application. - But being promised what I
trust may prove a good situation, - to manage a valuable machine (wh.
I bel. is now shipped & part way here) as soon as it arrives, - I see no
sense in taking any situation just to throw it up again in a few mos.
I have all along wished, to (if I may so speak) acquire a character for sta-
bility: - I believe it to be the sound one that will stand time's test: in oppo-
tion to colonial changeableness, wh. how? must be admitted to be often un-
desirable. It seemed therefore best to try this wh. is so easily taken up, & laid down at
briefest notice, if I did at all make a living out of it: - this I am thankful to
say we have thus far succeeded well in doing. After sundry trials in various kinds
of ground we took up an old shaft abt. 30 ft. d. that had been partially worked

before, followed up one tunnel & struck into another; & the yield has thus far been tolerably steady, & with tones of partial richness: thus the week bef. last it gave us nearly £1 pr. day ea. & since the first wk. has always yielded more than a comfort. living for the 2 digging bees up here & the patient wife bee & her dear little charges at Pooty Hill. I bel. I scarcely need tell thee that it is no small trial to us to be thus separated, but happily there is a daily post from Bathurst ^{to Sydney} & 3 times a wk. fr. Sydney to B. so by ^{happily} correspond. abt twice a wk. we know pretty well ea. o. r. pot. — Shortly after that place failed it pleased the great Giver to take from us our youngest little one my namesake: abt 4 mos. old. We both felt it much, his mamma (like all true Mothers with a child still at the breast) deeply; — the other two whom I know saw are I am glad to say much favoured in health, — & are indeed a treasure to us; — I often send them a pressed flower or a dashy sketch of some cur. insect, how we dig & wash out the gold &c. — & I hear they are delighted when a "letter fr. Papa" comes & eagerly ask if P. has sent any flowers or drawings for Minna & Willa; — Willie is begining. to talk well now & both are very eager I hear to learn their letters, whenever they find a larger one in a chance book, & running to ask "what this letter Mamma". We are just now ra. wistfully awaiting a box of letters sent along with some other little kind tokens by ship fr. our home relatives & them. — I have been much interested of late in ~~reading~~ observing the attention that seems to be awakening amongst Frs. at home as to the state of the Society, hoping that under the divine blessing great good may ultimately arise from it. Believe me it is no "hereditary or traditional" acceptance of Friends' principles that attaches me to them. — I have felt of late impelled to draw up a few particulars of Frs. here to forward to the Editor; I bel. that something if the sort has been done before (I think S. Darton told me he had done so or knew of it) — but my desire is after a few partic. of their numbers & location &c. — to draw the attention & good desires of Frs. at home & any here into whose hands it might hereafter fall to the scattered state outwardly & spiritually; — I had intended before I was left to ask the favour of copy of thy list of Frs. in full; as I might some time find myself in Melbourne or elsewhere; & glad if it for other purposes: — I had knowledge once collected it is a pity to be lost. — However I sh. feel much obliged to thee if thou w. give me abt. the numbers so far as thou knowest. For convenience & brevity, I have arranged the partic. as wished.

under several heads. - I have been surprised over & over ago, at how many, out here of one sort & ano^r. - in various 'conditions in life', - & all manner of present circumst^s have belonged to, - or came from the Society & often indeed has it, & does it - mournfully affect me, - to see how fast they have fallen, - or wandered, - I will not say from that Religious way, which we both esteem & believe love, - but from the one fold - the true Shepherd. - immeasurably beyond any ideas of wealth, - & far before scientific or intellectual ~~pursuits~~ pursuits, - & far trained to find deep interest in, - do I desire & crave to be made useful in gathering together the scattered ones, - & recalling to the precious truth. - I ~~have~~ heard abt. a week ago fr. E. Allen that dear mother, our friend Ruth h. & the family were well. Our pleasant & kindly intercourse with her is far as possible fully continues. - I am! & my Darton left a little while ago for Melbourne, I bel^l not quite decided as to their next step. - Jos. Simms I am sorry to say lately had a severe illness but was recover^d. when I heard: - Mrs. Parker & fam^y pretty well & as usual. Mrs. Moring I perceive to say, had found it right to disown. Thus by Mrs. Munnis's death, J. M's disimint. & the Dartons removal, what a thinning of our handful! But ~~the~~ it is written that the prayer of even a few humbly faithful shall avail, & I get trust to see in due time an awakening & gathering. At thy leisure I shall be glad to receive the partic^l ment^s, - & with much love to thyself & to all friends - & "all who love the name of Jesus" in thy parts

Please address
 Theodore West
 Rooty Hill
 care of Mrs. Parker
 Richmond Coach

Remain
 Thy sincere friend
 Theodore West.

It is a long address but unavoidable; it is the only way we have now of getting our letters the mill mail bag is given up. I may leave here or be recalled any hour.

Mr. Palmer Parrichfield Hill
 Sydney
 Railway Station
 Paramatta