

We are sending
case of Jane by
the 'Austral' to ^{tomorrow} Mrs. Mann. to her
addressed c/o Mrs. Mann. to her
kindest remembrance to her
the Tas. Colony Hobart. 26th April 1891
Sunday eve. 11 PM.

Dear Bidd,

You were in good spirits
when you wrote your last letter,
with your resolves to emerge from
the student chrysalis and flutter
your wings as an 'artist'. I quite
agree with you that it is time
for the transformation, and trust
that ere this you have made the
Professor recognise the change,
and that the inner impulse has
"rent the veil of your old hush."

But whether the impulse is potent
enough to accomplish this or not,
your letter showed that you were
better, and that you were making
progress, and, most probably also,
that you were sleeping better.

Go on, my dear, and make the
most of your time. Perhaps the next
Competition may raise you to the
Elysium of the Life School - and, if

not, there will not therefore be any occasion to be down-hearted. It is not at all improbable that they see what you want in preliminary training, & that they deliberately keep you in the Prelim. as best for you. I like your lecturing me for melancholy. I am melancholy at present, and my melancholy is one of h. s. d. It is not the difficulty of making both ends meet, but the sad fact that with all the stretching they won't meet. We shall have to do some more cutting down, unless we can bring up the other end, and add something considerable this year on the incomings of last. I had hoped to make a hundred or two by mines, but at present it is a lot the other way. Serves me right for meddling with the wretched shares. I ought to have known better.

Howsoever, it's no use crying over spilt milk, and perhaps after all things may

turn out better than they look.
just now. The bother is there
are so many young Solicitors
starting, that competition is
getting very sharp.

he had all Rick's children
here to day. They look flourishing,
though poor Ursula has not yet
got rid of that hideous cap.
Poor child! it is very rough on
her to have so much of her
childhood spoilt. Bernard
was in high spirits & little
Joan as soft and charming as
ever. Jean often comes in now,
in fact she is the only one of
the family that does come much,
though Kathie does favour us
sometimes. I think Jean has
improved a good deal. Bob
has been seedy again but is
better. The cold changeable
weather tries him. The other day
we had the beginning of what
the Kanakas call 'a cold snap'.
The snow was down below the

Springs. This is very early for so
much snow & the last two or
three days have been pretty
chilly. Today I cut the school.
they had a special service -
and went up the river with
Arthur Vale, Bell, Bayley & ^{Clegg} and
several others in the 'Pinnafone'.
It was a pleasant outing, ^{special} ^{between} the cold rain squalls.
"Spike" is building a splendid
house on his land on the Brown
River Road - 5 miles down.
He drove me down yesterday.
It is a splendid site, the view
perfect - down the river and
away out to sea. Only the
foundations are in, but when
finished I expect it will be
one of the most delightful
houses in the neighbourhood
of Hobart. I was quite surprised
at the view, although of course
I knew the Browns R. road so well.
I believe it will cost him
fully £4000 when all finished.

2/ W9/12/6 (13) 20f2

I think I told you about Geo
Clarke's marriage - about his
going to the Church at 8 AM,
Mr Clarke marrying them in
10 minutes - quite the shortest
time on record, & there going
off by the 'Hibernia' at half
past 8. It is as well that his
family seem reconciled. In
fact Poppy has succeeded, after
her way, in idealising Kate
Runney, till I think she has
persuaded herself into being
really pleased. One advantage
we shall get from the marriage
and that is that the girls won't
have to endure banishment for
6 months at a stretch, & that
we shall have them all at
Kent House all the year round -
and that is no small advantage.

Sak will have told you about
poor old Miss Giblin. She is
very low, and it seems only

a question of days or at most weeks - Well, one can hardly wish her to live. Bessie Gately is down to see her. I got a glimpse of her yesterday as we drove past in Bayly's trap.

Old Mrs Buckland died yesterday. She has been failing for a long time, and for the past few weeks has been gradually sinking - I think it was some heart trouble. She has been head of the family so many years, & such a capable one, that they will all feel it very much. Last night I went up to see poor little Arthur Storie. His asthma has left him, but he has had congestion of the liver for some time & has suffered a great deal. He cannot last much longer, but is wonderfully collected and talks of his death quite calmly. Poor little man, I think he is so worn out, that he looks