Hobart: 8 Nov 1871
Sunday night.

Dear Mr. Reed,

I was very sorry not to be able to write you last week, but I was too worried about one of the little girls about the house. She had no time to eat all through yesterday and Monday morning. This time I had a rather large amount of work to do, but I suppose that I had better do it all.

Sick with gripes. Nearly every house has it, some of it is very severe. After Connie and Frances (the housewifes) had it, we seem to have got rid of it. We are not much good today.
There's evidence, if I hope we shall escape now for it seems to be abating. I have seen father twice, poor old man, never died of it last Sunday. Old Wood found there's a sharp attack, he has been between life and death, but forces to how turned the corner. They have had it at the textile school. The housekeeper died, a small boy, a neighbor, one of the family that died to live in railroad street college, suddenly from a weak heart.

George Parker is now in town, the family in the road to recovery. He came home Christmas in one day. I thought it very risky. But he was apparently some the worse for the journey.
Have seen Millie Friday, two or three times. He has gone home to Solepur, Purnell, will not be fit for work for some months. This leaves all the work to William Patience. This is unfortunate, as the influence has been laid up most of the week, though not dangerously ill. Went over to day to see him.

Last Sunday night I went up to Lancaster via a special train. Robert Heathcote was present at his way to his house to try to arrange affairs. It is likely that the will of the late Mack will bring them to grief, but very likely they may pay a composition. Mr. Pollard has been to埃及

is practically bankrupt. The ........ are coming next. Now I think we shall have a bad time.

Went to Lancaster about the 10th, to see a few friends. Spent some time there and returned by Sunday express. Had tea at Oakley Tylds. They have done well. She has a nice little girl, the Dolphin Road. She looks very well. Oakley is not so far as Lancs. The same evening I went to Waterhouses. They are as usual, with Sandy as a very charming little child. She was in bed, but insisted on my going in to see her. I stayed nearly two hours. Hadn't a chance to see Annie. She only came back from Manchester on Tuesday, but Laura Parry...
Who is arranging the exhibition is to be opened at D's on the 24th. I have limitations in the festivities. I think I shall go up there in two or three days. We went up on Thursday to play at the tennis match on Saturday.

I hear that the South has been badly beaten, but this was to have been expected as most of the Southerners had been ill. We were in very bad shape.

Claus brother-in-law.
Bill Rose—Betty's husband—came up with us from Lancaster. He seems a very nice steady fellow. It is a pity that his husband is not like him. From all that Miss Clay's husband is an
unreclaimable blackguard. It is very sad. She is only 21 and has 3 children. Her husband has been in jail for some embroidery business.

Mrs. Holmes came here on Friday night. She is really reveling on having a holiday without being bothered with her husband's relations until last year. She keeps on remarking on the delight of being in Boston. She is a good old soul. Very little altered from what she was when you painted her, which she says is 6 years ago. Now the time flies!

After calling at Webber, this evening I went to meet a nurse to help her. They are
all well, having escaped the
stomachia. George is up with
his wife. She looks greatly
improved - quite stout &
ladylike. Henry gets more
about every day. Really,
though he is a bit cracked,
"one of the maddest that
cross an opposite Point side
of the family." Yet he is
decidedly clever in a way,
though it is a cleverness that
will never lead to any practical
result.

But, still, you tell I had
a letter from Robert Monday.
He had been to New Jersey
but said nothing about his
trip. His whole letter was
about starling article with
Hood. What an absurd
creature it is!

Don't forget to make
studies from pictures &c of
Naval Costume about the
time of the Battle of Trafalgar
1804. Without these you will
never be able to paint the
Collins landing picture which
ought to make you famous.
You must make lots of studies
of Costume & Ships. You will
find lots of material in the
Courses. Write to me about it.

I can't see your daring this picture.
I am anxious to hear about your
Paris experience. You must take
great care of yourself now you
are so far from home.

The weather is very pleasant but
we have not yet been able to get out
anywhere. She sends her
devotions.

Sister conclude with my
blessings. Your ever affectionate

Helen is always recovering.