Hobart—14th Aug. 1872,

Sunday night.

Dear old Roo,

Have been down to Maltbie's to drink, and listening to Sodul, his deliverances nothing so general. It is really wonderful what an amount of energy the girl has. She is one of those Convertibles—Crabbits, as they call them—and is great on good works and charity, but that does not prevent her taking the keenest interest in the doings of the world, from home Reading circles to lady Hamilton's movements of politics. She read me a very interesting letter from Kydwellers describing his trip to the Opera, Tristan and Isolde. The boy has a faculty for letter writing. I am always struck by the strong contrast between him and girls in almost all points.

Reading circles under the A.H.R.U. (Aust. Home Reading Union)
are now quite the fashion. Lady Hamilton, Lady Robson, Lady Steeles, Lady Pigott, and a lot of others are all reading courses. I think it will be a good thing. But the circle which all—especially the girls want to belong to, is ours; i.e. one at New Town in which the Young (Franky [Freddy as they are familiarly called]) are the leading spirits. I suppose this is because the Young, though Cambridge men, well off, and well connected, are not social men, and because our circle excludes the female sect. Certainly, it is most interesting, though the reading is at times so heavy that I might be fairly said, only an excuse for discussion on all sorts of problems of the time, principally social. Socialism, for instance, always crops up, and meets at the hands of most with severe criticism. He met once a fortnight at New Town, usually at the Young, at Steeles (the Solicitor) or at the Friends School. The town members, among Dawson himself,
We only admitted on condition that we go out to New Town.

Your letter written from Stratford, 

Shakespeare, was most interesting in its description of the Ruins, their grand little family seat. The man was told at your theological references. You are such an academic headman. My dear, that is laughed at your paper references to their supposed creed. I am glad you were able to go to see them - and the little 

London was greatly interested in your account. I hope you will manage to go to York again to the 

Blackfriars. I do want you to get to know how London well. There is such an antique architecture finally, an admiration 35 years old. I only wish that I could see a chance of going here to receive the friendship. Besides I want you to know the dear old city. I hear that there is to be a new water at the Friends School, a he call New York. I must be better among the places of my old school, and have been Leeds, the famous town. I F.T. Fryer quite lately.

I have just been up to see the mother, 

who is in bed getting her supper. 

11.30 and tells me to say that you are a good girl to write to fully, and she wants you to give her all particulars about your relations.

The Art Gallery is beginning to attract 

attract. Still it is not as it has in the past. The most colours of some of the 

ruins in Orange are being demolished. Miss Brooke is 

joining two pictures to cost 50 and 

100. One is by - Hopper - I think the subject is "Chloe."

I am in a fight about the 

University. The Parliament have 

got a good set of teachers, and I 

am afraid they will go for the 

University. I think our grant 

the fifth ministry have been defeated 

by 15 to 15 and, change to relate, are 

actually going out. They dream to be 

kicked from Danto, Norfolk, for the 

meas they have for the finances into 

introduction of the most reckless kind of public works, Small Railways of 

do, forth. Fifth is bad, but I don't 

know that Henry Adkins, who is to 

join the new ministry, is any better.
Acts being trusted they are on a par, and, mind you as Phi, Dobson's less intelligence. The reason is that H.P. is to be Premier without office, Lady Bragley, Col Lee, John Henry Trease, Hardwell, Landy Works, Ellsworth Lewis, Atty 1/8, W Grant C.H. a member of the Cabinet without office. They are going in for what they call, friendly, enough drastic retrenchment, some close to have a dig at the university. I want the council to offer to take £2000 instead of £4000, £2000 all of it. This would give us enough to appoint two lecturers, if the cut is done and sooner we may just shut up, which will be a bit easy and to all our labour worthwhile. However, this week will probably show what is to be foredoomed.

Oct 30th. I am going to give my lecture on Early History in the India and France Hall. I am not uneasy about getting much of an audience. Last time there was nothing to say. This time Hall was crowded, but if a head will have a wonderful
Minning effect. Save them to deliver it at Llancaston. If you see Mr. Bannock tell him that they very much pleased that we have made hay while the sun shone, i.e. got a much done while times were propitious. Do, I greatly fear that the incoming Ministry are not likely to sympathise with their liberal ideas as to the importance of the work, and as they are pledged to economise are almost sure to stop work. However, I will watch my chance. When things improve I will see if I can get them to start again. That is, if they stay proceedings now. It will be only a question of a short time, if it would be well for him to write again and set out what remains to be done. I think my recommendation will have weight with the new men. When they get over their constitutional fever, which will probably be as soon as the English people get over their panic as to Australian borrowing, this will not be very long, I fancy.
She was able to dine to-day. She is a good girl and quite a favorite with the family. She has been in hospital, but still very discontented and modest. All the children seem to go through a bad stage, but hope may come out of it. Mother is now feeling quite well, at least her family says so. I think that unjudicious management has a good deal to do with their trouble. Rob has no tact or discretion with the children. Therefore will be utterly spoiled. He has not been very well. Today he has been to school, which is unusual. Better almost a school attendance at all.

I haven’t seen any of Richard’s people this week. Bernard’s head is not cleared yet. My opinion is that it is the result of a few tools of the system, as in other cases. She is now very florid, but much improved. Bernard is delicate. His ankles are very weak, but she hopes he may outgrow this.

Butters wishes me to say that she will send money for the dresser if I can lend anything for you to get things for the house. Now if I have had a very good year, it is quite in the form for business better than ever. But I am in debt and don’t like it. I could clear my life policies to the last cent. Today took me in to his house to-day and showed me, with great pride, a lot of things he had bought in Sydney. One of them good.

I fear things will be worse in this story before they are better. The best way to stop all public works, which will throw a lot of people out of employment. The situation in the colonies has been recently aggravated by the strike of the miners. The strike would clear the papers which have been going on at Broken Hill. The only object is that the reported strikes have made work all the more difficult to which will break their power.

Let us keep your victories. We are counting the weeks to you return. God bless you. - In spiritual.