Hobart
11th Dec 1872
Sunday evening.

Dear [Name],

It has struck me that if I write a line now it may catch you at Albany, and you will know he is coming on. If news however, there is very little to tell.

The weather is very well for her. She keeps on asking the name of the ship you are coming in, and when it will be in. She is in a perpetual fidget to see you. I am very glad you may be looked for in some three weeks now, for the weather is very bad, and her life hangs on a slender thread.
That is the reason, amongst others, that I have been so anxious for you to get back as soon as possible. I think you will do her more good than all the doctor's medicine. You must be prepared to see a great change in her. She has aged very much in the four years you have been away.

I do not think I shall be able to come over to Melbourne to meet you. I have written twice for money at present. We are very short-handed in the office, and I have to work very hard, especially as holden is very sickly. They have two hotplates at homestead, but she is again off her head with distressing melancholia, and it is worrying them all out. I will write Charbrook to meet you first.
The Hamiltons left on the 28th Nov. It was amusing to see the way in which everybody got up addresses to Missa. She was never so popular as when she was forty away.

Mrs. Harris and one or two of her daughters arrived in the Choric this week. Leslie Walker also came back in her. His brother arrived a week later in the same boat. They are still away on his wedding trip. The Bishop is back after his trip to the S. Sea Islands, and his wife got there a little before him after a visit to her people in England.

The rest of the news must be reserved until you get back. God bless you my dear! We are all looking forward to have you once again. Your affectionate...