

w9/L2/7 (27)

Hobart. Christmas Day
10:30 P.M.

Dearest Bird,

It is very delightful to think that we are likely to see you in another 7 days or so. I will just write a line to put in Sah's envelope by way of greeting.

Sah has written to the Bensons to look after you - and, for fear they should be out of town, I have written to Whether at Croby's to see after your luggage if you want any help. So if no one meets you, go to

Brooklyn, Queen Street, at
once. Hebbert will be only
too pleased to do anything
he can for you.

Poor Mrs Armour is very ill -
in fact, from what I hear it
is doubtful whether she will
be alive when you get to
Melbourne. Of course you
will go to see her. You should
also see the Torreyiros.

It has struck me that very
likely you may want to do
some business in Melbourne.
At least to see some artists
& find out whether there is a
market for pictures there, and
also learn something about
the exhibitions to which you
might like to send pictures.

Probably it would be wise for you not to hurry over by the first steamer, but to see Senhor Loureiro & any others who would give you information. A few days in Melbourne will be useful & perhaps profitable, & the delay worth the matter.

If there is a convenient steamer coming direct to Hobart, that will be your best way & save you a lot of trouble. If you come by Launceston, get Mr. Hebbel to arrange for your heavy luggage to come by direct steamer, & bring only a bag by Launceston. Oakley & Ish will look after you there. You can telegraph to us when you are coming, or if

you go by Launceston send a wire to Oakley.

I need not send you any news. Sal has probably told you anything important. Poor Robert Mather has lost his little girl, the youngest but one, from croup. She was buried to day.

I met Mr. Blouet (Max O'Rell) last night. Was very favourably impressed. He is a fine type of Frenchman.

It is folly to think that in a few days we shall be able to talk face to face, after nearly 4 years of writing. The little mother is in a great state of excitement about your coming. She is very well, for her.

Yours ever
B.H.