Enclosure from W. G. Robertson to James B. Walker

10/11/1897

J. B. Walker Esq.
Messrs. Walker & Wolfhagen
Son of Hobart
46 Queen St. Melbourne
1 Nov. 1897

Dear James,

Your Sister began her journey under favorable auspices. No mere mill pool smoothness in those straits called after Bass but the "multitudinous sea" as the divine William hath it. How lucky are some people in their experiences! What matters the famous grip of evil demons if one outlives the storm to tell the tale? No better to have loved and lost the Pete.

The Sarah did not land here till near midnight on Friday. I saw nothing of her till Saturday afternoon when I got a boat about 5 and stayed until 9. I gave her such "tips" as I could in the short time and I have since written a few lines to catch her at Adelaide. The "Anna" got off about 10 O'clock on Saturday and would therefore reach Geog Bay about 10 this day. Grooby saw to the
Luggage being put safely on board so that Sara had only hand things to carry down with her at 9.25. Apparently she will get her cabin all to herself. Saturday night was fine and fairly calm here but I fear that Sunday morning was rough. The Sunday evening was gloriously fine. Not so today for there has been a heavy SW gale with showers and a very low temperature and prospect for the Cape tomorrow are not of the brightest.

Your sister says that her ticket is a nine months return. This would bring her back in August - a month not to be thought of being the worst of the whole year for heat in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean in this year. Experience has proved Sara will have to get an extension and come out about November 1898. This is the month when my sister Jessie is to return. I have from Sara letters addressing 19 Sep

That they may meet in Delhi has most surprising manner found her way about while having to cultivate economy as a fine art. This will about fit your sister's book end if the two can meet at some point of route and afterward return by the same ship I will be glad.

Our in England goes by the name as a first class passenger and until his return I am a dock passing here. Had it not been for this I could have promised your sister a fairly early meeting some where in England but now I can't expect to have that flight like devil much before mid June 1898. Should I take the proposed trip the probability is that I will take my sister across the Continent to some Mediterranean port and this might harmonize with your sister's plans but the Sara here as say

The Station.
Unless you come across here there is no chance of my seeing you for a long while.

I hope she enjoyed her Sydney trip.

With all kind remembrances.

Ever yours,

[Signature]

Ps. I save these two golden rules for the traveller—
1. Never miss an opportunity.
2. See all that you can for nothing.
R. 10th Nov 1917
46 Queen St.
Monday

Dear Jenn,

A little more about Sarah and her flight to Europe. I was out chez ma tante Mrs. Throssell yesterday who told me that a very much-friend of hers Mrs. Basil Brooke was a second-class passenger per "China" as far as Colombo, and was accompanied so far by a Miss Williams going "to the East" as a missionary. As Mrs. Basil Brooke is the wife of a Solicitor it is a lady I have no doubt that she and Sara have "charmed"
by this time and become friends the only to part.

Our Mr. England got away from Melbourne on Saturday I made time promise that, weather and his health permitting, he would give Sara an outing at Colombo either to Kandy or Mount Lavina. They therefore pretty sure to see a little of the attractive side of Colombo while there. I wish I had known beforehand that Alce Brooke was going by the "China" however, things will no doubt right themselves.

I had a letter on Saturday from CB Hardy Schuster of Adelaide who married the youngest Macdowell. He saw Mr. England off in the "China" from Cape Bay and having gone down to the Bay to see some people away by that Steamer on board of which he was when Mr. E turned up. We were glad to know that Mr. E had thus got away all right, and was comfortably cabin'd.

Saturday news gave the news of James Walsh's death at which I was both grieved and glad as he had been such a terrible sufferer. My sister said something to me about a death in the mother circle but I was unable to question
her art to it. You will no doubt mention it when you next write.

I am now over head and extra in business and have a rigger-driving season before me. All work and no play - too, no doubt the pay will be "all there." It will be a trying time but the resultant holiday will be all the sweeter when it comes. Oh for the land of "passes, peaks and glaciers."

Always yours

W. Robertson

Truly, truly.