Hobart Town
31/10 1836.

My dear Boy,

I learn from our dear friend Ely & Backhouse that there is considerable probability of my taking the passage to Melbourne by the "White Star" from Liverpool, along with our kind friend Chas Mould, and as the time of the expected arrival of this vessel is drawing nigh, I am desirous, should a merciful Providence permit thee, to reach Melbourne in safety, that thou mayst be met with an affectionate welcome from home on my first landing. Also with the tidings, no doubt, grateful & believing, as they will be to thee, that

Yours truly,

G. W. Walker
31 Oct. 1856

J. B. Walker - written to meet him at Melbourne.
Then we are all much as usual and my relatives and connections in ordinary health. It is highly probable that you may meet your uncle John M. and Aunt Isabella in Melbourne; I should the time suit it would be pleasant to return with them. But I do not wish thee to stay long there longer than will suffice for thee to look round and see for thyself a city that has above risen into celebrity. The capital of a people born, it may almost be averred in a day. When I visited it in 1837, it had been but a year in existence. It numbered about 100 buildings, chiefly of wood. I may observe that should the City of Hobart have left recently for this, the best way will be to cross by steam to Launcetown, thence by stage coach to Hobart. There is an arrange between the Stequito Comp'y and the Coach office, I believe, so that the expenses by this and the direct route are nearly equal, as thou art kindly offered at temporary home by thy fellow passenger of the Helper. (Would I am under no solicitude on that score, but this affords a further argument in favour of no very long sojourn at Melbourne so as to be in any burdensome to our valued friends, who have a family of their own.

You may well be sure thy expected return has created no little sensation among thy brother, sister, and cousins, not to mention ourselves, though none can do justice to the estimate the hour of this return than in those who gave thee birth.

Thy mother has been built engaged in getting a room ready for "her James." Should we be favoured to clasp thee once more in our arms, it will indeed be a day to be remembered; of which we may say with the Psalmist: "This is the
the day which the Lord hath made we will be glad and rejoice in it." We had not hoped to realize such a happiness for many years to come. Thou wilt see many changes, & some improvements that have taken place since thou left. One thing still remains unaltered - The love of thy father & mother which has been strengthened rather than diminished by absence.

All of each of our household including my dear grandmother mother herself send their dearest love and hoping thou wilt be in ample time for our yearly meet which is early in next month.

I remain Thy affectionately yours
Geo W Walker

If convenient I should like thee to call on our friend Mary Steele & say that I wished thee to enquire particularly after her health & welfare & that of the family - a portion of them remain here - they are well. Give my love & kind remembrances.