When I had the pleasure of addressing thee about five weeks ago my dear Companion myself were preparing for a Voyage to the Penal Settlement of Moreton Bay. In consequence of being suspended as Witnesses in the trial for Libel in the Supreme Court, we were detained some days longer than we had anticipated, so that it was the 20th. that before we were ready to start in the Govt. Schooner Isabella by a happy coincidence the also was detained in Harbour until the morning of that day, as a passage had been kindly furnished us by the Governor, with permission to visit the Sett. at Moreton Bay. We were proceeding on board early in the morning, when information that two Vessels from Hobart Town had arrived the same morning in the Harbour, in addition to one the previous evening, that their Carcass were likely to be delayed in the course of an hour or two, induced me to delay my departure for that Port, by the means I had the satisfaction of receiving the favours of the 13th. I welcome enclosures for which I felt not a little thankful. The news of poor W. Chappell's decease excited feelings of sorrow; but interest as our minors. Yet if his soul be at rest, we trust we may confidently hope, believing that for overcome his more recent adversities he would not be held accountable to the sight of the Prominent Judge of Good & dead; on account of both himself this family we only rather rejoice than mourn that he is released from the trials & sufferings of mortality. We shall be interested in having particulars of this interment, I hope it may have been conducted
in a moment accosted with the prayers of the deceased, and hopes
and pray not to offend the feelings of surviving relatives of friends.

We had a favorable voyage of six days to Moreton Bay, where we
arrived on the 20th. After the pilot had conducted us in safety over
the dangerous flats forming the bar, we steered some miles from the
narrow passage between Moreton and Keppel Islands, by which we entered the
Bay; the Indabella came to an hour 10 miles up the Bay, while we proceded
in the best manner. We dispatched to the Settlement, where we arrived,
later being bowled 16 miles during the night) at six o'clock on the
morning of the 21st, the Commandant and Captain Eyre of the 44th Reg.
met us courteously. He became his guest until the 11th inst., when
we joined the Indabella at the mouth of the Bay, expecting to get off to
sea the following day. During our stay at the Penal Settlement, as it is
called Brisbane Town, we had many religious interviews with the
Prisoners, we were strengthened to communicate the gospel message
of reconciliation through the mediation and intercession of a Crucified
Redeemer unto all who truly repent. I believe in his Name, I thus
came unto God through him. The discharge of duty in this respect
affords peaceful retrospect. May it from the head cast upon the
water that shall yield a return after many days. The Estate
at Brisbane Town includes, rather more than 400 prisoners, 71 of
whom are Females, many of them also having Children. Of the latter
there are 22 in number. The adults, both men and women, are left
for the most part at agricultural employment. Of all the produce
of Grapes, or Indian Corn, is the principal. They are just gathering
bearded of at least 10 or 12,000 bushels of this useful grain.
Most of the produce is sent to this Settlement are for short period
of three to seven years. Upon the whole, it is hardly inferior in
climate of its advantages to the Settlement of Norfolk Island;
it is indeed a delightful place. The verdure and splendour of the
vegetation, as contrasted with the height of Sydney, greatly surpasses
me, and had expected from the position of Moreton Bay to the
East, but in Lat. 27° 32' South, that the country would bear.
assumed an unchangeable, unpunished appearance. The very reverse
in fact, the character of the period is more notable in these parts, but generally
friendly. The vigorous attempt on the part of the bar to render it difficult
in consequence of a slavish state of the sea, we induced it to attempt
the attempt ceasing by mutual agreement to prevent any further injury to the
interests of the people, in the name of the navies or of our
selves. Many of them were birds of prey, and all of European
males. The presence of a number of naked men and women, whose notions of morality
especially among the women, were exceedingly diverse, can
hardly fail to have a deteriorating effect on the whites, while on the other
standards, as renders their condition very deplorable. The
indigent, the spendthrift, is not at all a nature to counteract, but rather to aggravate, the evil on both
sides. I have heard the blacks assembled to the number of 500 or upwards,
prevented a handkerchief to each of them. Men, women, children, with
I was much delighted. There are amongst many children, even
those of the poor children are not free from this taint of
But when not suffering from this cause, the general health of the blacks, yo
10,000 of both cases, appear to be a healthy and athletic race. The night
before we left Amulet Point, the islands station, we saw two warriors
engage in single combat, with Waddie, his shield, the strongest with
who I think avoided the blows of the other, or avoided them off with his
shield, was very remarkable; though one could not but lament that
they should adopt such a barbarous mode of settling disputes, as for
the custom and practice of duelling. I could not but
complain of the want of taste and skill
that
yielded the palm in point of civilization, reason. For the one,
generally ends in a broken head; in the other, the latter
one endowed with a cultivated reason, is a highly cultivated. The
the peaceful spirit of the gospel, treated one another like friends, thirsty
the ball, of powder and ball, to the destruction it may
for one and another. With this law and moral
the battle of little means, as much as they then set at defiance the
laws of their Master, at the very moment they may seem to appear in his
presence. 31 May 1836 (copy) My dear friend, the above was written under
my own hand.
To,

J. J. Crouch,
Sheriff's Office,
Hobart Town
N. D. Land.