

Jericho – 42 miles from
Hobart Town –
Friday [illegible] 16 May '22

Dear Betsey

I send this by Mr Thompson the landlord of the inn where I slept last night – to let you know I am well and intend proceeding forward – after Breakfast – at Bagdad 18 miles from Hobart Town – I was overtaken by Mr McRae Mr Bell Mr Newton[?] and [illegible] in whose company I now am – which makes travelling more agreeable – I have seen nothing of Mr Harris party: suppose they are a day's journey behind.

The country we have passed through is extremely beautiful and the road very good so far – there are however two long hills to travel over. All[?] the other Gentlemen have suffered dreadfully from blistered feet – mine thanks to your good soft stockings are as well as ever – which makes me the stoutest[?] traveller of the party –

I feel great anxiety for the safety of our sheep – and you must see that Robert and Edward never lose[?] them out of their eye and I wish much that you enquire of the overseer[?] what sort of a person it is who sleeps beside[?] them – They are a valuable property and if we should lose[?] them it would strike at our very comforts here – I think [illegible] should make a sound[?] place to lock them up in without delay pray[?] [illegible] every means of security as nothing else is of equal importance at present –

Tell William to see [illegible] the Bill of trading[?] for the [illegible] of silk and if it says nothing about [illegible] let it remain on board till I return

Let him also ask Mr [illegible] if a permit is required for the purchase of [illegible] which goes into Bond –

If [illegible] could make a place tight and dry for the sheep – and with the help of good straw and blankets could make a comfortable bed it would be very desirable to let the two boys Ed and Robert sleep with them and I hope something will be done for security – at all counts[?] till I come back

My best regards to Mr and Mrs Wells[?] I hope to be back about the middle of next week –

By all means send in the plate chest to Mr Wells by the wagon but William must go along with it and not have trust it out of his sight till delivered over[?]

Adieu dearest Betsy

Your affectionate husband

John Leake

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