

DX 19/76

Melbourn

19. 6. 1868

My dear Father

We were very pleased to have thy letter on fourth day last. I do not send him for us to read, we had heard of thy safe arrival in Sydney some time before through Willie Jensen, but no particulars not even the date of thy arrival, we kept hoping no letters came & expect time started by the "City" of Robert & then perhaps <sup>after she came to grief</sup> came via Melbourne. As the City was not expected to leave till the 15<sup>th</sup> (a fortnight after the date of thy letter) we rather hope & expect to receive more letters by her to-morrow night, & perhaps hear something definite about thy return, but we will not be impatient, knowing at least believing all will be ordered for the best. Joseph is writing & I expect will tell all the news, I could not do justice to that if I attempted it (Edward often reproves me for writing round at the end of the lines, but I can't help it)

I know there has been a great deal of helping  
 it seems to have been about 2 or three weeks  
 two teams carting & one ploughing in Arnold  
 has Probin & Garner (two brothers) in the east  
 & Joseph ploughs with Ajax & Jasper - Diamond  
 chestnut goal - but some of the time they  
 carted, (when the ground was very wet after two  
 weeks of rain had fallen, our first winter  
 rain) with Jasper in the shafts Rob & Jack  
 leading. Joseph was very busy breaking Vivian  
 in for the gig, she did harrowing & the carting  
 as well as possible, & then went on the horse cart  
 one morning, being very good, but perhaps she  
 thought she drove & in the afternoon he drove  
 her to Swansea in the gig, a fortnight since last  
 fortnight, I wanted to go on horseback, but Joseph  
 said I might as well go in the gig, he thought  
 Vivian would go well, & so she did to Swansea  
 when Joseph called at Haynes & came running  
 out, & jumped in to the gig making some  
 exclamation about the cold & rain, frightened  
 her & she began to kick, then one rein broke  
 he jumped onto the other rein broke, & he  
 nearly fell backwards, she was kicking them &  
 kicking furiously, & going pretty fast, it took Joseph

some time to get hold of her head & stop her  
 but during this time, I remember the  
 the better part of color scrambled over the  
 back of the dog cart, but it was rather difficult  
 as the thing was swaying about in all directions  
 fortunately we escaped without injury, except  
 Joseph's hands rather smart he borrowed a pair  
 of strong shoes, went for the dog cart, then started  
 for home, Vivian had kicked up the iron hook  
 that the timber trees had on, & had torn her leg  
 very much, when near the "Glanville" quarry, she  
 began another scene, & a thick mist of the  
 when I protested I had had enough of it & would  
 home, poor Vivian had injured herself so she was only  
 able to go on three legs, & kept kicking almost incessantly  
 so from Baggs road I went home & left Vivian  
 with Ajax, & that was the end of our adventures, poor  
 Vivian has not been able to get out of the stable  
 till yesterday, & we hope she will be well some day  
 she kicked the splinter out of a stick & stuck of the  
 I back board, I was not frightened at the time, but  
 could not sleep for thinking about it, it flew away  
 from the south & carried the great stick of it I caught  
 cold, & then it ended in a few pounds, (I am nearly  
 ashamed of it, as I had grudgingly paid about a penny  
 for it, its so tickety of leave, but I was not very ill, except

about a week when I could not do anything but  
 nearly at right angles. I missed my walk  
 little & he is the best hand at telling news  
 I sent me to see Budget yesterday for  
 she seems to be going fast. I think she is not  
 likely to get better than a fortnight. She would  
 much like to see thee, but I fear that may not be  
 the very spot to see all those poor little children  
 so helplessly waiting to take care of. Mrs. Budget has  
 not been able to leave her bed for weeks & I am  
 to a more skeleton. Mary Ellen went to town for  
 after her mother's death. I had found several very  
 kind friends. Henry's father is paying for her  
 "boarding" for her after which she hopes to be compe-  
 tent to take a situation as governess. I am very pleased  
 he has been so fortunate. I'm too weak to write these  
 nights. They are later than ordinary. I should be  
 thank you to my boy seventh day. Henry, Louisa & I  
 are here to night. Louisa had come to see Budget again  
 she intended writing to night but they have  
 she trusts to be better of you by all hope of writing  
 the same. Louisa is now residing in the  
 his letter from her to night. I wish you the best  
 about" and put me to bed. I'm yesterday so well  
 give up all hope in hopes. I'll next day. I am  
 very pleased that you just see. I'll next day. I am