

27/19/68 (1)

St Kilda. Victoria

7/12/67

My dear Anna Maria.

Soon after waking this morn.  
my thoughts reverted to home, and I thought  
I would avail myself of the morning to  
compose a letter to thee - Joseph Strout  
was favored to return home in safety and  
to find all of you well - and he will supply  
the news up to the time of our final leave-  
taking, except that he cannot fully declare  
to you all the goodness of the Lord to me, his  
unworthy servant.

I had scarcely an hour's sleep, and had to  
see about our starting in time, and I believe  
but for that we should have missed the boat  
which was changing horses at the time of our  
arrival in Ross; - I had just time to do all  
that was needful in Annapolis before the vessel  
sailed, and Walter Ball kindly secured me  
the easiest berth in the ship. - At Campbell's  
Town, the quon headed me a letter from dear  
J. B. de - very comforting - and tendering me a  
heartly invitation to our Friends Samuel and  
Sarah Levitt - truly kind they are, the wife  
(who is afflicted with deafness) especially so.  
I have seen and visited P. Sayer & Capt. Wedd.



As we went down the Tamar, the Capt  
stated that we should have a very rough  
passage, and sent the seamen up to secure  
the sails with additional gaskets, also sent  
down the main topmast, and I thought that  
it would have been wiser to brogue up George  
Joan. But as we neared the heads I saw  
the S. W. indications in the clouds and said  
to Col. Stephens I believe that we shall have  
a S. W. breeze, pointing out the indications.  
Shortly after we saw the Chassis (the actors)  
who were passengers, and were anxious about  
the weather. Col. S. stated my views, and  
we then adjourned to the barometer, which was  
rising and which I said was our reprover rose  
for southerly weather; after this I pointed out the  
setting seen to Col. Stephen as verene though  
indicating abruze: - and so it proved - we were  
able to set our canvas over after night fall and  
arrived at the Queens Wharf about 10 o'clock  
I was not absolutely sick, but suffered from  
nausea, and took nothing but a cup of soup  
till we had Tea going up Hobsons Bay.

I did however suffer a little from my bodily  
infirmities, - but not much. I took a bath at the  
Wharf in conjunction with a passenger who lived  
at St. Kilda, and was known to Col. Stephens (who  
was very attentive to me), and was set down at

St. Lewis's door.

It seems to be the feeling of very many that  
1<sup>st</sup> March would have been the better time for  
the Annual Meeting. J. J. Neave is expected  
down by the "Aldinga" due this morning - and  
which vessel is expected to sail for Adelaide  
on fourth day next at 2 o'clock. On that day  
E. Sage's eldest daughter is to be married -  
You will <sup>in</sup> remember that I said to her I looked  
forward to be in Adelaide on first day the 15<sup>th</sup>  
and it does seem as though I may be. There  
however, that this is no contrivance of mine,  
should it be so: - but Oh! I had had abundant  
evidence through divine condescension to confirm  
my faith in the rectitude of my movements.  
May the Lord forgive my faithlessness! send  
help from his sanctuary and strengthen me out  
of Zion. My views are still the same -  
to attend the Annual Meeting here - and then  
as far as I can see I shall be clear of this  
place. "Blessed be he that doeth the work of  
the Lord discreetly" - Pray for me, all of you  
bear me or your prayers to the throne of grace,  
that I may be strengthened, with might by the  
spirit of the Lord, with inner man, to declare  
unto others the whole counsel of God, as  
such ~~as~~ shall be revealed to me.



James Hobbes has just called in. He  
seems in a poor state of health. His family  
live close by. and I am going to call upon  
them. and then intend to go on to Melbourn,  
and enquire about the "eldings" and our  
English friends - after which I think I shall  
go to Perlethorpe and call upon W. J. A. Chapman.  
The cost of travelling is light - Railways, steam  
and travelling cars - &c. - therefore to almost  
all places. The Country seems covered  
with Houses. - and how all men ought to  
find employment. I live. I cannot tell.  
Truly, it is a wonderful country.

I called on Mr Rasche yesterday and delivered  
James's message to him. He does not seem to  
meet with the encouragement, I think, due  
to his talent. He wishes James to come over  
and join him in engineering.

I have not yet called in. I I cannot just yet  
and don't see how can I manage to call on  
every one. I wish to be present in some way  
often, but it is unknown for an old man to  
make so many calls.

10<sup>th</sup> Friends have a dinner at Melbourn. what was well filled.  
on first day. our English friends were present  
and had good dinner: they are very young. J. J.  
Macrae about <sup>1800. 25</sup> 35 - but very devoted. and has a  
good delivery; - Our Divine Master was  
in his abundant mercy pleased to preside.  
and not only that, but since, certain been

blessed with heavenly meetings. Truly methinks  
 (not may) "the Lord hath visited his people".  
 The Annual Meeting was held yesterday  
 on rather commences. at 7 o'clock and held  
 till about 20 minutes to ten, being chiefly  
 occupied in preliminaries. - reading certificates  
 &c. and in the breakings forth of acknowledgments  
 of the Lord's goodness, from several, not to say  
 many. Then would be anxious for the poor  
 Husband! Well what shall I say? My  
 feeling is - what can I render to the Lord, for  
 all his benefits? I have in mercy been  
 kept low, and low before the Lord, and He  
 has caused the light of his holy countenance  
 to beam upon me. Words fail to set forth  
 his goodness, and unworthy as I feel myself  
 to be. He has given me a large place. I  
 believe (to his honour I must say it) in the  
 hearts of all, and with the Apostle I can  
 say - they have honoured me with many honours,  
 but praised be the Holy Name, these have been  
 permitted only to abase me: to give me a  
 clearer sight of my unworthiness, to whom doth  
 belong only blessing and confusion of face; and  
 to the Lord, and to Him alone, have I ascribed  
 the honor - whom works all praise bein.  
 How I desire to be clothed with humility.



As friends seem as though they could not get together except in the evening. The collecting will sit close in time for me to get to bed late as the time I looked forward to, and last evening my friend, travelling for his health, told me that he was intending to proceed to Adelaide by the "Corony", which is expected to sail about second day. perhaps we may go together -

Our gracious Master knows the work that he requires of me there - rightly it seems is proposed; and whatever it may be, I have full assurance that he would be pleased to provide me with suitable companions, if it be his holy will to do so. If not, I trust, to be preserved in reverent dependence upon him, who is the strength of his people - every present help in the painful time.

I have thought of you all, and would gladly, if I could, help with present busy season. I have also thought of the expense I am incurring, and of the relative positions of us all, as a family. The Lord, whose right it is, has laid his hand upon me and required me to labour in his vineyard, and I have but a short time to do the work in. He seems to be fulfilling his holy promise - made to me with day of my espousals to him - "Though thy beginning

be but small, thy latter end shall greatly increase." and he seems to have bound me to him, in a perpetual covenant which shall not be forgotten. I tell my dear ones - that I shall endeavour to be as economical, as I can possibly be, and that I trust the Lord will make it up to them in the way that he seems to be best for them.

I have called upon Betty Thrale Chewton, now upwards of 80. she remembered me, and rejoiced to see me, and though scarcely able to move, she said - she would be at meeting on first day - allay tedious as the Lord's ways - she has had three attacks of apoplexy. - but the Dr now thinks that she may recover. her constitution is so excellent; but he will not allow any one to see her. I am informed.

I called to see Col Champ, but he was out. I met Mrs J. Crank with street, who wishes me to call and spend some time with her. I called at a shop in I think Ely<sup>th</sup> Street to enquire for Henry Jennings, who I was quoted with "Don't you remember your old servant, Mayfield?" - the name over the door.

I spent several day evening partly with J. G. James and partly at E. Hayes with the English friends. I dined and drank tea with Mrs. Worsfold & family - and visited the gardens and called upon Dr. Atterley, who was out. - I spent J. Hobbs called and the family with me. I went out yesterday to the children Pollock's and other - see his wife -



and some of his children, and returned with her  
to Ellensburg, and took tea with his daughter  
Frances Seemore, and today I am going  
to go out to barlow to pay a visit to friends  
named Seemore, who have given me a pressing  
invitation, and wish me to stay days.

My heart feels nearly united to them,  
and I am going to be joined with them on  
11<sup>th</sup>. Two friends named Seemore, one another friend  
from Ballard came in - so I staid dinner - the  
two first engaged in agriculture, the latter an  
Engineer. Had some interesting talk. The Seemores  
cleve men - they described a process of unloading  
Hay, adopted here - viz. a Rope net, on which the  
Hay is built in the cart - and on arrival at the  
Stack - a horse is attached to a rope that  
passes through a snatch - block, and up goes the  
load, the derrick or shears, are swung over the  
stack - one end of the net let go, the other raised  
and the Hay consequently lifts on the stack - It is  
obvious that the loads should be small and horse  
loads, or two, or three nets used to a load.

We had another favored meeting last evening,  
but we do not make much progress, seemingly,  
and when the meeting will terminate is uncertain.  
It is the first annual meeting, and friends have  
tried their way. In the night a heavy fall of  
rain came on, and it still comes down - in  
bursts, rather unpleasant, but we do not  
but there seems symptoms of abate, and perhaps  
it may clear up in an hour.

I took tea with friends named Lewis - very sweet  
spirited people, - they have three children, the eldest  
a son about 15. with a nice youth, - and two daughters  
- the children are very interesting. The meeting  
broke up about half past nine.

3

12<sup>th</sup> The rain continues - it took up about eleven  
o'clock and was dry till about 3. when it gradually  
came on to a sort of deluge - and so it continues.  
Unless an abatement take place, the floods will be  
very high. The newly married couple staid about  
3. for Geelong, and to day were to proceed to ~~Geelong~~  
Queen's Cliff, but I think that they will be kept  
close to their Inn. There was a large party, and the  
day passed pretty well. The meeting on the whole was  
comfortable. The chief service seems to devolve on one  
of the most unworthy of the followers of the Lamb.

The Meeting for business is to meet at 7. this evening;  
at the last a Committee was separated to draw up  
an Address to Friends every where in the Southern  
Hemisphere, - and an Epistle to the Annual Meeting  
of Friends of Hobart Town Tasmania - and the New Zealand  
Meeting of Adelaide.

The Lecturers said to me that they chiefly grew the  
Red Straw wheat, it yielded 10 bushels to the acre  
more than other wheat, and was less liable to rust and  
blight; they once grew the "golden drop", but that wheat  
has now dropped in public estimation. I asked for other  
names than "red-straw" but could get none. I then  
spoke of our "silver-skin", when after abt. - heads of  
the "red straw", and Canadian Oats, were produced  
the produce of last Harvest, which J. Swift had - and - to,  
to the best of my belief, <sup>(it is the silver-skin)</sup> it is our "silver-skin". I am



not however a reliable authority. The Canadian says they say weights about 48 lbs to the bushel - and they can pack 6 bushels in a three bushel bag. Another friend from Holland sends his appearance of collecting yesterday. There seems to be an aversion towards friends, there. I was asked to go up - but my way seems to be to Australia - my heart is bound at present to that country. The night cometh when no man can work: - Oh! that I may be found in my lot at the end of my days.

13<sup>th</sup> I have just rec'd a letter from Hobart Town from dear J. B. M. enclosing a letter from dear James to me. May the Lord bless him abundantly - it has been a great comfort to me. I was glad to hear that Joseph arrived home safely.

The rain continued in regular, or rather irregular bursters, and has made it difficult for some time to meet. It has fallen to my lot, to deal plainly, very plainly, with friends, with as little wheat thrust as I can, and I trust that I have so affectionately pleaded on the Lord's behalf, that I have not done harm. The Lord in his abundant mercies is visiting his people and would redeem them, were they but a willing people. The cell seems to me to have gone forth to some to "come up higher" - they seem to shrink. Oh! may the Lord be gracious to them, and make them willing with the day of his power. He is I am fully persuaded stretching forth over them the Crook of his love - a love - Oh how boundless - how beyond our finite conceptions - it

passeth knowledge. How I long that both they and we may be filled with the fulness of God, and become a praise in the earth, showing forth the goodness of them who hath called us out of darkness into his marvellous light. Woods, my dear Anna, would fail me to set forth the goodness of the Lord to me his ever worthy servant how I have been kept, sustained, qualified, comforted and all to the praise of his glorious name be it said in love, humility and Christian meekness.

When I shall leave this is uncertain, but I do not intend writing again till I reach Adelaide. The covering sails on Tuesday day next - but there is no prospect of the collecting being ended by then. This will come by the Southern Cross, to sail tomorrow or will I trust reach there on fourth day evening - May it find you all well, and in the enjoyment of health of ~~the~~ peace.

J. J. W. is about 35 - a highly gifted minister - and one who seems to be very lowly minded. His Cousin about 24 - speaks fluently, and I doubt not with much sincerity, but I fear that he has not as yet got down deep enough. His amateness, or reasoning powers, are great. I desire that he may become wholly sanctified - body, soul and spirit. For I fear that the covering is not always the Lord's - nor the conversation such as befits a companion of the flock of Christ. It may be the Lord grants him a liberty - and an indulgence with held from some others - and I wish to abstain from harsh judgments - Let thy judgment be the Lord's - but thy mind is burdened somewhat



with what seem to me to be inconsistent with  
the true Christian character. redemption from the world  
(half past ten) the Sun is now shining - and the weather  
is hopeful - if these heavy rains have also fallen in  
Tasmania, they will have benefitted the grass, grain  
crops, apples, green crops, but they will have proved  
trying to the newly shorn sheep.

The Doctor left Melbourne for Ballarat last  
evening - 100 miles in two hours - It is said that he  
passes to day in seclusion, being the Anniversary  
of his Father's death.

Bennet Robson is the name of the young man  
mentioned - a cousin of Walter Robson - this not  
strong - and he is to care here - seems uncertain  
these cold, wet days, try his coat. The thermometer  
was up on Sunday day to 16 with shade and yesterday  
down to 55.

The sisters mentioned a man in their neighbourhood  
called 'Larry' - lived in praise of our family, - but a  
drinking man - Father Larry Cryan? - they  
did not know his name.

And now my dearest I think I must conclude  
with dear love to thee and all our children  
and Dr Strong.

thy affectionate husband  
James Cotton

11. 30 Fort Waller has just called and brought his  
ball - I have had to suggest attractions - this  
still improving - He desires to be most kindly  
remembered to all at Melbourne.