

DX 19/68 (6)

Streaky Bay 10/2/68

My dear Anna Maria

I commenced a letter to thee,  
 as to when is Post day - (once a fortnight)  
 and it is uncertain when I shall leave  
 here. The "Johnny" sailed on the day named  
 in my last - and it was just about when  
 I landed. We had the winds on the whole  
 fair, but light - and arrived at Venus Bay  
 on first day morning about ten - and anchored.  
 We tried to get in about 7 o'clock, but could  
 not succeed - the entrance being narrow,  
 the tide running out - and the wind too  
 gentle already on, and, withal, we make  
 Venus Bay is very sheltered, and has two  
 Tans, and a third or two, and a Police Station.  
 One of the most interesting spots I ever  
 beheld - so much so, that I had no incli-  
 nation to go ashore, altho' pressed to do so.  
 We remained, discharging cargo, till about  
 eight or nine day morning, and came on  
 anchored. Late in the evening outside the  
 "Sand-Flats" of Streaky Bay - and went on to  
 the Bay next morning by ten o'clock - when  
 Mr Selby & his eldest son awaited me  
 with their German Wagon - a Pedlar (also  
 a Shop-keeper at Streaky Bay) who was at Venus  
 Bay, having brought up word that I was aboard

and that the Johnny had arrived at Waukeby  
Tilney lies about four miles beneath Waukeby  
but about as many horses were started to bring  
him the information.

The voyage - The vessel was loaded as far as  
to Waukeby - to Waukeby - her Quarters deck  
with Trusses of pressed Hay - (on end) weighing  
5 Cwt - also on the main deck - as well as  
underlying Timber - and boxes of various goods  
to make stowage - weather being one going  
forward had to scramble - I had seven  
Cabin, and as many steerage passengers - one of  
our steerage passengers a youth of approximately the  
the son of a captain in the Army - who with his  
brother - I hear are shepherding 3000 sheep  
hereabouts. Such is the uncertainty of men  
and prospects.

of all the Passengers a gentleman named Beath  
interested me most - He lies at Fowler's  
Wag - a days sail to the westward - in fact  
nearly half way to the great Australian High  
which he has explored. - But - water - water -  
want of water - is the great drawback here  
and every where. He gave me a few skins  
gathered there which I shall try and enclose  
but to tell all I heard would take a great  
amount of writing. - As usual I was sea-  
sick, or sea-sickness - for two or three days  
after which I did very well. - My berth  
was short for me and I had to lay cross-  
corners. - and my pillows were chaff - and  
felt intolerably hard. - but we accomplish  
some things, and before I left the vessel -

the Waller is like juniper scrub - the leaves  
always green. - and the bushes so upright high  
and it is rather hot travelling through them.  
Further as the salt detour - or detour Waller  
spoken of - which are all swamp in the  
time of rain - and so almost a swamp of the flats  
I have spoken of - where the Sea does not  
show. - I was near looking at the Country  
worders how the sheep lead - but live they  
do - and are followed all day by the shepherd  
- there is among the Waller - and in the hills  
and other flats - and occasionally with fern  
flow - beech - and other shrubs growing - and  
the sheep col - these as they do also the deer  
herb - and they get to across about ten or eleven  
or twelve - when there is at least say of each  
long - 15 yards wide and ten inches deep -  
- then the shepherd fills with water - and as he leads  
the water - the sheep drink - till they can scarcely  
go more - quite are at the trough - and it  
takes the shepherd 3 or 4 hours all but constant  
trailing to supply the flats of say - 1200 - the  
trough should be left full - or out of the sheep -  
The shepherds bring their flutes from both beats  
at dark - and start at, or soon after day light -  
who would not be a so Australian shepherd!  
The sheep are of course excessively common -  
Tilney's sheep look very well - or the whole -  
but I don't think I in land will ever compare  
with Tasmania.

A corner of the Waller duits at Waukeby Wag - where  
there is areally very strong herd - well arranged  
and good commodious kitchen with sleeping  
berths for 18; also a cottage residence for  
the clerk - The rain water from the land shed  
is collected into a covered tank for use.

Alford at junio - say within 3 or 400 yards are  
the buildings of the Township - viz. a well erected  
Police Station - or Inn - two stores and a few  
private houses - among them one belonging to a  
person named Elliott - who married one  
of Bennett's - (the blacksmith at Alford's) daughter  
and is intended for an Inn - Bennett is at  
Port Adelaide working as a blacksmith - the  
tenement is one - and says when his parents  
are dead, the Hall of the car - returns to  
Tasmania: and so says almost every one  
who has any knowledge of our Country.

I had been to see a gentleman named Crawford  
who lives 7 miles off - He has a nice wife and a  
family of children and granddaughters - and seems  
comfortably off - but who is comfortably off  
here? Few, I believe. Several others named  
Frampson have been here 11 years, and are now  
just getting on - or allowed up by interest and  
expenses - or also is another - who has lost  
every thing - and is now a beggar - Indeed the  
distress here among both the practical and  
agricultural interests is very great and almost  
beyond conception - almost all - struggling -  
struggling - struggling - and getting perhaps  
further into debt - and now - food and sheep -  
and stations are worth very little - and the  
expenses are as high as ever.

Telney gets water for his sheep at depths  
varying from 6 to 12 feet perhaps - but many  
of the places had to draw 60 feet or more  
down to 100 - I think that one of Crawford's wells  
is about 170 - and it takes a team of bullocks  
every day to draw a Taster full - sufficient  
to water two flocks - and all his wells are

worked with "skins" - with animal power  
generally horse - There are a few wells  
in the winter when the sheep do not require  
watering - but generally the sheep are sent back  
to their water cannot be obtained easily  
sinking - except it may be salt - or brackish  
and in the country can only be occupied in  
the winter - The fencer ranges - (not high)  
are occupied in the winter - and are well  
grazed - I hear and then are large plains  
of good grass in their neighbourhood - By  
taking away the sheep from the home acres  
it allows the grass to spring - and form seed  
which Telney thinks essential to the keeping  
up a supply of grass. (Gawler says 100 miles off)  
The water in Telney's domain seems to be  
stored water. The water seeps down among  
the fine stone into caverns - The water then  
appears in places what are called "blow holes"  
in the fine stone - into these the water flows  
and no doubt goes into subterranean reservoirs  
and Telney's land being low he gets fresh water  
freely beneath the surface generally - He however  
has one well 60 feet deep, and salt water is  
occasionally touched in striking for water  
There is a well twelve feet deep just above  
Telney's garden, where they can fetch a supply  
of water to the Township. Every evening (as usual)  
Telney waters his garden from this well by irrigating  
and is growing pumpkins, melons, tomatoes  
and Scotch Kales, and they are all doing well  
- to meet for Country - its appearance - and  
capabilities - to the new path family.

which consists of Albert Ed. and a fine,  
clever, intelligent boy born 2<sup>nd</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 1861 -  
Everard 6<sup>th</sup> of 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 1862 - Charles Tilney  
7<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 1864 and Anne Ellen born  
6<sup>th</sup> of 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 1866 - is 15 months old - a little  
independent girl, who ran all over 10<sup>th</sup> months  
and now trots about from morning to night -  
How she wraps it I cannot make out - but  
the case nothing for sitting down or running -  
and seems, and keeps her balance in a most  
surprising manner, among the rough floorings  
she has to move in - There is not to be troubled  
except to keep clean - and rarely is heard to cry -  
Everard was in ill health when I arrived -  
and got worse and is now down with Rheumatic  
fever. He has been ailing for weeks - his Parents  
say - but the crisis came with very obstinate  
constipation of the bowels - which it took times  
and much medicine to subdue - in fact Tilney  
had nothing - but a box of Homoeopathic medicines  
and a book - the night bottle destroyed, with  
some fluid Magnesia and Castor oil - Had  
some Rhubarb, Magnesia & sugar powders -  
and it was not till the third dose of oil that  
the bowels were relieved - when the child was  
in a high state of Fever, and rather putrid  
tastes - but then was gone - Tilney went  
to the Hay, and obtained some "Emilia powder"  
and 2 roundish powders - W. yesterday the "Purifier"  
was composed of Tartar Emilia & Precipitate  
I gave the child some - two afterwards increased  
to three tea-spoonsful of fluid - being mixed  
with powder in a cup of water - By this means  
I reduced the fever - but it was very severe  
of parent, with acute pain in his limbs and

his dreadful irritability - that he had Rheumatic  
Fever - and for days and nights his Parents got  
little or no rest. There was no teaching or  
moving him. They have now a Nervous fever  
and I trust that he is a little better - the pain  
are not to any extent acute now - but the  
fever is still strong upon him -  
and the Fever is still strong upon him -  
nor has he any appetite - At the least three  
nights I have given him one of my Colonic  
and Opium pills - and they seem to have done  
him good - The Constipation was succeeded by  
Diarrhea - now somewhat subdued - so that  
I think the Opium has worked, and the Colonic  
proved an alternative - This morning I did not  
think him so well as yesterday - and I have  
ordered him the Purifier twice - two tea-spoons  
ful every two hours - and a drink of Citrus  
every six hours - There seems to be no  
reasonable medicine to be obtained - so Colonic  
but that abominable Homoeopathy - I allowed  
Tilney to physic him homoeopathically - I allowed  
a great help - and I think that he must  
feel satisfied - as to the remedy of the thing - when  
there is an acute disease to be contended with  
I am thankful that it has not turned out that  
I have been here whilst this disease is on, for  
the sake of the poor parents - as they can feel  
some relief on one - I have done all I can  
but - should be glad to have Dr. Story close  
enough to take charge of the case - I do trust

Tilney & Ambergin also talk of leaving town to give all

Ther ver endeavours will be blessed, and the  
the children will recover.

I have had a week of the coldest weather ever  
known here - no evening says - that day I  
was at Crawford it was 103 in the shade at  
half past 4 P.M. - and that was a cool day to  
what we have had since. but the weather but  
yesterday, and we have now a touch of breeze  
- what a Country it is - deest - deest - deest  
fine crop fall deest - ground up to meadow and  
fine sand. in many places inches deep - and when  
I chrys went with me to discover the shepherd  
of 100 at the wells - he looks out with deest  
showing the progress of the flock

I have been the subject of the year, or rather  
General meeting now sitting, and hope that it  
may prove a time of refreshing to all men  
the presence of the Eternal, I can not now permit  
to be present, but God is very good, and very much  
satisfied by rational impatience - was almost

to the adoption of the words of the Apostle Paul  
4th Chp Phil 114 - Praise be his Holy Name  
I have been here nearly two weeks, and know  
not yet when I shall get away, must wait for a  
vessel - travelling by mail - is too expensive,  
and I don't think that I could bear the fatigue.  
Since I left Adolade I have been able to read  
dear Edwards's letter attentively, and was much  
obliged to him for all the information - it is very  
interesting altogether. - As to the remarks about  
dear Joseph coming over here - these statements  
word appears to me to be any thing but light words  
- journey longer and fatiguing - great provisions later  
entered - and small comfort to be found as when

11th at the Port. 3 P.M. -

The mail is in from Adolade - no letters  
for me - and none for Annie from her  
sister Mary, which will be a great disappointment  
indeed. I hear that the Lucy has sailed  
from Adolade, but is to call at  
~~St. Mary's Bay~~, Venus Bay. The mail  
left Venus Bay this morning, whether  
Lucy had not arrived there - hope to  
get off by next second-day from this.

There is another Paper from Kaledon  
the Supplementary one to England just over.  
I see that Glasgow addressed his Royal  
Highness - will E. C. How be knighted?  
I see also the devices of R. A. Mathew and  
J. B. Mathew. I think J. B. is very possible.  
Why did not the Glasgow Councilors

day - "on our own behalf... and on behalf of  
our Constituents" (or on behalf of the inhabitants  
of this Municipality). It seems too bad  
- I am thankful to be able to say that I left  
Everard in a sound - plained sleep - I now  
had great hopes of his ultimate recovery.  
He had, on the whole a good night - and eat  
some breakfast this morning - and took a  
little dinner also. The fever is I trust really  
subsiding - How glad I shall be to see her  
walking about before I leave.

I often take a glance at Valerian - lovely spot  
as indeed it is - and associated with so many dear  
to me than life itself - yet I trust you exert  
and ever thankful that my little <sup>island</sup> is - and  
I shall enjoy <sup>at the time</sup> if permitted to return  
in peace. May our Father bless you  
all - Dear love forever on as if never - from  
My affectionate Mother, not forgetting myself  
- Love yours  
Francis Cotton.

10-12-50  
10-12-50

forgot all about my hard pillows -  
we soon arrived at Felney's Cottage - my  
at "Dean's Head Station" - and met Anne  
and the children - Anne seemed nicely, but  
has to do every thing - except cooking but they  
kind - provided I had little doubt - they  
paid - in making out the Station accounts -  
Every shepherd is allowed a little Maize  
or Sp. account - spare wages - I believe  
But this could be done in the winter county  
where a shepherd takes charge of two flocks  
and another stops at night - to take after  
the sheep - (or the sheaves would probably  
make a clean sweep of it) and do the cooking.  
I have well be anxious about Felney - will  
that you see that photo of the "Head" Station  
and its extent - and - I have come to the con-  
clusion that the real wants of life are very  
few indeed - As the land is leased from the Crown  
the buildings are necessarily put up cheaply -  
and the flooring of Felney's is of shales of Limerick  
deposit - about 1 1/2 inches thick - of irregular  
form - but ~~treasuring~~ to put on brass inlaid  
in some instances - the intervening holes filled  
up with smaller pieces. The roof of the house  
is roughly plastered and kept whitened.  
The house consists of a sitting room, 2 or  
my bed room, a third room - and a bath -  
The kitchen forms breakfast & dining room  
- and one end of the building is a third room  
for a shepherd. From the dwelling to the  
kitchen is laid a row of the shales of Limerick  
stone - which makes an excellent Causeway.

These sheets of Sempron are obtained from  
Salt Lagoons - of which there are several in  
the vicinity - The Sempron seems to be deposited  
there - and to be collected by the Salt and  
Semi - Dr Henry well know how - seems  
to be round the edges - - But the country is  
a Semi-stone country, interspersed with  
Salt flats - Lagoons & such like -  
Now further far famed already by - as  
usual, here in Australia - I have arrived  
at the worst time... I have been to all the  
Huts - and wells of water - and drinking rough  
and severe, it's a strange sight for a Tasmanian  
country without grass - and without water; or  
water courses. How you can understand the  
Scriptures; - the value of finding a well of  
springing water - of the strife of herd men -  
and the difficulties - of watering the flock -  
more especially for the males, after seeing this place.  
The Country is Semi-stone - and the ground  
is white with it; in many places lying about  
in blocks, and in most places lying about from  
the size of "macadamized" stone, upwards  
to small blocks - In these patches - always  
rising somewhat - warts, undulations or  
small hills, grows the She-oak - what we should  
call "stunted" - say from 3 to 6 inches in diameter  
and from 8 to 11 feet high - Between these rises  
are flats - sometimes of the oak country, or  
thick of trees - and sometimes without any other  
or grass bearing; - and sandy rises - what the  
Aboriginals call "mallee" - interspersed with some  
grass, it may be - These hills of mallee may  
not exceed the yards in width - usually - but  
they are every where - between the Semi-stone re-