

22/3/1838

Better

from

Parah Walter

(daughter of  
Ann Walter &  
later wife of  
Geo. W. Walter)

to

Frances Benson

explaining failure  
of farming at  
Lauderdale.

(Here to be  
copied)

4/8/77



No. 69. Liverpool Street Hobart Town  
22<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Mo 1838.

To My dear Aunt  
Frances Benson,

Captain Langdon having kindly offered to be the bearer of a letter or parcel for you I determined, if possible to avail myself of so favourable an opportunity of forwarding a few lines to inform you of some of the changes we have undergone since the death of my beloved Mother

We have, indeed, passed through some severe trials since that event. — I have never regretted her death, although I have keenly felt the loss I sustained by it; being left as it were friendless in a strange land, for female friends I may say I had none, I mean none to whom I could open my mind, and expect to receive advice and direction.

It has always appeared to me that our ever gracious Father mercifully removed her from the evil that was to fall upon our house — I say evil but I mean it only in a temporal light, as I am persuaded that these crosses have been blessings in disguise. — Some of us needed to be aroused from the lethargic state into which we had fallen; but such was not her case — She was ever on her Watch-tower. It mattered not to her at what watch the Bride-groom came for she was always ready. —

Many weeks had not elapsed after my Mother's removal before my Father's affairs were found to be in a deranged state. ~~It was at this time~~ <sup>It was at this time</sup> ~~found to be~~ <sup>found to be</sup> ~~absolutely necessary either to sell the stock in hand~~ <sup>absolutely necessary either to sell the stock in hand</sup> ~~to protect~~ <sup>to protect</sup>



at the farm - my father preferred the  
former and accordingly everything on the  
farm was sold by public sale. The assets were  
very shortly after my father's death he could  
not have been so carelessly kept to say the  
least. I succeeded in managing squandering his money and  
the servants robbing him on all sides; then I succeeded  
my brother Joseph a young lad to manage the business  
in town. I was going to town occasionally in this way  
as a gentleman's necessary he was not able to  
do all sides - when he resolved to give up business and live entirely in  
the country. The stock died and his accounts having been kept  
in a very disgraceful manner my father could  
never get a settlement and so lost very consider-  
ably - The affairs remained in this unsettled  
state until about two years ago when every thing  
we possessed with the exception of our books was  
sold by the Sheriff - most of our furniture was  
bought in for us by a friend who attended the sale  
for the purpose - We were then obliged to leave  
the farm and what to do we did not know  
however after some little time some friends  
came forward and enabled my father to com-  
mence business again and he is now doing  
very well - It will however be sometime  
before he is clear off his old debts - the property  
sold which was all he possessed not covering the debt  
by <sup>able</sup> hundred pounds - Had the Farm  
been sold at a good time it would have paid  
more than paid all; but it was sold when every  
thing was very dead and land was fetching next  
to nothing - I was indeed truly glad when every  
thing was sold off for ~~me~~ <sup>some interest</sup> ~~but~~ ~~was~~ ~~in~~ ~~such~~ ~~an~~



we had been unsettled  
solary that the worst  
to not be much worse  
than what we had long experim  
ed - Being unable to keep  
so many men one after another  
had been parted with until  
one was all we had left, and  
it was with difficulty that  
we could keep ourselves and  
him - Caring after  
evening have I got patching  
shirts &c sewing one patch  
over another in order to  
make them wearable; not  
knowing how to provide  
others - and many a time  
you may be sure I have  
shed over these old rags  
yet I never entirely despair'd  
being persuaded that the Lord

will now

would deliver us in  
good time - and soon  
have we been fed as it were  
by the rumors, that should  
not but trust him for  
the future - I don't mayhap  
suppose that amidst all  
this I had little time or  
inclination for letters  
writing - I had nothing  
to communicate that  
we be pleading ~~the~~  
was of no use troubling  
my friends with a relation  
of trials which it was not  
in their power to remove  
~~The books that I received~~  
The last letter we received  
from any of our relations  
in England was from  
my dear uncle my dear father  
It was favoured by J. Taylor  
He did not however deliver



personally but put in  
post at the same time  
usefully obliterating who  
was brought by --  
Since my father's decease  
business he has once or twice  
been in the shop but is so  
exceedingly strange as on  
one occasion to seem at  
a loss for my father's name.  
Persons are not generally  
improved by their residence  
in P.D. they are very liable  
to forget themselves, and  
I am sorry to say that in  
none it is more observable  
than in Ministers, more  
especially those of the Establishment.  
It is to be accounted for in this  
way - When they arrive here  
we know

They are introduced  
to the House and are all  
all invited there after  
And in order to keep acquainted  
with the govt. officers & they  
shall those who in England  
they would gladly ~~of course~~  
visit and be intimate  
with - William Howard  
is in my opinion and I believe  
in that of most persons  
the most Pious unassuming  
Minister of the Govt there  
in the Colony - His wife  
also who has now been  
dead about 4 years was  
a very agreeable pious woman  
and is a thriving  
Colony - St. Johns is a  
very pleasant quiet Town  
under an excellent police  
management - The Streets

... and sold when ever



are as quiet at night as  
those of any inland Town  
in England - Several  
settlements are rising ~~every~~  
places on the coast of  
New Holland have been settled  
during the last few years  
and some of them are now  
rising into importance  
Swan River the oldest of  
them ~~has~~ has not answered  
the sanguine expectations of  
those who have emigrated to it  
The soil is very sandy near  
the coast - There is no good  
land, save the mud margins  
of the Swan & Canning rivers  
within 40 miles of the Capital  
(Perth) - The population of this  
colony is said  
to be also in the app



to be about two thousand  
Mason River is between 2 or 3  
miles from here - King of  
Laird is but a poor place - Its  
chief advantages are its excellent  
harbours and alternate inferior  
perhaps to none - But there  
is no available land within 40  
or 50 miles of the settlement  
with the exception of perhaps 4 or 5  
patches according to the inhabitants  
themselves in as many detached  
spots w<sup>h</sup> together might constitute  
one or two tolerable farms

Soberity is at a very low ebb  
at both these places - Avarice  
and strong drink the vices of  
the upper and lower classes in  
most of our colonies are very  
prevalent in these -

A settlement as lately been formed  
at St Vincent's Gulf St Australia  
which proved to be a thriving  
place of some importance -  
The land ~~is~~ good, and the prin-  
ciple upon



Wh<sup>ich</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> to be disposed of differently  
from every other Colony. Now far it may  
it may (the principle) ultimately succeed is  
yet to be proved, and is thought by some  
to be somewhat problematical.

By the act constituting S<sup>outh</sup> Australia a province  
of the P. C., on the fulfilment of certain  
preliminary conditions, we have been com-  
pelled, ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> due regard to the rights of the aborigines  
was rendered imperative, and if practicable,  
the purchase of the lands from this people  
was enjoined. From the want however  
of a head, or some principal person among  
them to represent their national and individual  
rights, it has been found impracticable, it  
is alleged, to make a formal treaty with them.  
There is, however, a better feeling generally  
prevailing and a more full recognition of  
the claims they have on European occupiers  
of the soil ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> S<sup>outh</sup> Australia than any other territory  
of Australia; and it is exhibited not only  
in a general feeling of good will and desire  
to promote the amelioration of this people  
which is more or less prevalent among the masses  
of 'Adelaide'; but also in the appointment  
by the Govt. at home of a Protector of the Aborigines  
with a salary of £250 a year, whose duty it is  
not only to act as mediator between P. & Wh<sup>ite</sup>  
when differences or misunderstandings arise; but also to



to watch diligently over the rights of the former  
 & in every respect to shield them from oppression  
 already the good effects of such an opposition are  
 obvious, in the increased confidence that it  
 mutually inspires between the parties, and the  
 amicable intercourse that has uniformly pre-  
 vailed - I am indebted to some friends of ours  
 who have been travelling in these Islands.

John 2<sup>d</sup> -<sup>fr</sup> Fluvst - Mary Patence 10 6  
 Wilson Mary Brock Henry James 8 8  
 James Ford Franklin Lady James Ogilvie  
 James Friend Friendship Oyster Bay  
 David Bank Friend Friendship - George  
 Sk Sketton Two is Two Kelvedon  
 Sketton Kelvedon Swan Port Port  
 Bankside - Luddardall Lovely Luddardall  
 Doodardall Father John Swan James Thomson  
 James Kelvedon John Bouson St M  
 John Bouson horton Under Hamdon  
 horton under Hamdon near Yeovil  
 in Yeovil Somersetshire  
 Somersetshire - England

Want