

Clifton Cottage.
Alice. T. New InnGEORGE PEACOCK.
WHARF, HOBART.
BOX POST OFFICE, SYDNEY.

Sydney.

August 15th 1883

Dear Paddy, I received your last letter two or three weeks ago but I have not it before me at this moment. I also received one from D. Mrs this morning which reports all well within the little circle. What a lot of snuffers, of like warm, degenerate, half-hearted abolitionists yours have become apt to have kept up the glorious South! I can never forget the day in which I was accused. Each moment in the day I was pre-occupied with the preparations and during the evening I sat - nay, even heard each well remembered enthusiasm and all the while you were spending the evening in conventional everyday doings. Still I can understand upon reviewing the circumstances the reasons which existed for not creating what would most properly have been an evening of joyful remembrances. I frequently thought before I expected to leave Tasmania how you would be missed at the next anniversary and the painful feelings which would arise when the toast of "absent friends" was proposed for the first year. I should have missed him more than anyone, with the exception of yourself & Willie, and would have felt there

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has a great blank with which was connected more than his usual grief for mere absence. Poor old fellow! I had a letter from him the other day. He writes in fair spirits though his worldly position is poor and uncertain. He says that he feels mentally clear and realises a far more intelligent insight into the real facts of life than he ever had before, while he feels less love for the ideal and no inclination to dwell upon it or give expression to it. There was a melancholy patina in his hopeful thanks that he would be able to keep his head "above the dark waters". I feel he is well for he gives me a description of his fellow-travellers in a light humorous strain not wanting in kindly sympathy for the idiosyncrasies and short-comings of brother mortals. I met Robert one night in Paddy's Market and he hurriedly made an arrangement to see me at the Cottage. Last Sunday he came up and remained the afternoon and evening during which time we had a long talk. He is doing very well here and is apparently reckoned a smart person. Notices have been made by influential people here to have a series of his articles on old institutions, buildings

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and families printed in pamphlet by the Government as a
Contribution to the material out of which future history will
be written. He has not uttered much except that his
father makes much more of him than he formerly did.
I found him a very intelligent Conversationist, but
Somewhat I don't altogether like him as I did when we
were boys. He does not like some whom I love, and if you
love me you must love my dog together with all I hold
dearer. Dotie by the way was an exception. Brant
expressed the greatest interest in him and a strong desire
to see him again.

Through Brant's good offices I obtained an order to visit
all the Government institutions. At present I have only
done Darlington's fact though I intend visiting several
others. The fact is a model one in every respect.
Its cleanliness would almost excite wonder in Miss
Clark. There is not a spot or a stain on the walls
of the passages and whitewashed walls. The arrangements
for classification are admirable and several trades
are practically taught and carried on the chief of which
is the manufacture of ornamental door-mats and
masonry in which the Establishment really excels

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After being here some time I discovered that my Aunt Staples resided with her youngest son in the same suburb. I have visited them twice. The old lady is 72 and remarkably well for that great age.

I have insured my life in the National Mutual for £750 worth at 50 as a stipend provision for my poor wife should I reach home first. If I get better off I will increase it. The doctor pronounced me "Bon. pour la service!" as to French medicines dismissed the conscripto

I introduced myself to Cannon after church last Sunday - a very short interview; but I was promised to join them to night in a social gathering when three lady members will read papers on social reforms. I fear I don't think highly enough of Cannon to enthuse as our Melbourne friends used to say he has too many cant phrases of "atmosphere of these times" as it kills it and too little heart warmth for a good pastor. It is pleasant though to say Thompson, Longfellow, Whittier & Mrs Kemans instead of Hunt & Co. He has obtained the sanction of his congregation to reading spiritual sustenance from other sources besides the Bible. Anything you entrust me to do regarding Conway will be attended to.

(over)

I am in splendid health and quietly comfortable here.
Am reading Macaulay's History in the first time. Making all
allowances for the bias which has been reported it is a
most readable book.

So Mrs Clark remembers me as one who prays "Lord Keep
my memory green" (a pretty piece of Decker) and kiss
the babies for me. Tell Willie to write and he loves me, and
the noble Edwards that his worship will be the next
duty of my pen.

Yours very truly
A. J. Edwards