

Launceston

May 23 /85-

Dear Padre
 Thanks for your kind
 letter. I should have written to you
 before receiving it only there is no
 change in the monetary of existence
 in Launceston or in the color of
 my prospects to record

I had a letter from Joe a fortnight
 back written in his best style and
 giving me the impression that
 he is going along as well as all
 could wish though he lingers sometimes
 with a pathetic note on his absent
 friends in Lasmaniac

I have followed pretty closely the
 movements of the Association lately
 and though I will at once admit that

that the Campaign has been skilfully
planned and the work energetically
carried out I am not hopeful
that you will get all you want
from Parliament. Still you
may get in effect what you are
aiming at in some modification
of your proposals. Now that it
has been fairly ventilated, so far
as the public is concerned, and
without leaving that most or alluring
the interest created to abate in
warmth I think that as Parliament
will shortly assemble you should
endeavour to get a small party
of members to take the matter up
and arrange some proposals
for submission to the Legislature
in the event of the previous proposals

falling far short of what you
desire of which I think there
can be very little doubt.

Regarding the proposition of editor of
the Sarmanian news, I scarcely
know him to reply except to
say that I would be prepared to
favourably consider a definite offer
provided it gave me time to
sever my connection with the
Mercury without any incurrence
to Daniel Bros. If the position
were given to me I would not
at all object to the idea of a
committee particularly of your
here upon it, and I would be prepared
to give a great deal of energy
to make the paper more attractive
and give it more weight as a provider

of local news. I would do special reports myself as well as writing or arranging for the leading writer and the usual work of the sub. I have always thought that by an expenditure of about £3 a week on an ordinary man in Melbourne the paper could, by telegraphing judicious extracts from the foreign and intercolonial news in the Melbourne morning papers, ~~that~~ provide for all its requirements outside of the colony at a slight expense and make it what no evening paper ever yet has been in Tasmania - something other than a reprint of the morning papers in a condensed form.

May occasionally inform me
of her visits to Battery Point which
she seems to enjoy as much as
I used to. She also states that
she received a photo of you which
pleases her. The one you gave
me together with many are the only
pictures in my little cell where
I "keep o' nights"

I never hear anything of Dolbe
or H B now. I suppose you still
continue to meet on Saturday nights
and "flance from theme to theme."

Discuss the books to love or hate,
or touch the changes of the state,
or threadle some "Sociative dream"

Hope to be down for a day early
in July when I will see the boys
once more.

I have very little to do here and
frequently get miserable through
sheer idleness or the wretchedly
unimportant character of the
work I have to turn to. An occasional
run into the surrounding country
districts is the only break in
dull routine.

Remember me kindly to Miss Clark
the children and the boys

Yours ever faithfully
J. H. Edwards