

Warstead - Boomer 1/11/18

My dear Anna Maria

I did not like the day to close the first in the new year without convincing thee that thou hadst not been forgotten. I left Mr Barker about ten o'clock and met dear William, Lewis and Alfred - about half way - we took Louisa with us, as the Hoopjig Cough has made its appearance in Lucy Coleman's family. We arrived at Warstead duly, and found Mary going on nicely with her sweet little babe - he is a pretty babe indeed; - it is said too pretty for a boy. At Warstead I saw the whole group of our grand children resident there. They are a nice little flock, and how I wish thou couldst be here to see them. They are quite at home with their grand papa. The weather has turned rather warm - but rain and evil winds. The house is enlarged since I was here, and is a comfortable place. Since I arrived, both Mary and William do not like the idea of my journey to the North alone, and have suggested a plan for William to accompany me. It is very thoughtful and kind indeed, but I should not like to take William away from his home, unnecessarily, and perhaps at a costly sacrifice.

On my way down Rachel Ann told me that at Warstead Barker they did not feel comfortable with the thought of my travelling on horseback and alone. So thou see I have indeed cause for much thankfulness at the care thus shown; - how it may issue is uncertain. I should be thankful to have a companion, but - desire to be preserved from selfishness. I know (I can thankfully say it) - that my God is sufficient for all things - and unless I desire to put my whole trust. He is indeed a refuge in times of trouble.

Adelaide 7/1/68. ~~Weds.~~

I arrived here about 10. William drove me over from the Bremer yesterday, and both boats this morning. We arrived this forenoon Barrett greeted me at the boat side and accompanied me to George Phillips' carrying my boxes & bag saying that he could not offer me a job. I have seen Harriet Sophie & Wade at Maria Phillips - also the wife and children of Mrs. May, recently arrived from Melbourne. They had just left the house. They have 6 children and have sold a little property they had in Melbourne and consider how if they can do something: having done but poorly at Melbourne. It is many many years since Thomas saw his father and many of his relatives.

I left Mary progressing nicely - her boy is trouble: but Maria leaves to day.

Secois is a nice good boy fond of drawing and painting. Some of the painting seems to be laid on with taste and judgment for a young boy. Alfred is rather more active and a little inclined to mischief - perhaps thought not much so for a boy. Louisa is a fat little girl - and Roland, Charles baby - a stout boy with very white hair and light blue eyes: all seem very good tempers, and under Mary's tuition are

making fair progress in learning - Friends and relatives at the Barken all well except Lucy's children who are all getting well on the way of getting the Hooping cough - Louisa does not seem to have carried it to the Bremer. We drove me one day to Stratford a nice little place having several good bridges to cross the streets, and many places for worship.

It rained nearly all the way from the Barken to Town - but not very heavily. It is a hindrance to the work which progresses slowly at the Barken, as the weather has remained so cool, as to prevent the use of the stripping machines. Fredk May has ^{stripped} cut 2000 pieces of timber & brushwood - some of which are 20 - and the piece now a progress of stripping, there appears not to be more than at the Bremer.

Wattle and Sheep are a doing here and in Victoria. J. Norritt has just had a lot from the Darling sold at about £5.7.6 to 5.10. They have about 2 or 3000 for acres they wish to sell - but there are no buyers - and as yet there is no boiling down establishment: - which is what they must resort to.

I purpose to start tomorrow at 7. Will stop over by Ladeway, then by mail cart to Clare and stay the night. - then proceed by mail to Melbourne where the Wellington leaves, and there proceed

as way may open.

William found no doubt that he could not possibly leave home, and J. Mackin I presume felt a closer home accompanying me. He is rather nervous and I suspect that what I said to him and communicated by him to F. M. that I should be pleased with his company, if he felt himself drawn to the work: that it would be comforting to me to have one who could understand my necessities otherwise, as argued. I should be very shocked should leave home. I imagine that this may have determined him. As I suppose that I shall go alone as to the outward, which may be further best: I shall be preserved from leaving reflexly gone. And if our good Watchmen meet that I should have a companion, doubtless he will provide one.

I now feel more fully the power of the words of the apostle - "we walk by faith, not by sight". Truly mine is a walk of faith: I am yet not sure what is to be my work, but the assurance given me that I should go "in the fulness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ" - it is still a comfort to rest on, as well as the fresh flourings of a heavenly Father's love. How I shall get back to Adair does not yet appear and must be left. I am commended to you J. Warrent's love to this, also to Mr. Morgan and Mr. Washburn and to all the family - of course. My dearest love to you all.

I mean never to leave home again