

Hobart. 23 Aug 1891.
Sunday evening.

Dearest Doo,

George Waterhouse came down last night by express to stay here over Monday for the University Council. I went down to the train to meet him, took him up to Kent House to supper, & when we got home we sat up talking University until 1 o'clock. He was here all day, but went out before I got back from afternoon school, to see his beloved cousins at Sandy Bay. I meant to have gone to Dover St Church with him, but, as he has not come back, it seems wise for me to seize the time to write you a few lines, before he comes back.

Your second letter from Kimberli arrived in the middle of the week. (These mails are very eccentric: - we have had 3 mails within just 10 days and now may not have another for nearly a fortnight.) It is

jolly to hear that you are having such a good time. The Brittany trip was a capital idea - quite an experience. It must be good for you both for sketching purposes, and also at giving you some fairly close glimpses of French life. Its novelty is just the thing you will enjoy. I know you will swear at what I am going to say, - but really I can't help thinking that after all this novelty and pretty constant intellectual & artistic excitement, you will find Hobart very tame. However, the longer I live the more I am convinced that happiness & the zest of life depends very much more on one's internal resources, intellectual & otherwise, than on one's position in the world - whether of place or station. So, if you bring back a good store of resources for home consumption, I dare say you will do.

That D. H. Bank's and my own business affairs are still in statu quo. I fear the Bank

trouble will do a lot of mischief
not only to the poor shareholders
but to the country. However,
I have for a good while been
looking forward to a severe check
to the overspeculation about the
mines, and it is possible that
the collapse of the Bank which
has done most towards feeding
this overspeculation may have
prevented a worse & more general
crash in the future. But I fear
we shall have a bad time for some
months, & as the Bank affairs
seem to be very rotten I fear the
Clarks & others will lose all
they have in the Bank and will
be lucky if they escape having to
pay a further call on their shares.

The office matters are not settled
though I think a day or two ought
now to see an arrangement of the
terms of dissolution. We have been
at it for about 7 weeks, & there
have been endless interviews between
our solicitors. At times I have almost
despaired of any end. With any
ordinary man a week would have

been ample time to have arranged
everything. But Young is unreasonable
& Elliston, his solicitor, stupid.
The worry has made poor Malden
ill. He says he has had a headache
all the week. I am thankful to
say that I am very well & in good
spirits. The only trouble is that
I don't sleep well. Dawson is
leaving, I expect, directly we dissolve.
This will throw a lot of detail
about the accounts on my hands,
which I don't look forward to
with any pleasure. However I
hope we may rub along.

I told you last week that Will
Friday was in a very dangerous
condition. He has been slowly
improving this last week, but is
still in a very critical state.
The same may be said of Bingham
Crowther. Willie Buckland is up
& going on favourably. Emily
Robson (H's daughter, the one
engaged to Lieut Parry) has been
in bed all the week. It was
thought to be typhoid but they
now think it is not. Poor old

2/ Stephens is still laid up with the cut in his shin, which I told you he had given himself while trying to chop a log in the dark. He looks pretty miserable & has been suffering a good deal of pain.

Aunt Ann is much the same. On the whole she seems to be better, but is still helpless. Nizie Robt is improving & has been up a while the last few days.

The weather has been very changeable. We had a S.W. gale a few days ago, & a heavy fall of snow which extended over to the low hills. In the country towards Oakland the snow lay over 4 inches deep. There is still a good deal of snow on the mountain, the first which has lain for any time this year, but the weather is mild though showery, with occasional wet days. Spring is very early. The wattle has been out some time, "and the willow trails its delicate amber" though the old leaves were literally only pushed off by the budding of the new ones.

You mentioned having met Miss Pragg & her remark that she had not heard from us. There is some excuse for the delay. The letters were brought by a girl or young woman, whom she asked us to look after, & met at the English Steamer & take in. She stayed here a day & night & then went out to Hildera, the Victorian irrigation colony. We naturally expected she would write, but she never did from that day to this. I waited for news from her before writing & so it got put off. I really must write next week.

Also I will try to send you the family genealogy at length. The Hallams come from Hylam on Tyne, 8 miles west of Newcastle. One branch of the family went to Leeds in middle of last century. The places where members of this branch lived were Killingbeck Hall near Leeds (S.E. of Leeds I think), and Hilsick House near Doncaster. The Hylam family were granted to the family by Henry VIII. You are

not the first artist in the family.
There is a large illustrated book
of 'Costumes of Yorkshire' from
water colour drawings by a
George Walker early in this
century. I have a copy of
a facsimile reprint of it in folio.

I hope you are bearing in
mind the Collins picture. Ask
Rowick to tell you where you
can study the costume, ships,
& boats of the period 1800 to 1804 -
about time of battles of Nile &
Trafalgar. You know one of the
gunpowder hulks now off
Government House was an
English gun brig at the battle
of the Nile. She was originally
a French gun brig - the "Mentine".
It was taken by the English.

After the war she came out here
& was for many years whaling
here. Very likely you remember
her as the "Aladdin" whaler.

I lent my early view of Collins
Camp to Dicker to copy. I hope
he will take care of it. It shows

both the "Ocean" & the little
"Lady Nelson" - the two ships
who brought Collins' party.
Dicker - who has a foible for
knowing everything - says that
the rigging & so forth is most
correct & must have been done
by a naval man. It is possible
the sketch was made by Lieut
Bowen, who brought the first
settlers to Risdon.

later Here I went up to see Stephens
who is still laid up with his
leg & is likely to be for some time.
I came back in a hurry to be
here for Waterhouse, but when
I got back I found he had been
as far as the door with the
Walches & had probably gone
up to Hillcrest with them
& Liz & Isa. Liz came back
on Thursday night. She looks
fat & flourishing & is in great
spirits. She really ought to get
a holiday in the country.

3/ every six months, or at furthest
every year. The Walker family
can't do without change. Is
it a sign of intellectual strength
or weakness? It certainly does
not come from the Mather side.
None of them ever take holidays.
They are like cats in their
attachment to the accustomed
spot. They might almost as
well be adscripti glebae.
Robert follows this type, for
his greatest and only excursion
from home is to Craubrook,
to which he is almost equally
accustomed by habit. I doubt
if he has ever visited any other
place, or been out of the colony.
Poor Rick is something the same,
but perhaps that is the force
of circumstances. Now, you & I
are never so happy as when
we are moving about to strange
places; and Sah generally

love & kindest remembrances to all at Johns Road

manages to fly about to two
or three places in the holidays.

Waterhouse & the girls have
just come in, so I must
go & have a smoke & a talk
with him, and say adieu.

The mother is very cheerful
just now. Sah has written
something, so hers must be
taken as the complement
of this.

Adieu, my beloved! let
us hear what your plans
are & how you are progressing.
I suppose the Paris idea
was a passing fancy, as
you don't say anything more
about it, and the difficulties
seem rather insuperable.

God bless you, dear -
Waterhouse sends Gr affect^e / Mr
kindest regards -

Letter from James Backhouse Walker to his sister Mary
who was then painting in Quimperle, Brittany. It sets
out the Walker genealogy at length; and, describes the
ships which carried Collins's party to Sullivan's Cove.