

Brighton Hotel - Port Phillip - 10
miles from Melbourne
Nov 8th 1834

My dear Hannah,

I sent off letters on the 24th by the Lyttelton
on which vessel my K.L. box has been shipped & address
J. H. & Co. Dublin, who are requested to look sharply after
it on its arrival in Liverpool. Bill of Lading went
(among Antiques bills) by parcel & I shall forward duplicate
to P. & O. Steamer, which I suppose will arrive nearly as soon
as this letter, though this will start at least a fortnight
earlier. I left Belfast on 28th October & arrived in Hobbs
Bay the following evening after a very short passage
in every way different from my passage up in the Verona - said Verona had a great many misfortunes after
we left her & where she now is - I do not know - but Drake
& Co. have become bankrupts, at which I do not wonder & I have
little doubt but they are worthy of having the March March
played at their heels. The weather at Melbourne after my
return was becoming very dusty, though not oppressively
hot & I am disposed to think from remarks I heard that
the worst is made of the heat by the natives. The dust
is bad enough & causes in great measure by the bareness
of the surrounding country - when once the scanty grass is
withered up, pouring in clouds of dust with every puff of
wind. It comes from reserved or commonage land which
is not fenced in & consequently is trampled over by innume-
rable horses & drays & cut up to mud at one time & raised
in dust at another. If Gov^t would only put a rail fence
and sow grass or even thistle seeds on these misuses it would
quickly be abated. At present, on a windy day, you can
sometimes not see 3 yards before you in the open place.
They are starting water carts as a palliative inscribed in
large letters, "Down with the Dust", but I cannot see
how they will cure the evil, under such a sun as we have
here, which lifts up the water as soon as it falls. A day
or two after my return, Red Curriers (alias Mr Edmund O'Brien)
formerly of Plassey, presented himself at W.M.R., having arrived
safely a few days before. He reports that self & family are quite
well & that they had a very prosperous & quick voyage in the Dun
& that I am to take Mr Joseph & Mr James of Winnich that he had every
satisfaction from the company of which J. T. is Agent - decent people
all. They are at present living on Emerald Hill, one of the
suburbs of Melbourne, where they rent a small cottage
(of two rooms I think) at £1.5.0 p week. Red is looking for mill
work, but has not yet got it - his son & son in law have got work
for the present & if the Wheeler will do well. The wife is
going to set up an eating house I believe - probably trade,

she is said to be made a Daffodil. - She advised him to put his
performances out in the Spring, Bank - & he & the roofers,
brought it quite through that passage - but "when she saw
these," she thought it too big, "square," to see it & pass. - So the
two came about a mile back, to the house for 1000 Fabian, to see
ways at all night. - W.R. not being at home, I went with them
to the Bank, & invited them to loden £1.70 as hire, & a nice little
next day for a Daffodil day. - Medius speaking of going
to England to look for a place to get out from there to the
bath. - I all this please report to the Rev.

At the head of this sheet is a good deal of the shell bone
exhibition any open. I saw it printed therein & bought it in
the spot for 1/2 at which date they were going off to put toward
over there, that at night, made the preparation, any sort of
better than an average day, even in "Maggie's Gulls." The
building is highly creditable to the place, and very pretty
particularly well looking within the space being mid part
in a part without a corner, in the side of the gallery above
them. - There is a fine line of the great beauty, surrounded
by some hard and some native plants, growing around to the
2 or 3 tato trees, looking like Palms - (Plum, Plum,
in tubs are also in the way, see in the picture) placed in
the outside of the building. - It is open to the sky, quite
painted within an established place. The show is
not very good, but wonderful for a young country.
The most natural thing about is the gold case. Specimens
of *Auriferous Ducks*, & said - There are many of all
shapes & various sizes - There is the principal one being
said to be worth £10,000. There are also many masses of quartz
rock speckled with gold & several specimens of "woodlike
stuff" - with the average quality of each kind marked. It
looks very unpromising to a novice. - Some of the stuff
being to the yellow clayey gravel & the like chalk of paper
clay. - I passed into all the kinds, but know of few
of gold, yet in applying water & shaking & rinsing, they
got 2 to 4 oz from a bucket full. - Later said - Specimens
of lead, tin & copper were also shown. - Tin is said to be
abundant in some places & shipment of the ore are
now being made to England. - Some sources of zinc, (topaz
garnet, sapphires) were shown with the gold, but none
of any valuable size. - Thought they might do some small
business in some. - I saw some interested with some
very good sketches of Australian home scenes & also of
wild flowers drawn by a Mr. Baker, Palermo, & about
being published here. - If I find the price within my reach
I may subscribe as they are highly creditable to the state
of Colonial art. - They will be suited to the glass. - There is
a beautiful and ring of the aspect of the plants in the detail

of the views, which makes them particularly interesting.
There were places, sketches on a smaller scale by an
artist at the diggings of various scenes, but out
of the larger Colonial pictures, perhaps the value of the
beginning pattern, staining & flaring, flaring, & stand
not quite two times & some it, pretty fair. - The ladies
had sent many flowers, some imitations of native flowers,
as well as some ones - and leather work, but I don't
remember crochets or lace. - There were some good shells
lamb's coral stockings - A few framed collections
of sea weeds, but to my eyes they seemed to be all from
Van Diemen's land - judging by the presence of *Cladonia*
to the species which have not yet been detected here.
Another collection of algae in books, by a Mr. Baines, of
genuine Port Phillip, & pretty fair - except that he has
improved nature by carefully plastering gum water
over the surface of the specimens. - There are to go to the
Paris Exhibition, as are the larger proportions of the Colonial
products. - The Govt paid the cost of the building I believe.
One day last week I drove on the over to Brighton
beach & liked that place so well, that I determined to
live here for a couple of weeks also looking.
The place is a pretty good one for draught specimens. - I came
here yesterday, I've gotten a pretty fair Hotel, close
to the beach, where I have lodged in a parrot room up
in the roof. It is a high light, of one piece of plate, about
above the size of an ordinary front hole. - The room
being as big as the stern of one of the old India men.
I can stand upright in each half of it & can sit & read
do now very comfortable in most of the rest. - There are
a little table & 2 or 3 small algae bowls - holding the paper
spawls under the head - but there are two beds - though
as yet I have no companion in the other & hope to do
continue. - I board at the termination table, for £3.10.0
6 week board - my only fault is the scarcity of fresh
water, (the well being brackish & rain water too raw)
to the & paved for my work. - I mean to stay there until
I change my mind, till the term of the Wippen
(old yacht, and good tender) which is out on duty, but
which if anything prevents with the sent with me by the
Govt when he returns, to land me at Phillip's, & then
Western Port, where I am going with the very best in my
land to try. - "Dear Mr. McPherson, here I am landed
but in want of bed & board - there are none open
to be had on my island for money, or pray give them to
me for love & I shall only stay till the depth of winter comes on

which may be in a month or two - All I want is a comfortable
bed room, as many beds of fresh water as possible &
plenty of ^{fresh} drink &c. - I have a letter of introduction
to this gentleman I am going to quarter myself on him
on the strength of it, if I can - If he turn me off I must
come back in the Wyvern, tail between legs - as there
are no hotels - It is said to be a very excellent shore
for algae I won't the trouble & Mr. West is described as a
hospitable man & not much troubled with visitors -
So I mean to take my microscope & amuse the wife &
children - Mr. Robertson is now living in the country
about 1/2 an hour's walk from town - Edward keeping
the house in Stephens St. - but Mr. Robertson is going
it up - as it no longer pays for the trouble I dine
with Mr. on Sunday - He lives with Alfred White &
wife & Robert Green all in a snug little cottage
with a nice garden &c. After dinner we walked
into the country two or 3 miles rather prettier in that
direction than in most others, about the City - hills &
dale sufficiently wooded & studded with gentlemen's
houses & grounds - I saw fine views of the sea -
we went as far as Torack where the Gov^r lives
a very pretty place - I picked *Brunelia australis*
for the first time - It is just coming into flower &
looks to the eye like *Saxifraga montana* - but with taller
erect stalks & deeper blue flowers - If I remember
it, I mean to send seeds of a prettyaisy like plant
in this letter - I forgot the name, but this same genus
near *Brachyclonia* & easily made out as they grow
and rock over the growing, as an early spring flower
like most here, it is now gone - all now in seed -
I mean to write again by the Overland in
about a fortnight - Very affly - Yours
W. H. H.



Harvey, William H. 1854. "Harvey, William Henry Nov. 8, 1854 [to Hannah Harvey Todhunter]." *William Henry Harvey letters* –.

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