

address
P.O.

Melbourne.

Kind love to

the D^r.

Miss Polytro

I hope

Miss ^{Smith} ^{is} ^{well}

Redfern

Gordon Esq.

AL/

1455

20 Mar 1865.

Dear B. L. B.

your kind letter of

no date but reaching me with the
Feb. letters gave me more pleasure than
I can express. - I have been longing to
hear from you & longing to write - but
had no heart to keep on dicing
you with letters when you made no
sign in return - you are quite right in
saying that I ought to remember that
I have staunch loving friends at home
- believe me that I have & do remem-
ber it with the most implicit faith
& repose. - you must not judge of me
or of the prospects of migration by
one letter however - for my letters in-
evitably reflect my own personal
feelings at the moment of writing - &
a prospect of success - or a snubbing
- either likely to turn up here on the
shortest notice - would materially ~~change~~
influence even my pen in a certain

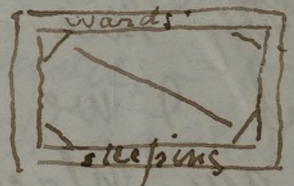
degree - I think it very hard for you
who are at a distance from the colonies
to understand them - they are so intensely
good, & so intensely bad, according to the
use made of them that I can easily see
how perfectly true pictures of life here
are certain of condemnation ^{at home} & of appa-
-rent refutation by equally reliable
information - I still think to the full
as strongly as when I left home that
women - educated or not, may come
here with the very greatest possible
advantage to themselves - but I see even
clearer than ever that they must be wo-
-men of a certain stamp. - women
who dislike work, or who are not very
steady in their principles - are a thou-
-sand fold better off at home - there
are scores of such women in England,
they are not exactly idlers, - not at all
immoral - but they work because they
must - & are virtuous because they
are surrounded by scores of good homes
& by inducements of every kind to go
right - all this vanishes, or very nearly
all vanishes here - & the colonies like the

testing fire of the apostle tries every
man's work & every man's character to
the very core. - It is very marvellous how
alone people are here - women - men -
families - it's all alike - they are here
to day - gone to-morrow. - & the natural
result is that individuality - is very pro-
-minent - I don't object to that - for se-
-nether will you - but - you can easily
see how that would tell on creatures
I beg their pardon - on women who
have no individuality to bring out,
forse they lean right - then they fall
left - & then down they go - so you
see my idea of women coming out here
is right - but then the soul of women
who are to come - that's the main
point - & the same with men -

I wonder whether you will think me
wrong in going in for other things besides
emigration - I don't think you will you
dear thing - & I have had always
that confidence in you that I might
do just what seemed the real - right
thing to do - that I honestly confess
I have never had the fear of you before

my eyes - You must not think me con-
-fident if I say - that I think I have
been of some real use out here - & I
will tell you why - of course a certain
number of men & women have always
worked here, in the matter of schools
hospitals &c: but the majority of people
here are very under-educated - & what
Whately says is the deficiency of a
woman's character - viz - totally - is
equally here - the deficiency of the men
- ~~the~~ comprehensiveness - being & in both
cases - the result I expect of deficiency
of education - the end therefore is a
great muddle, - & the hospitals, lunatic
asylums & prisons are consequently - the
most awful places, - some of them as
bad as any thing Howard ever entered
- I hope you heard of my crusade
against the Auckland Hospital - I
got - a new ward - 2 rooms for the
lunatic - 3 sorts of puddings allowed
- a dead house - water closet for women
& 6 hair mattresses - all added before
I left - Here in Sydney - the worst

2/ place is the Lunatic Asylum - it is situ-
-ate at a place called Tarboan Creek, &
there are 466 patients there - 290 males
- 176 women - There is no hospital in
the place - no chapel - no day room
no recreation room - no occupation
whatever - no lights at night, & just
1 nurse for the men at night - & one
for the women!! there are 46 beds
in the passages - narrow passages
not so wide as that in your house in
Blandford Square! - very little ventilation
- no gardens - & the drainage so bad
that the soil is within 6 inches of the
public seats! - I went round the place with
five gentlemen - & the patients were so
excited & furious fancy the number 466
that we could only go so
ie from corner to corner
we did not dare go across



the yards so - The wards are where
the poor wretches are by night, & the
centre of the yard where they are by day
- it is a gravel yard - about 30 x 20
where they spend the whole of their time

with literally nothing to do - & as there are no benches - or chairs, they stand, or lie about in the scorching sun under the wooden sheds in summer - or stand against the walls like fowls in rainy weather. - I went about the end of March - it was a hot bright day - but the clutch was so fearful that I had violent purging & vomiting from the Wednesday to the following Monday night - & had to keep my bed too part of the time - I have had an interview with the Premier here twice on the subject, - & one with the Dean - the Sydney Punch has taken it up - & I have got most of the best men on my side - but the moral cowardice of the place is very great - & they say to me "stay here two years Miss Pyle & see it out & we will back you" - so you see how I am placed - The management of the place is in the hands of a Dr Campbell an old, ignorant, obstinate Scotch man - who says he laughs at me - To counterbalance him - the place is visited every week by a medical board of 5 Dr's - some of the leading men of the

town - these men get £260 a year each for their visits of inspection - but there is some hitch in the board - one of the members being a very old, worn out man - & another very unpopular with the rest - so that a general meeting of the board never takes place - & they go down by dribs & drabs, & therefore never dare report fully on the place - To mend matters when I made my first complaint - to the premier, he produced these official reports for the past year - in w. not a word was said about these matters - so it looked as though I was fixed - but on inquiring I found the medical board - had made a grand solemn protest about these things some time ago - with the men that they had reported about it so often that they would do so no more - & therefore the place gets shifted backwards & forwards - but the place ~~now~~ remains the same, - The last dodge I have been up to is to go individually to each medical member of the board & try to prick their consciences - & I hope I have succeeded - partly by talking of the wickedness of allowing such things to

continue, partly by quoting Linnæus
Blue books - with w. I have been examining
- partly by talking about the letters I
brought out from the Duke of Newcastle
& partly by hinting about writing to the
Times so I do hope something will be
done - If I get 5 Medical men to resign
£260 a year each - would I think them real
patriots - 3 out of the 5 are willing to do it
- but the difficulty is to get the thing done
unanimously - because for these ³ men to
resign - would only make vacancies for
other people & that wd do us no real
good - The most high principled of the
whore lot a D^r Cox was with me yester-
-day morning about this - & the D^r were
to meet in consultation last night, &
D^r Cox is to be here with me this morning
to let me know the result, - I expect him
very soon now - & am very anxious to
know how matters turned, - What I want
them to resign is - that the present
board is too small in number - it is too
weak - & they all think so, - but there is
not the slightest chance of more medical
men being paid - nor sh^d they be - so we

3/ want to enlarge the board by making
it a Gov. affair - as at the Sydney
Infirmary - ^{the only hospital I can get as} which is a wonderful
^{much for in this hemisphere!} exception - & as good as any Hospital
in London!! - Now when you write again
tell me if I do right to probe into
such matters - only I tell you honestly
as long as my money lasts I mean
to go on - because I know that a
reformation ^{here} must come from outside
& there are very few visitors to these
shores - who care about such things -
— you wd. be as cruel to drag me
away from such work - as if I were
to foul you into room with 20
new Turners & 50 Claudes - & just
allowed you to march twice round
& then whisked you away! see how
silly I am - & what confidence I
have in you - I wish however you
would not talk about more money
I do not want it - I told you I
would not - & I shall not ask
you for another id. my own condition

of staying more than the 2 years was that I should only do so, if my money lasted - & it will - I have still at Melbourne the last of your £100 - & the £100 of my own - & £12 in my pocket besides - so I am all right as far as money goes - I dress in very much the same insignificant - I would say dowdy - way that I did at home - because I am nearly indifferent to the same - & 2 because I sh^d want at least £200 a year extra - to dress after the fashion of women here - a mode antique (new & good) in an omnibus here being by no means unknown - & the bouquets are small gardens - strewn with feathered fowls - in one I saw a veritable bird, not a cock Hare, - but still the whole thing - & a bird in a bonnet let me tell you - is a very different thing from a bird in a hat.

D. I leave this for Queensland next week - & expect to be there two months I should have started last Friday - but there have been fearful gales all along the coast - & some of the steamers have had to return - added to this I have

caught a bad cold - & more than all I want to see the end of Tarban Creek - though we cannot do more than put things in a right ~~shape~~ training - for the session w^e will not be till July - I hope my dear Mrs. Webber told you what I told her in my last about my journey to the Bathurst Assizes with W. Justice Wise - the distance was 120 miles & it took us 4 days to do - we drove in an open coach with 3 horses - & 3 outriders! for fear of the bushrangers - 2 of whom have however been shot down like dogs since our journey - Bathurst is the Capital of the Western district & is a town with 5000 inhabitants - the general Hospital ^{is a very small place} there is if possible rather worse than Tarban - & I had a shy at that during the ten days I was there - The Dispenser was a dirty - drunken old D^r. who had formerly been sent out as a convict - & was kept on because he could get no work else where; the good folks of Bathurst not considering the comfort or rather discomfort of the poor patients a matter worthy of consideration! - I talked them into getting rid of him - & as you may like to see that it was not all talk - I enclose the advertise-

meant for his successor - I understand there
have been many applicants - but do not
know who has been chosen - They also
got up a concert & tea for the Hospital
as soon as I was gone - & there were
1000 persons present - but they only collected
£100 - however that is better than nothing
- Bathurst is placed very high - & is in
consequence very healthy - they have ice & snow
& the winters are exceedingly cold - fruits
that grow here - will not grow there &
really the climate in Bathurst is quite
bracing - there are several Chinese there, some
of them married to English girls - but there
are very many Moral Soffata - I was told
a town some 20 miles further on still, w. I
could not reach - there they have Joss houses
& ^{there} also a converted Chinese who is propa-
gating for the Ministry of Christ - he already
knows enough to give little Bible readings
& many of his countrymen attend regularly
is not that charming? & as far as I can learn
they are decent industrious fellows - I have a
whole budget of letters to answer so must
conclude - pray remember me very kindly to
the Hayleys - it is very delightful to be remembered
by good people - do write again - & soon
Believe me dearest B. S. B. ever your aff
Maria. S. Pele