

Hobart Town

31/10 mo. 1856.

My dear Boy,

I learn from our dear friend Elijth Backhouse that there is considerable probability of thy taking thy passage to Melbourne by the "White Star" from Liverpool, along with our kind friend Chas^s Mould, and as the time of the expected arrival of this vessel is drawing nigh, I am desirous, should a merciful Providence permit thee, to reach Melbourne in safety, that thou mayst be met with an affectionate welcome from home on thy first landing, also with the tidings, no doubt grateful & relieving, as they will be to thee, that

J. W. Walker

G. W. Walker . 31 Oct. 1856

to

J. B. Walker - written to
meet him at Melbourne.

they are all much as usual
and thy ^{other} relatives & connections
in ordinary health. It is highly
probable that thou mayst meet
thy uncle John M. & Aunt Isabella
in Melbourne; & should the time
suit, it w^d. be pleasant to return
with them. But I do not wish thee
to stay long there - longer than will
suffice for thee to look round and
see for thyself a City that has at once
risen into celebrity - & the capital
of a people, born, it may almost
be averred, in a day. When I visited
it in 1837, it had been but a year
in existence, & numbered about
100 buildings, chiefly of wood.

I may observe that should the
City of Hobart have left recently for
this, thy best way will be to cross
by steam to Launceston, & thence
per day coach to Hobartou. There
is an arrang^t. between the Steam
Compr. & the Coach office, I believe,

so that the expenses by this and
the direct ^{other} route are nearly equal,
as thou art kindly offered a tempo-
rary home by thy fellow passenger
& helper C. Would I am under no
solicitude on that score, but this
affords a further argument in favour
of no very long tarriance at Melbourne
so as to be in any ^{way} burdensome to our
valued friends, who have a family of
their own.

Thou mayst be sure thy expected
return has created no little sensation
among thy brothers & sisters &
cousins, not to mention ourselves,
though none can so fully & gratefully
estimate the boon of thy return ~~than~~
as those who gave thee birth.

Thy mother has been busily engaged
in getting a room ready for "her
James" Should we be favoured to
clasp thee once more in our arms,
it will indeed be a day to be
remembered, & of which we may
say with the Psalmist. "This is
the

the day which the Lord hath.
we will be glad & rejoice in it."
we had not hoped to realize such
a happiness for many years to come.

Thou wilt see many changes,
& some improvements that have
taken place since thou left.

One thing still remains unaltered
the love of thy father & mother
which has been strengthened rather
than diminished by absence.

All of each of our household
including thy dear grandmother,
mother, & self, send their dear love,
and hoping thou wilt be in
ample time for our Yearly Meeting
which is early in next month.

I remain

Thy affy. attached father
Geo. W. Walker

If convenient I should like thee
to call & see our fr^d Mary Beale,
& say that I wished thee to enquire
particularly after her health & welfare
& that of her family - a portion of them
remain here - they are well - Give our
love & kind remembrance