

Forest Hill

17-2-1848

Dear brother James

This comes to let thee know, I have at last found time, opportunity & willingness to write to thee, to whom I owe ^{or} a letter & now I must thank thee for thy last, received so long ago, all the items were welcome, any news of you is always acceptable of course more especially, as so little ever comes direct to us, well its no use grumbling, & I'll just remark, in passing that if thou ^{had} a wife & large family, (as perhaps thou ought to have) it might account for thy writing so seldom, we rather hoped to have heard something of thy Melbourne trip, knowing some of the good folks there, but have had a dish of pointmen, in that respect if we all live till thy Annual visit we hope it will be much longer than

the last one. Lewis + Alfred say Uncles James + Edward have never been out in the boat with us, if you come in the Buggy, perhaps you could make a trip here. Aunt Ann often talks of paying us a visit but has not yet done so, don't hesitate to leave a horse with us, if you wish it, we have not heard anything of your plans. I have thought a change might do Rachel good. There are so many women folks down your ^{way} if Larina could take charge with Eliza + Helen, for subs, "how dat." + Rachel has never got to see us yet.

our wheat stack is not yet finished the last good rain wended the sheaves we hope to go on tomorrow, but the crick^{ets} are threatening us now just as they did this night week, + this has been just such a calm, lovely sabbath day, + "peace over the scene calm serenity shed." we enjoyed a walk on the beach, we got through

our harvest very nicely Leo. + Alf + 2 young men did it, it was splendid weather, hot for this country, most people said, but we have been used to it so much hotter the reapers used to enjoy a bathe every day, at that place where the Eliza was wrecked, the bank is so steep that when they start with a run which they did, they could not stop again, they would look up + see Dick coming cautiously down, it made me think of "rushing violently down a steep place into the sea" - Dear Williams + I went in to the monthly Mtg. + again to the adjournment last week, + so enjoyed a little more of dear P. W. Douglas's pleasant society we love him, much + are rather hoping to see him here for the day - with Frank Estlin Esq. but his time seem pretty well filled up - we have a likeness of dear Isaac Sharp - our dear sister Lucy sent to us, a nice, kind, face reminds

You a little of R A Mother - dear Lucy
 letters are most interesting she was at
 the meeting when I L + two companions
 both ^{left} ^{to} ^{leave} ^{at} ^{the} ^{meeting} ⁱⁿ ^{England}. Theodore
 Howard ^{only} expects to go as far as Mad-
 agascar. whilst Lucy was brooding about
 after seeing all her children at school
 again. (The eldest at the Flounders
 the ^{great} ^{one} ^{at} ^{York} - + 3 younger at Ackworth)
 she was staying with Sarah Frith's a
 widow's sister of Martha Holdsworth
 at High flats in Yorkshire. one day it
 was well + they drove out in the close
 carriage. I L saw some worthy old
 friend + stopped to speak to him
 he knowing Lucy was there, put
 his head right in at the window
 saying he "wanted to look at the
 Australian woman" Lucy had
 enough to do to keep her face straight
 she really believed he expected to
 see a black woman. she entertains
 us vastly. - I should like to write
 + ^{one} ^{to} ^{you} ^{love} ^{me} ^{so} ^{much}