

Ship Birmingham

Sept 5th / 52

Dear Parents Brothers & Sisters

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JOURNAL OF MRS. LOUISA TIMEWELL
OF
VOYAGE TO AUSTRALIA
IN THE SAILING SHIP "BIRMINGHAM"
AND FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF MELBOURNE

September 5th, 1852

Dear Parents, Brothers and Sisters,

I am sorry I could not keep my promise better than this. I can assure you it's a more difficult thing to do than you can imagine to write here; we have not much spare time that have children to attend to, but however, I get on very well and find it quite as comfortable as I expected.

We are now about nineteen hundred miles off the Cape, and you'll think rather late to begin a journal now, but however it will give you a little idea of how we pass our time. I could not get the opportunity to do so before.

We have had most beautiful weather from the time we left Liverpool up to within the last four days, but we must expect to have some rough weather here.

We got over the hot weather very favourably; we had it extremely hot in the tropics, but still not so bad as I had been expecting. I got on deck all day with the children, and the time passed off very pleasantly watching the flying fish, sharks, whales, porpoises, fin backs, and there was always a sail in sight or some fish or bird to look at, and I have had no unpleasant task to sit and picture you all at home in the warm weather. We mostly had our meals on deck sitting about like a party of Gypsies with our tin platters and cups, two or three in a group on different parts of the deck.

William has been at work almost every day since we came out but it's rather unpleasant — you either have the sun scorching you, or the wind blowing your work about. I help him a little when I can. I think we are all just the colour of Gypsies, but I thank God we have been blessed with health. The children are thriving nicely. George has got a big bouncing fellow and has got the credit of being the happiest baby in the ship. They both of them go off to bed after tea, and then William and I pass our time until three bells, which is half-past nine, on deck very pleasantly on a fine moonlight night. On the poop some are in groups singing, some telling their tales, and others dancing, and the waves looking just like a sheet of silver. I must refer you to George's journal for particulars as I cannot remember all that is past.

We have a very comfortable berth, there are two married couples besides ourselves and we manage very well. There are no berths for people by themselves. There is a captain in each berth and his duty is to scrape the berth every morning, take the food to the galley to be cooked, fetch the rations and divide it, and empty the slops pails. They take it in turn to be

captain. This week it has been George's turn to cook. Will is captain next week. We have had it stormy this last five days. I have not been able to get on deck with the children. I was obliged to keep in bed one day to keep them safe, the vessel rolled so. I was sitting on a box outside our berth with baby on my lap and I was pitched nearly under the table, box and all, so I thought the best place was bed and I had enough to do to keep myself in there. We had water tins, tubs, boxes and all sorts of utensils rolling about from side to side and the men staggering about as if they were drunk, and even now I am obliged to hold my ink bottle to keep it from sliding off the table.

Sunday Evening

Had a stormy disagreeable day. Have not been able to get on deck our ship going 13 knots, weather getting very cold. Had nothing but boiled rice for dinner, a sorry dinner for Sunday, but it's not so bad here with a little sugar and spice in it and butter. For tea we had what we call cake, but what at home would be pudding, for it is made without any sort of yeast. I manage very well for supper. William always gets some oatmeal gruel for our supper, and I can assure you it is excellent stuff, but there, we are obliged to have it at seven o'clock as the galley fires are out and it is under favour that he gets it cooked.

We have had a pleasant evening. One of our men has been a Wesleyan Preacher, and we have had the regular Chapel Service here.

Monday

Rather stormy and raining, nearly everybody below. Have been washing out some things for baby and every minute obliged to hold on for my life to keep myself and tub from toppling over. It's very laughable to see them pitching about so. The moment our tea is poured we are each obliged to hold on to our cups or else have it spilt over the table.

Today I have made a loaf. Got a little leaven from the cook, but it gets sour after one day's keeping. To keep it good we have to make a loaf every day and keep a bit of dough from each loaf just before it is put in the oven. For dinner we have cold salad meat and rice; for tea I have made a little tea cake. We get them done in the frying pan and they are not so coarse. Anything is better than biscuit. I just mention our living that you may know how to manage if any of you should come out.

You would laugh to see them here, men, boys and women, cooking and washing up nearly all day long. A person can manage very well if they bring plenty of things with them. You can get them cooked. I will just mention here the things that I should find most useful. People are led to believe they can buy things on board ship, but it is a wrong idea—if you get it, it is quite a favour, and you must pay very dear for it. Flour, carraways, spice, a little sugar, carbonate of soda and tartaric acid—you can always make bread with soda and acid and in the warm weather it is very useful to make a drink. It is dreadful to be parched with thirst and have nothing to take off the stinking taste of the water.

Pickles, preserves and onions are very useful. If I were to go on a voyage again I would be sure to have as much flour and preserves as I could bring. Our rations we are allowed from the ship are quite as good as we could expect—rice, peas, meal very good and more than we can make use of. I

find the things we brought with us very useful. We have tea to spare but cannot get any coffee. Coffee and a small mill is very useful on board ship.

Monday

I have not been very well today, the weather still continues very dull, the days pass very wearily, can scarcely see to read or work to pass off the time, and no cheerful fire to look at or warm yourself by. Am now sitting up on my bed to get light to write this by. Our berth is a very light one we have a ventilator at the top. Our berth is very much like the one we saw on board the "Fortitude" that had six families in it, only large according to the number.

We manage for Kate to sleep at the foot of our bed so that we have her bed place to put her things in. 'Tis a hard cheerless bed I can tell you, but I am getting used to it and sleep pretty well. Oh, how I long to know what is happening in England. I should like to take a peep in at the Madbury I hear George singing. He is looking very much better than when we left. We often talk of you and picture scenes of home, especially of a Saturday night, but I suppose when we are thinking of you, you are in bed.

Tuesday

Still gloomy and very cold. Day passed heavily. George and William are at the table with several others at cards. Some are at chess and some singing. I have just got the children to bed after giving them their meal porridge. Find the gas wanting. Have been sewing on some string in Kate's stays and took about a quarter of an hour to thread my needle. Would find some candles and a lantern very useful.

Wednesday

Very cold; women all sitting about with bonnets and shawls on. I have had my breakfast in bed, washed up, dressed the children in bed and mean to keep them here with me all day to keep them warm. I can sit up in my bed very comfortably and read, work, or do anything, it's a top berth.

William is busy today, he is captain and he has to fetch our tea, sugar and biscuits. We have pea soup for dinner, for breakfast we had some fried ham and biscuits melted and fried in the ham fat. It's not so bad. We shall come badly off, for as our flour is all done, we cannot make any cake or pancakes. We bought some fat off the Cook, but I wish I had brought some with me.

The frosty weather has sharpened our people with their tongues they are running nineteen to the dozen. Some are cheap jacks, some are crying songs to sell, some are peep show men. We have had quite a auction mart this morning; they have sold a Chess Board, Musical Box, some canvas and are now putting up a watch, so you may judge what a clatter there is with their different brogues, some Jews, some Irish, some Yorkshire, a good many Scotch and in fact all sorts. I can hear George laugh louder than all the rest.

Thursday

Still very cold. Nothing today occurred worthy of notice.

Friday

Do.

Saturday

Have been washing up a few clothes for baby, a troublesome job in the

cold water. I wish I had brought blue serge petticoats for the children. Those with black drawers, black frocks and black aprons are best for them. And in fact a blue serge petticoat is the best for anyone, it's a dreadful bother having so much dirty clothes about. I have been wearing my wrapper, black dress, plaid cloth one, my old cotton ones are not good enough. We are obliged to look a little tidy amongst four hundred people. I should advise anyone coming out to keep out as few things as possible; a few light things for the hot weather; a few warm things for the cold and let it all be of material that will not want washing. Everything that gets the sea air gets injured more or less.

Weather not so cold today, ship going very fast.

Sunday

Beautiful day, been on deck with the children. Sea quite calm. Ship going 12 knots, hundreds of birds flying close to the ship — Cape Pigeons, Cape Hens, Ice Birds, and Albatross. We have rounded the Cape and are all quite elated with the hope of being at our destination in three weeks or a month from now. It is ten weeks since we started and eleven since we came on board. It seems nothing to look back. I have fared very well today. Will got some preserved potatoes on board, so we had some ham and fried potatoes for breakfast, cold beef and potatoes for dinner, and a nice currant cake for tea, just as light as I could have made it at home. I made it with leaven.

We have had a very good sermon here tonight. Our part of the ship was quite crammed with passengers from the other parts of the vessel. The steerage of this ship is much larger than the part the young women had on board the "Fortitude".

Monday

Very cold — ship going very fast. Made a good breakfast of potatoes and ham. Have been busy this morning to get my bread baked early. I made little loaves about the size of your penny batch loaves, and we have one each, though we could eat one twice as large. I think when I get to Australia I shall eat a half quarter loaf at once. We have cold beef and boiled rice for dinner. Baby is rather poorly, have given him some Magnesia. I hope he will soon cut two teeth. He is the very picture of Willie and just as happy. Kate has been poorly. She is very happy here. She sings "Three Blind Mice" and "Curly Locks" occasionally, but she has learnt a new song from the sailors about "Oh, the bowline, Oh". I have been in dear old England tonight in my dreams, but I had all the parting scene.

Tuesday

Still very cold. Days pass very drearily, seem twice as long as when we could get up on deck all day long.

Wednesday

Nothing particular, still cold but going 12 knots an hour. Hope to be soon at our journey's end. Had some biscuits and treacle for dinner, could not eat the soup and Bouille, we none of us like it unless it is in a pie and we cannot spare the flour for that. Had a little seed loaf for tea, and our porridge for supper. I could not nurse baby without it. It is very feeding and strengthening. George is very fond of it. I think we shall learn to live

cheap. Have been busy helping William to sew the seams of trousers. Passed a pleasant evening though a noisy one. Just imagine about a dozen laughing and chatting over a game of cards; another lot one side of them singing as loud as they could bawl and another lot the other side trying to sing loud enough to drown the voices of the others, and the children running about just enjoying themselves as well as though they were on land. George has been singing several songs tonight, and they have sung many that I used to hear sung in the parlour of the old house at home. Amongst them was the "Bird" and "Dear Father's Going Awa' wi' Jamie".

Thursday

Rather dull day, very cold, no wind, ship going like the boy went to school, one step forward and two back. Had some biscuits and honey for breakfast, boiled pork for dinner and a drop of pea soup to wash it down. (Will bought some from the Cook.) A little seed loaf for tea, ditto for supper. Should have liked a glass of ale with it, but was obliged to be content with a little treacle vinegar mixed with water. It makes a tolerable drink. Our water is horrid stuff.

Friday

Still very cold. Day passed just as usual. Evening ditto.

Saturday

Have been busy taking out the clean clothes, making bread for today and tomorrow and cleaning up the rubbish a bit. I can assure you I do not find much time to spare. By the time I have finished one job, there is another ready. Will and George are very busy today winding up the jobs being Saturday. They are obliged to work below, it's too cold on deck. Have lived gaily today, got some more flour and potatoes. Had some ham and potatoes for breakfast. Ditto with boiled beef for dinner. I have sweet bread for tea, gruel at 7 o'clock, bread and cheese for supper. Have been picturing you at home tonight, Mother in the bar serving her evening customers, Father in his chair, Bess and Polly in their wild glee laughing at their own mirth, and the old familiar faces that I used to see there.

Sunday

Intensely cold, rather stormy. Ventilators all shut and the lamp lit, rocking about dreadfully. Obligated to hold fast to keep from being sent off our bed to the other side. We have had hail and snow today. I am obliged to wrap up the children well, and am glad to wear both my jackets. The day has been like two, it's so dark and dismal, it puts me in mind of a picture I have seen of a smugglers' cave with the old lamp hung up in the middle and such a group. Cannot see to read; have had our evening service, but our Parson could not do as well as usual from the motion of the vessel.

Had some ham and potatoes for breakfast and cold beef, biscuits and rice for dinner, cake for tea and gruel for supper. Went to bed at half past eight.

Monday

Still dull, cold weather and rocking from side to side. Have been up in bed nearly all day, rolling up the dirty clothes to get it in as small a space as I can. It's very bad to live in such a small house; as soon as I put things in place it's out again. We get our things lost, so sometimes we have no spoons

or knives and forks, and at other times we have more than our own. I shall be precious glad when our voyage is up. We hope to make it now in about a fortnight. Will and one of the men in our berth had a noise. He is rather a tall fellow and did not empty the slops and Will and our other partner told him about it, so he made up a fuss about his share of the berth, said he had not as much room as he ought to have, and put some of our boxes outside, but Will soon made him measure out his share and put our boxes in again. I hope you will be able to read my scribble, I have made my elbow sore leaning on it to keep me steady.

Cold beef and rice for dinner, biscuits for tea and gruel for supper.

Friday

Have not been able to write since Monday, it has been so dark. We were on the lee side and obliged to have the ventilators shut to keep the waves from breaking over. On Wednesday I was obliged to have a candle and lantern to make my bed, or rather spread the bedclothes. Yesterday I was very busy washing the children's bedgowns, petticoats and a few towels and handkerchiefs, making bread and sewing. I have many little nurses to hold baby. Will and George are busy sewing every day, though I am obliged to hinder them a little to get the cooking done. I have never been to the galley yet. It's a horrid bore to get the things done, there as so many cooking at once, so you see there are many little difficulties to put up with, but the time passes away very well with us. We have our work to do. I often feel a longing desire to be able to let you know at home how well I get on and how well I am in health, as well as ever I was in my life, and I can tell you I can eat hearty enough this cold weather. I well know how anxious you all are to know how we get on. It gives me the heart sickness sometimes when the thought comes that I may never see your dear faces again, but I banish it again as quickly as I can, for God knows what a few years may bring forth, but enough —

I made a new fashioned pudding yesterday. We are ever trying new dodges. I'll give you the recipe that you may try our cooking. About $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of flour, a pint of boiled rice, suet, spice and sugar. It's very nice to us that can get little more than crackers and salt junk. This morning we have had meal porridge for breakfast and I hope to have some potatoes and ham for dinner, nothing in prospective for tea, but biscuit. We can only afford to have loaves every other day.

Saturday

Very cold and stormy. Was obliged to hold fast the flour and things while I make up the cake. Have been sewing a little. Will and George are busy at work getting the new work done. George is rather poorly with a slight sore throat, have rubbed his neck with butter and put a stocking round; baby very poorly, a cold and cutting his teeth, poor little fellow, he has no comfort. Kate gets on nicely and is growing well. Had porridge for breakfast and beef and potatoes for dinner, cake for tea, gruel for supper. Passed the evening reading.

Sunday

Piercing cold. Ship going 13 knots, she is a beautiful sailor and so far has been a very prosperous one, we have had no sickness of any sort. We

hope to soon land, our Captain steers pretty far south that's the reason we have it so cold, but we shall go our voyage quicker, I don't care how soon for it's not so pleasant as it was in the warm weather sitting about on deck all day long, we cannot get up at all now, I have not been up this fortnight.

George is better, I have him his breakfast in bed. Baby is still very poorly. Had biscuits and treacle for breakfast, cold beef and potatoes for dinner, cake for tea, had our gruel made for supper but did not get it until after our evening service was begun and so got it spilt, so instead of listening to the sermon I was washing up the berth. The Steerage was as full as it could stick, we had the cabin passengers to honour our part of the ship.

Monday

Cold dull weather with a cold wind. Will is poorly with a headache, there are so many draughts and damp. Had porridge for breakfast, cold beef for dinner, biscuits for tea, gruel for supper. Evening passed as usual, in cards, chess and chatter.

Tuesday

Very cold. Going 13 knots. All better this morning, have been very busy sewing, had biscuits for breakfast, beef and potatoes for dinner, rice and flour pudding for tea and plain biscuits for supper, could not get our gruel boiled, cook was cross and made out the fire. Passed the evening knitting, wish I had brought cotton I could nearly have made my quilt, could have seen to do that with our dim light. Went to bed early, Will on the watch.

Wednesday

Not so cold, getting now nearer the sun every day. We are now 7 hours earlier than you in England. I dreamt about you all last night. Oh how I long to know how you are all of you, I was talking to dear Father and I was with Mrs Timewell at Kingsbridge but found it was but a dream. We are all speculating about the time we shall land it will be a joyful day.

We have had the usual fare, biscuits, junk and porridge.

Saturday

I have not been able to write until now, have been so busy helping Will to get his work done as we expect to go on shore about Thursday; we are about eleven hundred and fifty miles from Melbourne and going on every day a rattling speed, we are all so light hearted as possible at the thought of seeing land. It's six weeks now since we saw a sail nothing but vast expanse of sea, and sky; the water looks very rough here the waves roll very high, until the last six weeks I never saw the water rougher than I have seen it generally at Plymouth Sound. We are all very well except baby he cuts his teeth very hard. We have had biscuits for breakfast, junk and potatoes for dinner and bread and butter for tea, Will brought a little butter to last out, gruel and bread and butter and not a glass but a tin cup of ale for supper, there's a treat for you.

Sunday

Weather warmer but rather dull. All talking about landing and the gold diggings if please God we land alright. I suppose there never was a ship that ever sailed for Melbourne that could have a finer passage, we have had no storms, no sickness or accidents, one death the Mate, 2 births, one wedding,

we are likely to have another birth before we land. I must begin tomorrow to get the childrens' things ready to land.

Wednesday

October 13th. We are now at Melbourne. I have not been able to continue my writing until now I have been so busy, it's a great deal of bother to get landed with so much luggage and the children, but thank God we are now landed safe and well. Everything here is just as it is represented in the papers. The Diggings are as good as ever and there is plenty of work for every person. Lodgings and provisions are fearfully dear owing to the many crowding in at once, there are hundreds obliged to sleep in the open air and under tents. They charge 2/- for a bed and such a bed, you would be ashamed to offer it to a tramp and even 2/- for a place to sleep on a bench and glad to be able to get that, as to provisions, meat is just the same as at home, bread 2/6 the 4 lb. loaf, milk 1/- per quart, potatoes 3d. lb., 2/- for a cauliflower, carrots 3 for 3d. Tea and sugar is cheap and coffee 1/6 per lb. Oranges 6d. each, a glass of ale 6d. A sovereign for the loan of a horse and gig for an hour, they scarcely care to take pence for anything. Everyone is so indifferent and seem to have their pockets full of money. They charge 50/- a week for ground to pitch a tent, but labour is so well paid for and everyone stands out for their price. Butchers get £5.10.0 a week and their rations; Brick makers £7.0.0, Carpenters 25/- a day, and I hear Grocers get about £400 a year. William has got a job £6.0.0 a week and a promise of higher wages if he suits. He goes to work tomorrow. They charge 12/- a dozen for washing. The boatman charged 4/- and 5/- for taking people ashore from the vessel, a distance of a mile and a half. One of them was offered £1.0.0 to take 7 ashore and he said no, he did not do things like that. It cost us 7/6 to get our luggage brought from the place we landed to the house we stayed for the night, about five minutes walk, and Will and George brought all the small packets. We slept, all of us, in one little dirty room, on straw beds and paid 2/6 each. 2/- for tea, ditto for dinner; we had roast and corned beef for tea, beefsteak for breakfast and coffee and bread and butter, boiled leg of mutton for dinner. Will has gone out now to try to get a little room for us to go into. There is one good thing, we have some things left of our allowance yet, it will come in useful now things are so dear. We have about 7 quarts of peas, 20 lbs. of rice about 25 lbs. of oatmeal, about ½ lb. of tea, besides what Will's uncle gave us at Liverpool and nearly ½ cwt. of biscuits that we bought before we went on board.

I cannot say much about the place yet, only seeing from the river as we came from the ship in the steam tug. It looks very pretty passing down the Yarra Yarra. We saw thousands of bullocks and sheeps' heads laying at the edge of the river a little from the slaughtering house rotting in a heap. I thought how many poor families would be glad of them in England. The houses here are left in an unfinished state, some of them one storey high just covered in, they all start off to the Diggings, the men are a set of rough looking fellows especially the Diggers. Will has seen them with gold buttons in waistcoat, pieces of gold cut into different shapes and fastened to their watch chains. They do not think a great deal of shooting anyone here but I suppose it's only for a little time things will be like this. They charge 12/-

a bottle for brandy and if you want a £5 note cashed they charge you 3/6 for it.

You must excuse my writing so incoherent as I just write when I catch the time and notice the different things, you must know I cannot do it so steadily now, I have 4 or 5 gold diggers round me now. I have just seen a little lump of gold worth about 10/- a little tiny piece. George is rather dull, I suppose he is anxious about getting employment. I trust in God he will be fortunate, he is going out as soon as Will returns to try. Oh how I wish you were all here and your houses you would soon make a good fortune. As soon as Kate got ashore she said she was going to see her Auntie Bessie and Polly.

I leave you to judge how joyful we were the day we first saw the land, although it was just but a little streak and how they watched until it grew larger and they could see the trees and houses and what excitement there was at the Pilot coming on board and the casting anchor in the Bay. Oh we heard the cherrily men oh of the sailors with different emotions than we did when they were leaving. Melbourne Bay is very pretty, I should think there are a hundred ships anchored in the Bay and the sailors run always as soon as the ship gets in, they can get 30 pounds a month for the run home.

Sunday – October 17th

Just imagine us if you can in a little Board House in a village called Collingwood about a mile and a half from Melbourne, it is delightfully situated in a healthy spot, we have a beautiful view, we have three rooms in it, small ones it's true, and a little yard behind £1.15.0 a week for it, but we shall look out for a cheaper place nearer town as soon as we can but we were glad to get any place for the time as lodgings are so scarce. I am happy to say George has a situation behind a Grocer's counter, he is getting 78 pounds a year and his board, he is paid every week, his washing I shall manage for him, the Sundays he will spend with us, he does not think of stopping there, it's only to be getting a little while he is looking out for something better. There are many situations here that get 4 hundred a year but however while provisions and lodgings are so high he will not do bad where he is, they live excellently well, he got it the first time he went out, he went there on Thursday and was obliged to go behind the counter at once. Everybody seems to be doing well they are so independent and happy, those that have been here any length of time have made their fortunes. We were saying this morning at breakfast we should like for you to have seen us, our little place looks far more comfortable than you would think; I have cleaned it up a bit, converted our large box into a table with our oil cloth, work boxes and books on it, it looks very nice, our boxes serve for seats and our carpet and pictures, we look quite smart, the smallest of our large boxes serve for our toilet, one of our gold washers serves for a nice cradle for the baby the other for a washing tray, they will not sell here as it's so dear taking things about; I find all those little things I brought with me very useful. Our large saucepan got broken coming out and that was the only thing that was broken, we shall have to give nearly a sovereign for a tin boiler to boil the clothes in, water is 8/- a load, firewood is very dear I don't know the exact price. I have not seen a bit of coal, we have our fire on the hearth. Cheese

is 2/6 a pound, butter 3/-, starch 1/6, salt 2d., candles and soap same as at home so you see we need to get good wages to be able to live but I do not at all fear of our doing well for with industry everybody can do so here. We shall find it very expensive for a little time until we can get our things that we shall require in the house but that will not be much. Will has been at work ever since Thursday, he will have his work at home soon as he will be able to earn more money, one of our rooms serves for his workshop. George and Will are gone out for a walk together looking quite spruce, George will not go to shop until Monday morning. I do not find it at all dull here everything looks so English, the fashions are the same as in England, I can stand at my door and see hundreds of little board houses scattered about over an immense field bordered by a vast forest of trees with the cattle feeding and the children playing about between. Our next door neighbours are people that have been here from England about three weeks, they are nice people I can hear them talking and playing the guitar and accordeon just as if they were in the room and in fact we are all of us well, comfortable and happy.

Now my dear parents you must not think I have flattered our circumstances at all for I have written exactly as it is every day and I do not regret so far leaving England one moment no more than that I am debarred the happiness of seeing and knowing how you are at home, oh, how anxiously I shall wait for news from England, would to God you were all here, you must each of you send a letter enclosed in one packet that I may have the writing of each of you to look at, be sure to send to Milton and Portsmouth to let them know. Give our dear love to Mother and Father at Milton and all the boys and girls also to poor Polly. I wish I had seen her before I came away, to James and his wife and children, Miss Blansford and in fact to each of all of my old friends they are far too numerous to mention here. Tell Miss B. we have not been able to see Mr Martin yet whether he has gone to the Diggings or not I don't know but there is no time lost, tell her I hope to see her out here one day, I have seen one person from Kingsbridge already. I should like for Tom and the folks at Milton to see this packet if you could make it convenient and then they would be able to know how we got on our voyage, I dare say you might be able to do so. George will not send his packet for a week or fortnight yet, by that time he may perhaps have some more news. And now I think I may as well close this long Epistle, God grant it may find you all in good health and happiness and grant us a happy meeting at some time. May He preserve and bless you my parents and you my dear brothers and sisters is the sincere prayer of your absent but sincerely devoted and affectionate

Louisa Timewell

Farewell dearly beloved and farewell.

P.S. I almost forgot to tell you we have beautiful weather here now. It's spring and it's about the same warmth as it is in June with you, but rather cooler mornings and evenings. We do not have rain often, but when it rains, it rains heavily.

P.S. Be sure and write directly on receipt of this, as we long to know how things are going on in dear old England. Direct for —

*Mr. Wm. Timewell,
Post Office,
MELBOURNE.
Port Phillip*