

Matapuna
June 18th /79

My dear Papa

I have just ^{got} your letter that you sent the end of April, the mail before that I got yours & Mellies ~~was from~~ Marianne & the one that ~~you~~ wrote that ought to have come by the Suez mail, but he did not ~~go~~ via Suez on it so it did not come untill the Trisco mail. I wrote to Marianne by the Suez mail last Sunday fortnight so I expect she has got it. I have little better news to tell you this time, I have let myself ~~to get~~ for 6 months (to the end of October) for £30 it seems small wages after what you told me Francis was getting, but they are such nice people & times are bad this winter so I expect I must be satisfied. Another of his men have left him he has gone back home he was a Scotchman, so I asked Mr. Pees if he wanted another man, because

I had a letter from one of the fellows
that sailed with me, he was the one
I liked best on board, saying he
should like to get work near me,
So Mr. Lees said that I might write
to him so I did & he has come & he
takes my place & I take the mans that
has left, he is a nice fellow his name
is Albert Gray from some village near
Manchester, I have a little more work
to go now, I have three horses & a
double plough it is easy work, but
I have to look after them on Sunday
& ride round to see that the beasts
are allright but I get done about ten
o'clock & there is no Church here in
the morning, so it is not so bad for me.
& now I must tell you about the ^{lecturers}
they are all seals up here & I have
joined them, nearly all the young
fellows are tats they say it is no use
if they are not we meet every Thursday
evening in the school room & have
singing &c we are going to have

a concert next week & I am going to
sing the Miller of the Dee, I did not
tell you in my last letter for I had
not joined them, but I have not looked
a drop of anything since I have landed
& I dont mean to that's another thing.
I shall keep that letter from Mr. Baker
it may come in handy if I go to ^{the} ^{place}
in time, I have heard nothing from
Francis, I wrote to the post Office ⁱⁿ
but have not had an answer yet.
You were a long time getting my
letters I sent on board, the vessel was
going to Antwerp it must have had
a bad voyage or you would have
had them sooner, & I wonder you
had not seen the arrival of the ship
in the newspaper before you sent your
letter for you wrote on the 21st & we
landed on the 17th of April but you
saw it soon after I expect
We have had winter here the last week
there was ice two or three mornings
but it melts in the sun very soon

the tops of the large hills (or mountains)
have been covered with snow sometime
but yesterday morning there was
snow a good way down, they say
they get quite covered sometimes
they are about 20 miles from here
I made a mistake not bring vests
with me for they are wanted here
as bad as at home the weather is
so changable sometimes the sun
will be shining hot & all at once
it will become cloudy & a cold
wind begin blowing. I bought two
flannel vests the other day but I
had to give 16 s for the two I call
that rather dear I dont know what
they cost at home & now I must
conclude as I am going to write to
Eddie & Frank & Ann ^{say had} ^{well eat in} ^{get}
my love to Aunt Gorman & tell
her I will write to her soon

Love to all

believe me your affec^{ate}-son

Harry