

S. Stephen's School. Tauranga.

Sept. 14. 1855-

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My dearest Father.

The Sydney mail has just brought your letter, & yours enclosed in the same envelope of date June 2nd. On the next day I was, if possible, thinking more than ever of you all, and especially of dear Mama. If they can take Photographs now well from the water colour drawing of her, I should very much value it, though I do not need it to recall to mind her face at any moment. You will read that I say to Ben about Lucy's marriage. I have spoken to you more than once about my conduct then, & have written to Aunt Lucy twice about it: & you know well how really & thankfully I can rejoice at such good news. Few things could have given me more unmingled pleasure. It is good news too about John Mackenzie coming to Horiton: no doubt he will be enabled to do much good there, & when I know that he is there, & find from your letter that it is just possible it might have been offered to me, I feel very sure that we are each of us in our right places respectively; for had I been at Horiton young & inexperienced, the town could not have had the advantage of his ability & superior age & energy. I am very glad that Fred is at Adbury: the situation is high & the air fresh & bracing: the next thing will be the news that he is going to be married to a young lady of fortune I suppose. Dear Aunt Anne is with you now I trust, & that is perhaps the best piece of news after all. How happy you will be together, & what real delight to you to take he about the place, & also her your favourite view. I can fancy it all quite well: & should dearly like to see you with your dear sister in your own house. You know how glad I am that your work at the Union Commissions is come to an end: it was more than distressing to you, and I am thankful it is over. You say you think you are somewhat better for the little dose of Plaster apothecary & Sarsaparilla: I hope it may be so indeed, but I must say that I do not much feel confidence in the efficacy of any remedies now. You have suffered when moving for a long long time, & I fear the mischief is confirmed & of too old standing to be removed. But if you do get any relief, I shall be thankful indeed. Your general health is good, & I, dear father, you write so calmly & cheerfully, so like yourself, that I am sure you must be very happy even now, & the anticipations of future happiness brighten up your mind as you grow onward to the full age of man.