A copy of the last letter received from the Cape Septr 15. 1837.

My dearest Sister,

The natives who accompanied Charley do not seem inclined to make a long stay amongst us, so that I shall begin my letter to you before they commence their inevitable departure and while I have time give you as much of the news as will be interesting: first tho' my dear little Fan, I must thank you for your sweet journal. I read it aloud to the boys on Sunday night and broke down several times during the journal much to the amusement of all hands that Fanny's "off" should have such effect — so impudent, the tear was shed as much in joy as in sorrow for we have much to be grateful for in our dear Charley's safe return, & in the prospect, dear Fanny of your future happiness, nevertheless I cannot get over the idea of the separation it seems to make

a breach in our circle, through which
others may enter & widen it. Well - who
ever has you will be happy, dearest
dearest Polly. Tell my future Brother
that he has taken you from us who
have loved you so long & so much
& that he has to supply the place of
Mother, Sisters, & Brothers who have
loved you. I scarcely think little or
ordinary affection besides you may
also tell him dearest that I feel that
he owes me but a little for if I had
not urged your trip to Swan Brim
you perhaps had never met. for you
were very unwilling to leave me
Polly you thought I should be an
outcast, but marriages are made
in Heaven so perhaps I am arro-
gating to myself: talking of Heaven,
church is the most best place &
I should like you to be married
in a church & by a real clergyman
as for publicity why should it be
done in a corner? - at most you
cannot have more than a dozen
spectators & that but for a few hours
yet perhaps I have no right to give
my opinion but you will forgive
me I know. I cannot help from my
heart

hopes that he will settle near us. You
say that he is kind & gentle & there
are few virtues which Fanny does
not allow him to possess as for Mama
I think she already views his charac-
ter with the blinded partiality of
a mother & putting all your opini-
ons together I will not think that
he will be so cruel as to take you
to that cold, miserable, unfertile
land you might as well be in
England. We have Mr. Bland's
opinion in favour of the Cape as a
sheep run, Mr. Bell's as a country
calculated for grain & our own
experience as far as cattle are
concerned. I am sure there is plenty
of room & money Fanny I know
it would be the first wish of your
heart to be near us all, Mr. Taylor
seems inclined to like us so some
thing tells me we shall not be dis
appointed but I am filling my
paper with all these arguments
for & against that I dare say have
long since occurred to you so I
will say no more on the subject
though I think of little else now.
I begin to look anxiously for the
Spring

wishing both time & space away that
I may be with you once more indeed
I am almost selfish enough to
look with dread dear Fanny on
your forming any connexion
that may disunite us. surely
we are more than we found
to each other but we can never
now have a campaign together has
that now entered your head?
I dare say not for you very likely
are getting home-sick & do not
think of change yet you will not
be surprised that I have often
thought of the time when we were
to enter the gay world together,
but the impossibility of our being
together quite smothers the incli
nation to leave home and I can
only look forward to the time when
we shall sit & yarn over old shirts
and trousers & I can assure you
they are on the increase or rather
dwindling away as little of the
original material of either article
now remains thanks to the "Phoebean"
industry & my ingenuity in
patching lengthening strengthening them
ary - Alas! have come the

cows. How nice & long the days
are getting!

I have resumed my writing
this evening as most of the boys are
gone for a smoke & all is quiet
so now I will give you the farm
news which hitherto I have been
purely not touched upon as I thought
you would soon come home
and make your own discoveries.
We have now in the calf house
Cowslip, Rosebud, Terence, Murphy
and Dawson's calf Orphan.
Yelitha's calf we killed for veal
you will hear. Imagine that
with these cows in full milk
we make no small quantity of
butter. I have been making lately
batches of 17 & 24 lbs. twice a week
I do not think Fanny you will
ever be able to lift the tubs I can
assure you on butter days I am
quite tired and then the tying
up! I think we must put an
advertisement into the paper for
say or else establish an old
clothes man. I wish a cheese
press

after every butter day. I should think
they would weigh between 16 & 20 lbs
each indeed our dairy is becoming
an inconsiderable occupation. We
have killed the old cow & are fatting
the boar all the young pigs are
consumed and of the second set
only 3 remain for the continuation
of the species. The goats go on increasing
and multiplying and are looking
beautifully. We are going to kill all
the poultry until we grow our own
grain which next year we intend
to do to a great extent. The geese still
continue to graze the grounds and
to gauge they have commenced laying
The old horse is very lame in fact
not able to be worked as we cannot
procure any one to shoe him.
Smiler[1] looks magnificent — Capel[2]
and Pauline[2] interesting Bessie[3] is
being broken in for the plough
Prayer[4] works admirably Old Scarlett[5]
promises at last to increase the herd
Charley's dogs have turned out very
well they with the assistance of Lucy[6]
who is excellent have to day caught
2 kangaroos poor Nell[7] is laid up
with a dreadful cut in the fore
leg

and is therefore a charming brown
guest little Bill[8] is as great a pet as
ever so are Williamina[9] & Snow[10]-ball
Mrs. Puff[11] is to be bestowed on the
Chapmans. so much for live
stock! — Ben has ploughed and
cropped his acre with the Shirriff
oat: we have been delightfully em-
ployed at every spare moment
in picking the seed grain by
grain to free it from darnel tares
and wild oat the irritation caused
by the down with which each grain
is encompassed is more than
you can conceive actually keeping
us awake at night. The potatoes
are all cut & the ground ready to
receive their first crop The barley
& rye are luxuriant to a degree
connoisseurs prophesy a decline &
fall. The onions[12] are splendid but
want you Fanny. turnips carrots
cabbages & cauli-flowers are all
excellent & vie with each other.
Mamma's flower border looks quite
gay she is going to put in all
the seeds which Lady Stirling was
kind enough to send her. the
Swan River cuttings are planted

but as yet give no indication of
life our peach trees will not shed
their leaves so that we are afraid
to move them the fig cuttings have
struck so much for the fruits
of the earth. Now for buildings
and improvements They are not
many for the Corporal has struck
work so that I think he looks more
untidy & unsettled than ever as
all substitutes have been removed
& nothing better supplied. The
Colonial has commenced a
chimney in the verandah room
& the deep recess formed by it is
converted into a darling little bed
room for bachelor visitors at least
it was intended for such but
Vinnie has made it into a dairy
one at present being too small.
The verandah is continued at the
back of the house as far as the bell
and the door of the store is moved
under it so that you need not get
wet in going to it. Phoebe's house
has been enlarged & encircled by
a costly fence taking in the old
cart shed therefore we can now
wash unseen. Those who have
been often obliged to endure anyy

perfect within this mystic circle
further than Sky folding & hanging my
out your a Dieu. Three brass stalls
have been added & these are all the
alterations I can think of in or
about the land so I will wish you
Good night for it is getting very
late.

I have hurried to you my dearests
and I have taken quite a speedy
run over the little avocations about the
house once I am sure I thought
it impossible to go to a letter with
pleasure I suppose I feel a conviction
that it will be received almost with
rapture so my vanity is pleased
yet I think there is another reason
it makes your absence my beloved
Sister more palatable when I ima-
-gine that you will be with me
in my employments & fancy us
as we are I will therefore continue
my narrative though it is swelling
to an enormous length and the
boys pronounce that it must be
all hum-bug I will now speak
of the natives we have not seen
much of them but a few days ago

Craigie[13] & Scott returned from hunting
& fell in with Tom[14] & Milligan who
are very anxious to come to "white
fellow men" they said Gayal[15] was
on the Capel[16] making spears a large
party went yesterday once more in
search of them with strict injunctions
from the Admiral not to fire unless
they showed resistance & if they did
not see some of the aggressing party
Some of the party amongst whom
was Dr. Green fired they wounded
a man who was carrying a little
child he dropped him directly
and continued his flight they
have brought the little creature
home: he stretched out his arms
in a most supplicating manner
as soon as they got up to him
he really is a beautiful little
creature. I washed a coat of black
off him and he does not look so
very dark. poor little fellow! he
did not much like water. I showed
him his face in the glass & he
quite pleased to it. I suppose
he thought it was his little

" 17 " "he is a very little savage" tho' if you give him any thing that he does not like he throws it away with such an air, and a rush he will point and poise like a Spear. I should like always to have him he can speak his own language a little so when he awoke from his sleep he called out "Co-ee" Ives just consulting with Mamma how we should dress him and whether he should sleep with me when Phebe came up and offered her hand and said "she would do" for him" begging his name might be Reuben and that she would be his Mamma I was rather sorry to give him up but he would have taken more time than I could bestow, he knew me when I went to him this morning and soon rolled his little round polished body like a Ball into my lap, so much for our little protegé the Natives from cause or other are in a great hurry to be off and have called upon us to close our despatches without loss of time - It is a lovely morning and if you were which you may by your kind stars that you are not Fanny I should say come for a walk shall I ever have you here again Mamma has just read me her letter to dear Mr Taylor, Mary dear she will miss you sadly so will the whole Household. I have not yet mentioned that we kept dear Johnny's birth day and Charley's on the same day and opened Mr Taylor's Champagne it was delicious we did not forget to drink the health of the donor the the goodness of it made every one abscond to drink it off and say good health afterwards

but I held the hands of my neighbours and as long as you may
conceive from your knowledge of my social propensities
joined in most heartily - and after the carouse was
over I cannot say whether I stood on my head or my heels
I cannot say how glad I am that Charley is never to go to Guyana
again, his presence in some measure supplies the absence of
Johny - Vernon says he feels as if had never been away. Billy
Croucher goes on just the same, he intended to write I know - but
I do not think he has, when you write to England tell dear
Johny that I celebrated his birth day and got jolly drunk
for which reasoned me to break the Churn
it was most dreadfully hard to turn, and I snapped off
the handle, so till his return it will be useless, tell
him that it is not big enough to bring more than 24
lbs and not strong enough for that - what shall
we do without it !!!! ?!!! I expect to have to churn
every day in the little box Churn unless the Carpenter
Corporal will come and see what he can do, you had better
not by & get another, take every opportunity of getting
Milk Tins - William leaves us soon both seems
promising, send a black as often as you can with some
tidings of you dear Aunt & as they are as Postmen
they are invaluable - God bless you both & my Sisters
love ever your fat round chubby faced affectionate
Bess - I must entirely to you to write to the dear ones in England
I have not time to write a letter worth sending so many Miles, I
hear you are working for us, what an age since we have heard of
or from them. /—

Notes by the Editor.

1 The mare
2 Smiler's daughters
3 A mare purchased of Mr. Bunbury
4 One of our own bullocks
5 One of the cows.
6 Leni's dog one of Blythe's puppies.
7 John's pet
8 A little Spaniel of Mr. Bunbury's
9 Mamma's cat
10 Bessie's cat
11 Formerly mine but not a rival of the never to be forgotten "Toby"
12 Alluding to my former occupation of digging onions in my capacity of under gardener at the Adelphi.
13 New settlers at the Vasse Inlet
14 Two Natives.
15 The Land of the Quindalup or Vasse district.
16 A River named after him by Mr Bunbury.
17 In the native language Brother or Sister.

18 Inst. Rebekah have taken my part
any addition of his I shall mark
with a cross.
19 The manual by which the native
call to each other.
20 Intended to be extremely pathetic.

Linen Band longer than
our last
Linen Clothes.
Shoes for me from Mr. Butt
of the same kind as those
with which he last furnished
me
Dark Petersham Bonnets
for Sophie & myself
Bottle Green, Black, and
Puce
Fawn
Shoes for Sophie a size longer
than those last sent.

I mention these things as wanted but of course they can only be obtained if funds are available. I will only add that out here the sweepings of an English drawing room would be of value.