

**D 5363\_1-11 William Belt and family correspondence 1833–1896**  
**Transcribed by Helen Davies, Volunteer at the State Library of SA, 2008**

**D 5363-1 Letter received by William Charles Belt, from his father William Belt of 38 Brunswick Square, dated 29 May 1833**

*[Page 1. The letter is written in landscape aspect, folded in half, and the writing starts on the outside half. The right hand part of the inside is blank. The address is written in the centre third on the back, at right angles, and the edges have been folded in for posting]*

38 B.S.  
Wed<sup>y</sup> 29 May 1833

My Dear W<sup>m</sup> Cha<sup>s</sup>

God has my prayers & you my best wishes for very many happy returns of this day, you this day are seventeen and are just entering upon the Year that will have the greatest influence and effect upon your future prospects and Character through Life, and I need scarcely \also/ add the road that you must ~~also~~ ? choose for that which is to come May the Holy Spirit ever attend you & guide you in the Paths of true wisdom.-You will very shortly be leaving School, do not my dear boy be looking forward to that period as the happiest of your Life for then your Cares commence; the present Moment is all we can claim as our own, and that is \only/ the happiest when we use it as we ought, without abusing it; There are two or three things I wish to impress upon your Memory once and for ever (as I am not fond of forcing or repeating what you will term these prozers upon you) but let them sink deep into your Memory and be remembered when I am no more or rather no longer with you: – On first waking every Morning look up with Gratitude & Thankfulness to God for all the Blessings & Comforts you do enjoy & for withholding such Evils as you see others have who are around you; when out of bed retire within yourself & bless Him in your Morning Prayers & immediately after form within your own mind a kind of plan or guidance for what is to be done during the day; keep to that as much as possible, & do diligently that which you are about, finishing what you \set/ are about before you commence anything else, duly considering that, whether you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, you [should] \should/ do all to the Glory of God: never let a day pass over without reading some small portion of Scripture (on Sundays study it diligently by yourself) avoid all bad Company & those especially who invoke their Deity on all occasions for where its on the Tongue its out of the Heart. be ever cheerful & as much as possible contented with your own lot & state & think how very many around you are far worse off than yourself & how few comparatively speaking are better off than yourself, this latter however with Humility for who can tell how long your own Comforts & Blessings may remain. If worldly Occupation & Business permits, read &

*[Page 2, on left hand side on reverse of previous page]*

study 6 days in the week History regularly especially that of our own Country taking notes & making Observations on what you read, the rise & progress of other Nations, Ancient History, particularly Josephus which you will find most interesting and entertaining, Biography both ancient and modern, Travels occasionally, and be not unacquainted with our best Poets as Milton, Young, Shakespear &c &c Byron should not be read too soon for fear of being carried away with his seductive and ever varying but dangerous description of Life. Walter Scotts Poetry on the other hand is too soft & sentimental for a Man to begin with, & is like a fine picture, you look & look & almost fancy you are a party present, & wish to witness & survey the places

spoken of, his is more fit for women. His novels are most interesting & seductive & should only be read (by you) occasionally by way of relaxation. I should recommend you every morning for ten minutes to take up a Greek or Latin Classic otherwise you will soon forget what you have been so very many years acquiring & lose the relish which you will experience two or three years hence when it is not considered (as it now is) a Task. I should also recommend your very soon commencing French and shall be happy to have a good Master when it suits your Convenience – Keep yourself constantly employed & with God's blessing you will escape a deal of Evil as well as Trouble as idle people have generally most trouble as well as cause it to those about them There are two or three other subjects I wish more to speak upon rather than commit to writing & hope & trust you will equally attend to & with my fervent prayers & best wishes for your future and eternal Happiness believe me.

Ever your truly affectionate Father and Friend  
W<sup>m</sup> Belt

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*[Page 3, blank, with tear on RHS from seal.]*

*[Page 4, which lies on the reverse side of the previous page; the edge of this page has a semicircular hole from the seal]*

[M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Cha<sup>s</sup> Belt]

Written for him to receive on ~~th~~ his Birthday on attaining the Age of Seventeen but kept till he leaves School in July 1833

W<sup>m</sup> Belt

*[In the centre of the right third fold is a black wax seal.]*

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**D5363-2 Letter received by William Charles Belt, from his father William Belt, of 38 Brunswick Square, dated 29 May 1834.**

[Page 1.]

38 Brunswick Square  
29 May 1834

My Dear Child

On this day you enter upon a new Year and begin a new Epoch in Life as it were in a twofold Capacity; by not only commencing a course of Life whereby your worldly prospects open to your view, but also the far more important one of that which is to come and ~~which~~ you (singular enough) satisfy this very day the baptismal vow entered into on your behalf by Confirmation – May a few remarks from your affectionate Father sink deep into your heart and remain engraven when he shall be no more, and may the Divine Spirit keep you in the same all the days of your life – I beg your Acceptance of a pretty Edition of D<sup>r</sup> Johnson's Rasselas which is one of the most interesting works in our Language – Rasselas is in search of happiness, and when young found that that is not to be obtained in this World, may you look forward to that World where alone true Happiness is to be found – Commence each day with Thankfulness to Him from whom all Blessings flow for what you possess

[Page 2]

then invoke a Blessing on what is to be done, and have a firm reliance upon Him alone for the future, as the Psalmist says "commit your ways unto the Lord and He shall bring it "to pass –" Be content with what you have and ever do to others what you would under similar Circumstances wish to have ~~be~~ done to you – As far as possible portion or allot your time for particular duties, studies, and even recreation and exercise, and conclude each day with a retrospect of what the day has occasioned endeavour to improve the next, and finish with grateful Thanks to the Giver of All good for what Blessings you possess – And now my dear W<sup>m</sup> Charles as to your Companions never associate with, or be intimate with those who are in the habit of invoking the Deity on trifling and common Occasions; or those addicted to Liquor – In Conversation recollect you have two Ears and only one Tongue – and if any absent friend is spoken slightly of or as you consider too harshly, invariably take his part – If Disputes or disagreements arise and you happen to be present, let parties settle their own differences, & do not interfere, unless called upon, or necessary, then give your Opinion with impartiality – Admit but few (and those not at first or untried) to your Confidence –

[Page 3]

Avoid if possible being entrusted with secrets, but if entrusted with them never Disclose them on any Consideration –  
Give sooner than lend –  
Keep out of debt and within your Income be it what it may –  
And keep yourself from being ensnared by strange women and their enticements for they [*in different ink*] \endanger or/ ruin both body and Soul –  
May God grant you long Life with every Blessing and happiness prays your affectionate  
Father W<sup>m</sup> Belt  
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*[On the right hand side of the signature is a tear where a red seal was broken]*

*[Page 4. As before, the address is centred in the middle third fold, with part of a red seal on the left, and the larger portion on the right.]*

Mr W<sup>m</sup> Charles Belt.  
38 Brunswick Square

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**D5363-3 (L) Letter received by Anne Belt, from James Belt, dated 13 February 1849**

[Page 1]

28 Rue Huguerie  
Bordeaux \13 Feb<sup>y</sup> /1849

Dear Anne

It is some time since I intended writing to you two solitary Damsels & now I set to it in earnest: today's post has brought me a letter from your father dated 4 Jan<sup>y</sup> & 9 Feb<sup>y</sup>, the former evidently a mistake<sup>+</sup>: it unfortunately does not contain the intelligence of E's accouchement which I have expected daily for a month: if this was a jocular occasion I should think she was shamming but I know it is reality: a few days however must soon decide it & I hope favourably as she seems to be in good health: poor Ponsford must indeed have been in a critical situation & it is well that her Parents were with her. This may by chance find them, or your father, returned to town: if not you may as well forward it to Minehead as it is about a month since I wrote thi I have nothing particular to say. You ? and Augusta must find time hang heavily. Are you good housekeepers now you have been put up on trial ? I can of course have no doubts of your sagesse. I have to thank you for your handsome & strong Purse lately received with my Almanac: it is admired by some young Ladies I showed it to in \x on reperusal I find it all right./

[Page 2, on reverse of previous page]

order to enhance English talent: tell WC I also rec.<sup>d</sup> the Books & Maps he sent but will have no more sent by shipping unless by a known Captain as strangers enter these things as part of the cargo & give a deal of trouble at the Customhouse owing to a useless & unprofitable routine. The Winter you have passed must have been if not the dullest at least the most quiet you ever had; no Dances or gaieties: I have only to say if young Ladies will take husbands they must partake of the bitters as well as sweets of life: but EA. has the sweets in her fine Boy who I hope will turn out well & Ponsford having withstood such a tremendous loss of blood will now recover. You may tell your father I will attend to his Comm<sup>d</sup>. & send them with your Magasin pittoresque when I can find a Capt<sup>d</sup> to take charge of them: he will receive by the Claret, Capt. Swan, to sail in the course of the month a Case marked WB. cont<sup>g</sup> 5 Doz. of Frontignac Wine for which he will pay Duties &c on my account & dispose of as follows

2 doz. for himself

1 " . " Ponsford & let me know how it turns out

1 " . " Beeching.

1 " . " W.C. I rec<sup>d</sup>. the Standard which WC.  
5 sent.

Last Saturday there was a grand Ball given for benefit of the poor at the Theatre at J. & T. Ticker ? which was numerously attended: I went by Deputy: the Decorations lighting up &c&c I understand were well managed;

[Page 3]

luckily for the Poor the Winter has been unusually mild as during the month of Decem<sup>r</sup> & Jan<sup>y</sup>. to this day we have not had a single night's frost & now the Sun has great power & vegetation comes on fast Tell your father I drew upon Dixons C<sup>o</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup> feb<sup>y</sup> for £50 – money is now easily procurable & the Bank gives Cash for Notes liberally, but not yet a 'discretion' in fact things are coming round now the fate of the Chamber is settled by an approaching dissolution &

new Election: it is not surprizing that some [*the writer has drawn a semicircle around where the seal was stamped*] hundreds of Deputies hold fast to their 25 francs a day when they will have to earn their living as formerly as handy-crafts etc but I can only say there is no dependence to be placed on such a fickle nation & whatever may happen will not surprize me; I compare myself (as my fortune is not involved) to a man sitting on a rock seeing a poor Vessel beating in a storm but can render \no/ assistance. A regiment of the line has just left us to be replaced by the "Garde Mobile" now on their route from Paris which I regret to see.

I trust you & Augusta have had time enough to continue your Drawings without interruption & shall hope in due time to see your talented Works: it seems Mons<sup>r</sup>. Midas ? is of a very hungry disposition & has the Equinian [*horse-like ?*] taste for texan ? Candles ? : this must surely be a corrupted English taste: he had it not in France where he got soup & bouillier: I fear he has had a bad education. W.C. will not have lost the good habit of calling at times in Brunswick Square: when you see him give my kind regards & hope that he is well occupied at Chambers.

*[Page 4, on reverse of previous page]*

Give my love to Augusta – I hope Uncle Langdale is going on well: believe me ever  
yours affectionately  
James Belt.

*[As before, the address is written in a folded oblong at right angles to the above writing in the centre of this page, to the left. There are three stamps, a round black stamp dated 15 Fevr 49, with Etranger and a six petalled flower in the outer ring, with a small elongated tear below. This had been stamped over a blurred orange stamp containing the letters FEV 16 ? There are also orange waxy marks above the word Miss. A third black round stamp is over the word 'Belt'. The outer ring possibly says BORDEAUX 13 FEV 49, though this is unclear over signed with a large circular initial. Below the address is a round green wax seal with some remnants of paper still attached]*

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*[Page 4]*

Miss A. Belt  
38 Brunswick Square London.

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**D5363- 4 Letter received by Elizabeth Ponsford from Penelope Belt. Undated (possibly August 1852).**

[Page 1]

My dear Elizabeth. Thank you for your last letter to me dated 10 December & received 12 Jan<sup>y</sup>. Your letter to William Charles however written nearly two months afterwards, reached him on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June is it not a plague to find the communication so irregular. This letter is being forwarded to you by the Indian overland mail in the hope of it reaching you quickly I enclose a letter to your Mamma in Brunswick Square asking her to send us out a box of things including Baby's cloths! which I rather imagine I shall want about the beginning of March so your kind wish expressed in your last letter to me seems so ? prophetic, I feel quite ashamed at giving your Mamma, such a deal of trouble about my commission; I wish I could consult you in person about many little things but must content myself with asking you to think over every thing that a child is likely to want for the first year or two of its life, and make out a list to send to Brunswick Square repecting the quantity of flannel, fabric, materials for a few little white frocks, shirts &<sup>c</sup> for any thing else that is requisite, if you would cut a few paper patterns I could make them up myself; but I leave it all to you and your Mamma if she is kind enough to be troubled about it I should think some brown [*several, Millends ?or Hollands?*] for trouser & pinafores would be very useful Perhaps you will wonder that we should write

[Page 2]

so soon upon such a subject but the length of time is so great before we can write to England and get an answer that we did not like to delay. I shall just get such few things as will do till the box arrives from England. I have another great favour to ask of you and that is that if this letter arrives before the letters I am going to write to Croxley and Brunswick Square reach England will you just write a line to my Mamma at Croxley's and tell her what is the matter with me, mentioning that a box will be sent from Brunswick Squ<sup>re</sup> to me, and if there is any little parcel that they wish to sent to me to send it there, also that Mamma will hear from me by the next ship that sails – I am not at all well and find exertion of any kind quite a misery to me; a very unfortunate thing in this Colony; but I hope to get better in a month or two. William Ch<sup>as</sup> is very well when [*hole in paper*] he does not overwork himself, he found the move from North Terrace here very tiring. We had one man and a cart that they dignify here by the name of a Dray, so W<sup>m</sup> Ch<sup>as</sup> had plenty of loading and unloading to get through it took us two days to get in to our present abode, which consists of

[Page 3]

two houses joined together one being the Wooden House the Judge ? brought from England consisting of four rooms \one/ of them making a nice sitting room. We have put up the Poles, rings and curtains we had in Victoria Crescent. Miss Cooper admired them greatly and said that such elegant affairs were not to be had here. Then we have the piano which was obliged to be lifted in through the window and the little couch and What not we had in London and I have made an elegant ottoman by covering an old box with a straw cushion and making a stylish Cover for it out of the skirt of an old dress, you have no idea how ingenious we are in the Colonies We have one old London Carpet down, and now you have a picture of our drawing room the other three rooms in the Wooden house are used as a china closet, a bird room where the Canaries hang and do not plague W. Charles and a room where we keep books and boxes. In the Brick house we have five rooms a Kitchen, our bedroom, a room for W.C – and his law books, a servants room and a large brick kitchen we use as a wash house with copper in it and an Oven, The first mentioned article is \a/ luxury that never would have existed here if the former occupant of the



*[Page 4]*

house had not been a Ginger beer Maker and he set the copper for his own use in that line, You must know that the nicety of doing up a house before a tenant comes into it is not common here, and our present dwelling was not unlike a pigstye when we came into it, so there was no help for it, but setting to work and white washing the ceilings and walls, which W. Charles accomplished in the picturesque costume of his night shirt over his other garments tied round his waist with a blue Cotton handkerchief; We were obliged to borrow a wheel barrow to take an impressive quantity of horrible rubbish out of the kitchen, we were nearly poisoned. however we are now comfortably settled I hope for a twelve month; The Judge and Miss Cooper were very kind, and the first week of our residence we dined and slept there every night, no little comfort after the hard work of the day, to dress, and be a Lady and Gentleman at night, we could not have employed a man under ten shillings a day We have a nice little garden and although it is the depth of the winter have peas forward and our beans in blossom, we are not going to waste a bit of ground as we think it will save our house keeping to have plenty of Vegetables.

*[Page 5 has been written by crosshatching over Page 1; there is a large ink blotch on the bottom left of the page.]*

I often think of one evening when we were at Minehead when the Bristows took tea with us, M<sup>rs</sup> Bristow was advocating, the principal of taking as few things as possible out to Australia now I recommend quite the contrary from experience, We brought out every thing that was portable in our house keeping and nothing that we brought out has been useless even thick winter clothes and furs that I thought would be useless from the intense heat of the summer, are the only things we wore with comfort during these three winter months of June, July and August, The heat of summer relaxes the constitution so much W. Charles sits indoors in his great pilot coat and I wear my thick Welsh dress and a shawl over that, yet the Thermometer is not below 50 and mignonette is in luxuriant blossom in the gazebo as well as beans and peas, You ask about W. Charles [blotch] whiskers, I am his barber now and keep them trimmed to a very moderate point.

*[Page 6 has been written by crosshatching over Page 2]*

We see something of the Judge and Miss Cooper every day, and very often spend the evening there when William Charles and the Judge talk Law with out any mercy upon us poor Ladies and then finish off with a game at Back gammon, We were at a gay "at home" party at Government house a month ago The Governor offered me his arm and conducted me with much Solemnity into the refreshment room where I scalded my throat with a Cup of Coffee in order to get finished at the same time with his Excellency and then was handed back again, We have not been so gay lately, the weather is too bad to go about and I am not well enough either, I was obliged to rush out of the room in the middle of dinner that ? day, and the Judge thinking I was suddenly attacked with Cholera, send out word that he thought some very hot brandy and water would be the right remedy! Do you know that when you write next I should very much like you to tell me how many children the younger branches of the family as we live so far away we shall forget how they are all going and – I am afraid I write such nonsense. Tell Harry in answer to his message that the ship Uncle and Aunt were in did strike upon a rock and that got into a boat and rowed a long way over the sea to the land, and that we saw a great many of the great whales he sees in the picture playing round the ship give my love and kisses to both my little nephews and with the same to yourself. Believe me Dear Elizabeth

Ever your affectionate sister Penelope A. A. Belt.



**D5363-5 Letter received by Elizabeth Ponsford, from William Charles Belt, dated 9 August 1852. [This letter is addressed to Mrs H. Ponsford]**

[Page 1]

\Whitmore Square Adelaide South Australia 9th August 1852/ My dear Sister. As Penelope is writing to you I will also enclose a letter to you, having received yours dated 5<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> on the 8<sup>th</sup> June Since my letter to you, which I sent off about the end of February or the beginning of March, I have also since my last letter to my father and Anne and Augusta dated 12<sup>th</sup> July, received one from my father, by the Liverpool Ship Epaninondas, ? dated 10<sup>th</sup> April and received 2 August: the Letters from England arrive quicker and more regularly than those forwarded from Australia which is a matter of consolation for us exiles. The progress to greatness and fortune in the Colonies is slower than you conceive it to be unless a person chooses to incur the risk of speculation, and that I have a horror of as I know I have more to lose than gain by embarking in such a course, and I have little doubt but that in the end I shall succeed altho for the present I find a livelihood from law is perfectly hopeless. All the necessaries of life, with the exception of house rent, are enormously high Bread 1<sup>s</sup>/- the 4 lb loaf Potatoes even when bought of the farmers 10<sup>s</sup>/- per cwt, in the shops still higher fire wood £2 and upwards per dray load, meat 4<sup>d</sup> per lb, and not profitably cut as with your English Butchers, all this is mainly caused by the gold discoveries and by the introduction of a law into this Colony making assayed Gold exchangeable \at a fixed price/ for Bank notes instead of [‘leaving’ appears to have been written over the top of ‘making’] assayed gold and the Banks independent of each other the consequence of which is that the Banks have issued an enormous quantity of paper money, and prices have risen tremendously. we are however living as economically as possible, and I have *?[hole in paper]* been whitewashing the rooms of our new residence myself and put<sup>ting</sup>/ in Glass where the windows were broken, besides working really hard in my garden, \ and carpentering/ for I intend to be as independent as possible of shops which are most unscrupulous in their charges. I have just heard that the English Government have authorized the Establishment of a mint at Sydney this in my opinion will have the effect of attracting the greater part of the Gold to Sydney and will consequently lower prices here, a result for which I shall feel very thankful, and I should not wonder if in the Course of a few months the people here will not be seized with a panic at the turn things are likely to take, the Government and Officials are as incompetent for managing the present state of things as it is possible to imagine. You will find when you have read Penelope’s letter that she has a secret to communicate namely that she expects to be confined sometime next March so that your kind wishes for our presenting you with nephews or nieces seems likely to be realized; I should have regretted such an event if I had continued in England but I can’t say I do here for I think there is ample field for young people to get on here if they will do every thing for themselves, but you must do without servants and without what we have considered comf<sup>ts</sup>. ?

[Page 2]

I suppose that next month people here will be leaving for the diggings by hundreds a vast number are marvellously successful but of course numbers come back poorer than they started. Gentlemen generally speaking appear to have been unsuccessful in fact it is a perfect lottery. A Magistrate’s son here who has I am informed done tolerably well having more holes than his party could work abandoned the one which appeared to be the most unpromising and another party consequently took possession of it they almost immediately discovered gold and I believe in a few hours time extracted 12 lbs weight of gold from the abandoned hole, others again will sink 5 or 6 holes and find little or nothing the holes vary from 15 to 30 feet, and upwards occasionally, in depth. I suppose you have learned from my last letter that we have quitted North Terrace and removed to a Cottage adjoining Judge Cooper’s house in what is here called

Whitmore Square, the Cottage is in fact a double one part being brick and part wood and contains in all 9 rooms and there is also a good garden with stables and a small piece of land in grass for a M<sup>rs</sup> Nanny goat. the Garden does not comprize any fruit trees but we are making the most of it as a vegitable garden and it contains a few flower beds we pay £35 per annum rent, I am glad to reduce the high rent we were paying in North Terrace but our present abode is not calculated to serve the purpose of an Office being removed from the great thoroughfares and business parts of the town, it belongs to Miss Cooper and was the original residence of the Judge and his sister before they built the house which they now live in, I think we shall find it more healthy during the hot weather than North Terrace as it will be more free from the bad smells of the town and enjoys the Sea air ( I will hardly call it a breeze) of an evening I consider it also very desirable to remain within reach of the Judge as we are frequently invited there and meet many of the higher officials at his house, he was most kind and considerate during our removal for we dined slept and breakfasted at his house for a week and as Penelope was not very well, she appreciated the comfort of it even more than I did, after my days exertions in putting things to rights – Tell Harry and Willie that I am glad to hear their Grandpapa and Grandmamma and their Aunts say they were good boys when they went to London, I am afraid Adelaide is too far off for them to see me, at all events for very many years to come; but steam may shorten distance so much that some of us may meet again, it is at all events probable that

[Page 3]

I shall see some of my relations and friends some time hence in Australia striving to push their fortunes in these new Countries the thing is not quite so easy a matter as people imagine and I would advise them not to be too sanguine or too desponding I don't think I shall continue a town life beyond a certain time if I should not find it likely to lead to any thing good but Colonial life seems full of ups and downs, very different from the unvarying routine of your own quiet country town The people in South Australia have of late been creating a sort of (imaginary!) sea port town called Port Elliott and you will scarcely believe it purchasing the land (most probably without having seen it) at about £120 the acre, the place may or may not be manufactured at some time or other, but the speculators will try to sell their land again as quickly as possible at a profit and then of course it is immaterial to them what becomes of Port Elliott. I cannot feel pity for any of this class of people if they get ruined, but the loss too generally falls upon new comers who are overmuch given to imagination from hearing of a few instances of successful speculations Penelope intends writing a long letter to my mother in a [edge of hole] few days and I shall inclose one in it for Uncle James [“] it will be a race between my two letters which shall [“] arrive first in England I expect shortly to receive a letter from [“] him as the last letter from my father mentioned his intention [“] of writing to me shortly. I have been wondering what will [“] be this Summer's Excursion of the Parents and Sisters. I know they wish for a tour abroad but probably the Continent is too unsettled just now for a pleasure tour I wish our parents many happy returns of the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month and little Harry of his birthday the 26<sup>th</sup>. I do not know the \exact/ date of Willie's except that it is about the Middle of February In this Country our Seasons somewhat confuse us, the mornings and evenings are cold and the wet weather is what is termed raw in England. \I am wearing the very warm socks you gave me before I left England/ Rheumatism is a general complaint here, I fancy it is a good occasioned by peoples imprudence in exposing themselves to the sudden changes of temperature which occur during our warm season, and then our wet winter months are quite enough to complete the mischief which originated in carelessness You appear by your letter to have renewed your acquaintance with all your former friends during your visit to London and I was also pleased at receiving your budget of family news. I have received all my Observer Newspapers down to the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, with the exception of that of March 21<sup>st</sup> the notices of the law reforms are interesting to me as I sometimes discuss them with the Judge and the other lawyers here How deserted

[Page 4]

Brunswick Square appears to have become by what my father writes in his last letter especially our own Side of it. I think however that no neighbours are preferable to bad ones. I hope Anne and Augusta and likewise our parents enjoyed their Easter excursions and I hope their drawing quarter has produced a good harvest of pictures I suppose I shall receive one of Augusta's when Penelope's Box of clothing is dispatched as I told her in one of my letters that I had not a single drawing of hers. A few days back I caught and killed a young Scorpion which had taken refuge in my firewood you see what charming companions we Colonists meet with here.

*[On the left hand side of the page above the hole left by the seal is a double ringed yellow stamp ,possibly TAUNTON DEC 26 1852. The red circular stamp below the tear is possibly V M R 26 DEC 1852 ? The address below is written at right angles, in the centre of the middle third fold]*

*[in brown ink]* Per Standard and overland

M<sup>rs</sup> H. Ponsford  
Minehead  
Somersetshire  
England

*[On the left hand side of this address is a red stamp. possibly '1852 Adelaide South Australia' handwritten over by the word Paid. The address has been initialled in brown ink by a large capital 'N ? C']*

The "Charlotte Jane ?" which I believe took my last letter of 12<sup>th</sup> July to England had a most valuable cargo estimated in our newspapers at nearly £300,000 so it is to be hoped that she will have a prosperous voyage You may tell my father that I have always posted my letters myself and that I am not ~~the cause of~~ answerable for the great delay in their reaching him, the ships are often posted as ready to sail for a full month before they actually leave the Port but I suppose we shall have greater punctuality by and by. His letters and Newspapers seem to arrive more regularly than other people's because I suppose they are posted by himself in London and not in the Country or suburbs and now with my best love to you and the Children

*[Page 5. This page is crosshatched, at right angles to the main writing area, on the left hand side of page 1]*

Believe me ever your affectionate Brother W.C. Belt

**D5363-6 Letter received by Elizabeth Ponsford, from Penelope Belt, dated 8 December [1852]. [The letter is addressed to Mrs H. Ponsford]**

[Page 1]

My dear Elizabeth December 8<sup>th</sup>.

I take the opportunity of writing a few lines to you enclosed in W. Ch<sup>as</sup>' letter to Brunswick Square you must not expect a long letter this time as I get so over tired with my domestic occupations that I cannot sit up long. My Roman Catholic damsel was taken ill the other day and although I was up the greater part of one night with her and did all I could yet she thinks I have not done enough, and seemed quite offended because we sent for a Doctor instead of her priest as she wished. She fasts three days in every week and would eat nothing but eggs with a large lump of butter put inside (very fit diet for bilious fever and sickness) I sent her to her friends at last for two or three days; if any one wishes to be tormented out of their lives, they should try an Irish Roman Catholic and I am certain they never would have liberal principles again. W. Ch<sup>as</sup> has had to light the fire, boil the kettle and lift all the saucepans and etc ? poor fellow, as I cannot either stoop or lift any weight just now, and we could get nobody to come; M<sup>rs</sup> Teg (who was our first land lady in the colony) has been my good genius and has helped me for an hour or two every morning, She is to be my nurse and M<sup>r</sup> Gosse the Doctor he and his wife are very pleasant people, they are friends of ours and came into the Colony about a year before we did

[Page 2]

they have five children; I suppose in our next letters we shall hear whether M<sup>rs</sup> Edward Smith has a boy or a girl, I am afraid I shall get into disgrace with W Ch<sup>as</sup> unless I have a little boy as he rather wishes for one; I am very busy making what is necessary to begin with as they say in this country every thing is so uncertain, but I have bought as little as I can trusting to having a supply from England; every thing is dearer if possible every day, shoes for a child of 8 years old are 18<sup>s</sup> a pair, sandal ribbon the other day was a shilling a yard; I cannot get any Calico under 10<sup>d</sup> a yard; the fact is that the gold diggers not only do not care what they give but find fault if things are not expensive, as an example of their reckless expenditure, there was a servant who married a digger the other day, & he gave £9 for her wedding dress which she wore out and spoiled in three weeks, she then went to a milliner's where she ordered another for £6 another at £4, well after a few weeks her husband went off and left her so she had to go to Service again Many of the men have a wife at Melbourne and another here. Some of them even boast that they have three or four, The gold

[Page 3]

has certainly demoralized the Colonies greatly We hear that there is great distress at Melbourne amongst the new comers I mean those who have been the genteel class in England who have not been brought up to labour, such people should not come here – ; I should however advise any family that wished to settle in Austalia not to sell their furniture in England; but to bring out every article belonging to them good or bad every \thing/ that is useful in England is doubly so here where you cannot replace worn out things under a ruinous price; Our garden looks very untidy now, though it still supplies us with vegetables We hear that such a thing as a cabbage is not to be had in the town at any price owing to the Country people having left their gardens last year for the diggings So we are living in luxury in that respect our Melon plants look very well so also do our vegetable Marrows and Cucumbers, these last we water every night with all the refuse water that has been used all day; water being now about 4<sup>s</sup> for a barrel full in England you can form no idea how we are straightened for that necessary commodity; you would laugh if you could see us catching the rain water in every thing we can lay hold of, during last month we had some very heavy thunder

[Page 4]

showers; when the rain come down in Torrents but now we shall have no more till next May. This is a very changeable climate, about a fort- -night ago we had an attack of hot winds that brought the Thermometer up to a 114 degrees

[address in middle third fold, landscape as before:]

M<sup>rs</sup> H. Ponsford  
Minehead  
Somersetshire

and then in two or three days it was cold enough for a fire, and they say that is the reason there is so much illness about; our back door although not exposed to the sun was as hot as if it had been close to a fire; when the hot wind passes over vegetation it leaves just the same effect as a sharp frost in England

[Page 5, which is written on the first page of this letter, using crosshatching]

turning the leaves black, W. Ch<sup>as</sup> had a slight attack of Influenza and still complains of being languid he gets up in the morning to chop wood gather vegetables and do all sorts of odd things and then after breakfast he dresses and goes into the Town. I think people consider him a very clever Lawyer, but most of the money here is made either by speculation or in ways that he does not choose to burthen his conscience with, We cannot make any plans till the affair of the Judgeship is decided, I am often afraid he will be disappointed, We spend our evenings very often with the Judge who is very lonely now his sister is married I take my work and lie on the Sofa while William Ch<sup>as</sup> and his honor play at Back gammon You ask if the parties here are given the Same as in England I must say yes just the Same

[Page 6]

Silver dishes, dinner china and all the usual accompaniments I think the gentry are living more quietly now; in fact people can hardly get women Servants and men have been quite out of the question; I have been quite confined to the house and garden for some time as I found even the motion of M<sup>rs</sup> Bartly's easy carriage too much for me, though she told the man to drive very gently. The last Ball at Govern ment house W Ch<sup>as</sup> went to alone, he cares very little about music and dancing and to my surprise returned home with the Judge quite early before supper, I must wish you all a happy Christmas, whilst you are thinking of fires and Holly berries we shall be broiled alive poor wretches give my love and a Kiss to my little Nephews I felt very much inclined to steal Willy before I left England, with best love to yourself Believe me

Ever your affectionate Sister  
Penelope A. A Belt

We are delighted with our English newspapers though there is a good mixture of falsehood with the truth in the letters written from Australia W. Ch<sup>as</sup> often pulls out his letters to read over again on a Sunday afternoon.



**D5363-7 Letter received by Elizabeth Ponsford, from William Charles Belt, dated 8 December [1852]. [The letter is addressed to Mrs H. Ponsford]**

[Page 1]

\Whitmore Square Adelaide 7<sup>th</sup> March 1853/

My dear Elizabeth As the Steamer has given me time to write to you I will inclose a letter in mine to my mother and you will be glad to hear that Penelope and the baby have been going on favorably since the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, I do not think Penelope has made so great progress as usual, for she is extremely weak and can only just be moved from her bed to a sofa while the former is \being/ made, but I trust that the worst part of her illness is now over, and that she will meet with no check to her recovery – the child appears strong and healthy, altho' I cannot at present praise her for quietness, but I am told she will improve by and by when some of her troubles shall have passed away, we are perfectly satisfied with both our Doctor and Nurse which considering the total absence of comfort and the complaints of inconveniences which we hear on all sides we cannot feel too grateful for – Penelope had contrived to get through all her requisite needle work in time having even manufactured 3 very pretty crotchet caps, and several frocks with crochet or worked bodies, she had a horror of a bald head, but in this respect she might have saved herself the trouble of capmaking, for Miss has a wonderful quantity of hair which is very dark for a child as are also her eyes – one of them unfortunately appears very weak, but we are told she will soon get right in this respect – You appear to have enjoyed Aunt Day's visit at Minehead very much, she wrote a long letter to Penelope giving full details of all family matters which interested us greatly in these distant lands; I am afraid I merited to some extent your gentle lecture. for [*overwrites illegible word*] not having written more frequently, but you will by this time have received my explanation and I have since been more considerate, I am however behind h/and in writing to some of my English friends and even relations, the people here as well as in England are clamoring for Penny Postage, and then, with short letters and low rates, there could not be

[Page 2]

a shadow of excuse for a bad correspondent; There are so many of the Colonists homeward bound or talking of returning to England that is its possible even in your remote corner of the world, for you either to meet some returned ~~of~~ Adelaidean or to hear of me through such a channel, but do not put too much confidence in their accounts of me or any thing else, for a large proportion of them are not very trustworthy, though on the whole perhaps they are not worse than the rest of the world, except a few of our precious ones. Di has just lost two of her collars which have been stolen off her neck we are obliged to register her and supply her with a collar with the number by which she was registered or she is liable to be killed and the dog slayer gets a reward of 2<sup>s</sup>/6<sup>d</sup> I believe – There is an immense butchery of dogs around us every morning perpetrated by the Police and a low set of fellows for the rewards given as mentioned above – I thrashed M<sup>rs</sup> Di most tremendously for being such a fool as to allow her person to be robbed. I shall not buy her another collar but keep her tied up on our premises – the thieving around us is becoming quite a nuisance we cannot leave any thing out of doors at night on the premises without almost a certainty of having it carried off, Our mangling woman or her neighbour had a large quantity of linen carried off a few days ago while she was sitting at her tea, and we hear numerous complaints of poultry, firewood and water being stolen in a similar manner – there are plenty of other more serious robberies perpetrated but for the most part, the victims have been drinking away their senses and keeping loose company so that they have to blame themselves chiefly for their misfortunes.

[Page 3]

Penelope desires me to give her love to you and say she will write as soon as she is able to do so, she also says she is afraid she shall will not be so considerate in all matters relating to her baby, as you have been respecting yours, for whatever other people may say of her pickaninny, she will always declare it to be a beauty. Your little Harry I find will be 7 in August, how time slips away, he is already becoming a schoolboy, while two years ago when I was staying at Minehead he was a mere child, his ideas of Australia appear very grand, with the exception of two or three of our best buildings he would find Adelaide inferior to Minehead as a town, Some of the residences and villas at North Adelaide are however good enough for people with moderate desires – that is by far the most aristocratic quarter of the town and being situated on a slight eminence it is preferable to South Adelaide both as regards the prospect and the healthiness of the locality it has been our fate hitherto to reside in South Adelaide – You will have read in my former letter to Anne and Augusta my request that you will be godmother to my child – I suppose it will be considered a mere matter of form on my part to repeat the request to you in this letter My evening walks have been somewhat interrupted of late by domestic matters, they are for a very long time past solitary unless I can call Di a companion I often wish I could enjoy the company of yourself or any other of the dear familiar faces which I have left behind me in England – I suppose ere this there have been numerous Panoramas and views exhibited of Australia, Our part of the island continent would not figure in them like Melbourne and Sydney but there are some excellent views in South Australia published some years since. I saw them once at the Peacheys House, they are by a M<sup>r</sup> Angas: I don't know whether you ever met with them there, the work is large

[Page 4]

and very expensive, and the plates being colored give you a good idea of Australian Scenery. I fear you will find prices rise very much in England in the course of the next 5 or 6 years a new era appears to be dawning for the labouring classes in England I hope they wont abuse it in the same manner as we witness here, and now my dear Sister with Penelope's and my best love to you believe me Ever your affect<sup>e</sup> Brother W.C. Belt

[the following address is written at right angles, in centre third, as before]

M<sup>rs</sup> H Ponsford, Minehead, Somersetshire

12 March Penelope and the baby are going on well Penel. yesterday afternoon sat in my office which adjoins our bedroom and took tea there, it was intensely hot; I carried the baby about in our yard and garden for nearly half an hour, she has got well with her eyes from bathing them with warm water, which is very satisfactory. Yesterday we received by ways of India English news to the 24<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> announcing the change of Ministry, I did not think Lord Derby's could last long. I sincerely hope England will not have to go to war – My goat was so troublesome

[the following is written on the same page, upside down, below the address]

and so unprofitable, for she did not appear at all likely to get into milk again that I took her a long walk yesterday morning and left her at large in the village of Thebarton about a mile and half distant

WCBelt



**D5363-8 Letter (incomplete) received by Penelope Belt, from her sister Anna Maria Perowne, date 22 July [probably 1872]. (Anna Maria Raikes Woolrych, sister of Penelope, was married July 1862 to John James Stewart Perowne, who was Canon of Llandaff between 1869 and 1878, and in 1872 he 'returned' to Cambridge.)**

*[Page 1]*

The Chunceys ?, Llandaff ?, July 22

My dear Penelope

Your letters are always pleasant. Many thanks for one just received with one from Nelly. I could not write by the last mail or two as we were so busy. We have left Lampeter now for good & have had some hard work packing up. Just at the last we had to receive & entertain M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Lumby: he was our Examiner such a jolly & clever Yorkshireman & a wife to match himself very clever & does not care what she says or does. She hated the people at Lampeter & wondered how we could have lived there so long. Directly they left we set to work & packed furiously. The Miss Prices great friends of ours there helped me & one of

*[Page 2]*

the students M<sup>r</sup> Phillips a most ardent admirer & pupil of John's came & packed the books. We made a list at last of 52 boxes & packages & then had a packer from Carmarthen to finish. We shall sell most of the things but have taken two large mahogany book cases & a sound ottoman (a pet of mine) & a few chairs. All else is to be sold. The pony we sold for £30. the cow of our own rearing for £18 & an old pretty ? Guernsey for £15.14 & a heifer for £15, very good we thought it altogether. The parting was in some respects painful. The farewell service was very trying: to hear the men in chapel sobbing aloud was distressing; their surplices were used for wiping their eyes till they must have been wet! and then came the presentation of the testimonial & John's Affecting

*[Page 3]*

Speech. I must send it you by this post as well as a sermon preached at Carmarthen & the one on Agriculture preached here last Sunday week. You may be surprised at some remarks in John's speech at the presentation but if you only knew the bitter animosity of Welsh & English you would not be astonished they have been abusing John again in the Welsh papers because he will not resign his Canoncy ? They hate him because they think as long as he is in Wales they will have no chance of preferment to a Bishopric. They are quite welcome, as far as I am concerned to all their Bishoprics, I think we shall like Cambridge very much. John is in his element amongst those Cambridge Dons & I shall be consequently happy. Wooley ? is at school at Reading since

*[Page 4]*

Easter with M<sup>r</sup> & Miss Dayward ? he says he is very happy but we shall know more about him when he returns on the 30<sup>th</sup>. He is a curious boy, more of a Woolrych than Perowne except that he is inclined to be an Artist. Every letter contains a drawing. Stanley alias Brawdie is with M<sup>r</sup> Holmes a friend of John's in Northamptonshire for change as he was not very strong & we thought him better out of the way when we were moving. Connie is very slow but he can read fairly now & Arthur with his long fair hair & rosy cheeks is almost on an equality with him as he is much sharper. As for "Sister" she is a regular tyrant & bids fair to have her own way in everything. She is very sharp & will be clever I suspect. This is a very pretty cheerful place. Mama ? came here the same ?

**D5363-9 Letter received by William James Belt, from his grandfather, William Belt, dated 4 September 1872.**

[Page 1]

Ilkley  
W. Leeds  
Yorkshire  
4<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1872

My Dear W<sup>m</sup>.

I thank you for the nice Letter you sent me giving an account of your late sad accident I had no idea it was so very bad & the sufferings so severe as you must have undergone. I trust you have quite got over it, & will not hereafter feel any ill effects but will be more cautious in future when handling a Gun as they are dangerous friends to manage. How does the Law go on I thought it very stupid work just at first, until I had read a good deal of the first part of Blackstones Commentaries & then re-read it again when I began to [*resist ?*] and like it much, the latter part was more dry but by the time I got to that, I began to understand it & then I did not find it dull and stupid. Habit & Use cause no abuse & I afterwards jogged on for 40 years & then gave up working. Soon after I left the Profession the Law was so much altered in its different branches that many old friends of mine in the Law told me they had almost being obliged to begin again as it was so altered ~~when~~ \since/ they just began. That is now \so/ in the political World, so altered that I call Gladstone our Prime Minister King Topsey Turvey for Church & State is nothing to him. I hope soon the Conservative party will come in again next Autumn.

[Page.2]

I suppose by this time your Brother has got his Appointment & soon get his Cadetship it is a hard and difficult duty to perform at first but Sailors always like it when used to it & my Sailor boy Willie Ponsford still says he is very happy & enjoys it vastly I must tell you about him he has just left his flag ship the Glasgow and is 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer on board the Columbine a fine Vessel where there are two Lieuttants & he is the Senior sub Liet<sup>t</sup>. on board 6 Officers in all with a nice Crew on board as he said he wished to see service and not lie idle in his Station at Bombay & is gone to the Mauritius to chase & take the Slavers in that Neighbourhood & probably get some prize money the Columbine is a fine swift Sailing Vessel a Steamer of about 670 Tons burden; he refused 2 other Offers he had as there were so many older sub Lieut<sup>ts</sup> over him, he has a better chance of getting promotion & expects about next March to be made Lieutenant when he will be independent & go on in turn regularly. We have had two Letters from Henry Ponsford who had only just arrived at the diggings & found two small Diamonds but hoped to find a larger one as those two would not pay his Expences then. His work seemed harder than his Brothers but by perseverance hope he may succeed. Next week we go to Whitby for our tenth time in our old quarters & afterwards return home to Brunswick Square. This Year has proved a bad one scarcely any kind of fruit the Wheat not so good as usual but other Corn a fair crop & Hay Crop far superior to any for years

[Page 3]

past but Potatoes quite a failure owing to the Tater disease both in ~~and~~ Ireland & England also. There never was a failure in Law proceedings except now & then a Client refusing to pay his bill. Why is a Lawyers ~~bill~~ like a Woodcock? Give it up and ask your Father!!! Tell Nelly not to

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scold you for receiving this Letter as I cannot write to her this time but will if possible next as my old Eyes already begin to ache & I have a Letter to write to your Father your dear Mother I believe I am also in arrears but writing to your Father she must consider it the same according to the saying Man and Wife are One. Edward I hope is well and likes his business. When Duke joins his Ship we may in time renew our Acquaintance when allowed come to us; what is Francis likely to do as to settling in life: Your Aunts are all I thank "God" well and hearty & unite with me in best Love & good Wishes to you and all around you Ever Your affectionate and loving G<sup>P</sup>  
W<sup>m</sup> Belt

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*[Added to the bottom of this page:]*

M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> James Belt  
Adelaide

*[Page 4 is blank except for M<sup>r</sup>. W<sup>m</sup>. James Belt written vertically in the lower right hand quarter]*

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**D 5363-10 Letter received by Penelope Belt, from her brother Francis B.W. Woolrych, dated 23 March 1873.**

*[Page 1]*

Randwick  
Sunday 23 March / 73

My dear old Pen

We are all most heartily sorry to hear that you are Such an invalid and have to endure so much Suffering. Nevertheless it must needs be a great Consolation to be attended by so dear and loving a Nurse as Your Nelly – Aided by the equally affectionate although, may be, less gentle Mankind – Your excursions, round the Garden, in the bath chair with William Charles and the boys must be all the more pleasant after the Monotony of the house – Now that the water is laid on and Willie takes such an interest in the Garden I suppose that its appearance

*[Page 2]*

has much changed since we were in Adelaide – I enclose for your delectation a little Mignonette which I have just picked from my own Garden – Our Violets have not done well this year; but I hope to have some in about a weeks time – You had some fine beds of violet in front of the house at Walkerville – It is Satisfactory to hear that Ted is getting on well in the Survey Department – He has not yet noticed the little publication & Star Maps that I sent him – I would \like/ to know what he thinks of it – – The views of Port Jackson are probably not new to you; but Some of them I thought were well taken – We are thinking of leaving Randwick in about

*[Page 3]*

a Months time – as the Doctors agree that the Sea Air is too strong for Emily and the Children – – but house - rent has gone up So Much, Since William Charles was here, that it will be difficult to get a house that would suit us for less than £80 a Year – indeed from £120 to £150 is asked for any thing like a good house with a paddock attached to it, in any of the Suburbs of Sydney –. I have a pupil with me now every day from about 9 A.M. until 5.30 P.M. A Son of D<sup>r</sup> Campbell of Yass – He has passed the ‘public examination’ for Juniors at the University of Sydney – he is reading Algebra and trigonometry with me – If I took a larger house he would board with me – At present he has to pay for lodgings &c

*[Page 4]*

at Randwick for the Sake of being near me. – Our Cousins are on the whole, pretty well – with the exception of Master Bradford Charles who seems to require no sleep, and takes good care that his parents shall get none, either by night or day –I don’t believe there is anything Seriously the matter with him at present – He is in good condition and happy enough as long as you walk about with him, or dance him about in your arms – but if this is not done he roars as if he was going to have a fit. – William Charles was too anxious about Marney to enjoy himself when here – it was also remarkably wet – From all that I hear, it was no great loss for Marney, possibly he may in after life look

*[Page 5]*

look upon it as a lucky escape – I was surprised to find Such a strong feeling existing in this Colony against Sending a boy into Her Majesty’s Navy. Many, having Connections in the Navy, would not, for any consideration, send their Sons into it. – Marney is a favorite of his Cousins but I don’t think that he Cares *[overwrites illegible word]* much fo\’r/ them. He seems to be a lively, energetic lad \who/ would be able to make the most of a Small Capital (if he had it) at Squatting – After Three years experience on a Station, under a Good Manager. A trip to the Northern Territory with Sheep or Cattle would give him an idea of the Pastoral Capabilities of the Country – Another Overland through

*[Page 6]*

through New South Wales to Queensland and he would gather much valuable information – and be in a State to Settle down quietly where his judgement would direct him. – When in Sydney he seemed to enjoy fishing in the Harbour amazingly – – *[ink has come through the paper from the word Cares]* My last letter from Mamma states that Mary Anne is urging her to leave Kensington and live with them; but Master Willy is urgent that Mamma should remain where she is, so between them both she compares herself to the – between two handles be – *[or & c ?]*. I should n’t be surprised

*[Page 7]*

to hear that the Willoughby’s have been Successful – No matter which, as long as they make her happy between them. – It is a very long time Since I have heard from either Mary Anne or Anna – Humphry is my best correspondent – I learnt from one of Your letters that the Perownes had gone to Cambridge to live – I Suppose that the Rev.<sup>d</sup> John Perowne has got a living there. Our young people are growing up, they are getting daily lessons in reading and writing from 10 *[overwriting 9]* A.M. until 1 P.M. – Saturdays excepted for which I pay a Governess 15<sup>s</sup>/ per week ; but I doubt whether we shall be able to afford it much longer if the prices of provisions continue to rise as they have done, and the Doctor continues his Advice and prescriptions Let me hear of Your health as often as you can – It was very kind of William Charles to write, as I know that he has so little time at his disposal – Emily Sends her Love

Your Affectionate Brother  
Francis B. W.  
Woolrych

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**D 5363-11 Letter received by William Charles Belt, from Anne E. Belt, dated 5 October 1896.**

[Page 1]

[To see the transcription of the cross hatching here see Page 5 of this letter]

Clifton  
Bristol  
30<sup>th</sup> October 1896

My dear Brother

I must begin by thanking you for your welcome letter of August 19<sup>th</sup> for it showed me that you were feeling better/ by being able to write to me; I did as you requested & sent it on to Nellie but I found she had also had a letter from you – I think you will like to hear of my rambles this Autumn, so I will give you an account of myself & my doings – as I felt better this summer than I have done of late, I thought I would go to Buxton in Derbyshire, I left home with one of my Servants on Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> staid at Turvey ? on my way to Buxton & slept at Turvey Abbey for one night, my friend M<sup>rs</sup> Higgins is still living at Turvey Abbey, like myself she gets old in years, but she is bright & cheerful – we talked over old times & she enquired kindly after you & your family – At Buxton I staid at a Boarding House which had been recommended by a friend – it was a very well ordered house with good table, etc but I can not say that I care for Boarding- House life, I greatly prefer a nice quiet lodging.

[Page 2]

Mabel Kelham joined me at Buxton but the weather was so bad & stormy that we could make but few excursions Mabel managed to see Chatsworth & Haddon but I did not care to go, having seen both places in former days. We were nearly three weeks at Buxton & we had not one really fine day! It has been a very rainy Sept<sup>r</sup> in all parts of England, but Buxton is noted for being a very rainy place I hear – When we left Buxton on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> Mabel returned home to Chester & I with my maid came to Bristol and staid a few days with M<sup>rs</sup> Castle & her daughter, they live at Stapleton a few miles out of Bristol; Ada Castle as you may perhaps remember was our dear Elizabeth's Niece, Major Castle died some years since and Ada is left a Widow with one daughter – Ada Castle usually pays me a yearly visit at Eton Lodge whilst her daughter goes on a visit to her young friends – On leaving Stapleton I came to Clifton and am in some very nice comfortable apartments here until Eton Lodge is ready for me – I have had the outside of the house fresh painted & two bed-rooms repapered

[Page 3]

I find there is always something wanting doing in a house and the outside of my house was looking very shabby! it is four years since it had been painted – I hear from my servants that the painters have now finished their work so I hope to return Home on October 9<sup>th</sup> Augusta & Lindsell are in Cornwall they have not gone abroad this Autumn they only left Home last week – I suppose you have heard of Nellie's illness I feel so sorry for her, it is so unfortunate happening at this time, I fear it may upset all their plans – I saw dear Nellie at Buxton & I was greived to see her looking so ill, and by all I hear she is still very weak & poorly – if she gets a little stronger the voyage to Australia would probably benefit her greatly – I hope for her sake & for your sake that she will be able to keep her promise of eating the Christmas dinner with you & her Brothers!

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I shall miss dear Nellie terribly! She has been so good & Affectionate to me, she seems more like a daughter to me than a niece!

*[Page 4]*

I wonder if you\will/ find Avice & Dorothy much altered – the Babies will be novel- -ties for You & their Uncles! The three little boys left in England will I fear feel very desolate at first, but happily Children soon conform to circumstances – I had a letter from Constance Burnell last week, we write to each other occasion- -ally, Constance and her Sister Alice make their Home at Winkburn Hall with their Brother Strelly ? but they are a great deal away either visiting friends, or in London or at the Sea side – All the Brothers are unmarried (Bachelors) they like single blessedness like my Australian Nephews! If I am spared another Year I shall come again to Clifton, it is such a pretty place and I enjoy walking on the Downs, the Cliffs & the Woods just coloured with the Golden tints of Autumn & the River Avon beneath, – make a lovely picture! I went over Bristol Cathedral one day last week, it has lately undergone restoration but the Gem of the Cathedral is the Chapter House it is pure Norman of the 12<sup>th</sup> Cent<sup>ry</sup> Will you ask your Willie if he could send me a few of the Local Australian Stamps or Post Cards – M<sup>r</sup> West & my friend Miss Ward

*[Page 5, the last page of this letter, is written vertically across top left side of Page 1]*

have asked me to get some for them they are great on stamps!  
With much love to you & my nephews ever your loving sister,  
Anne E. Belt

*[Additional information: William Charles Belt bought a house in Adelaide in 1856:*

*The Almonds, 6 Fuller Ct, Walkerville, SA.*

*‘James Swan was the first owner. Sold 1856 to William Charles Belt. As his family grew he added extra rooms and spacious verandahs. Stone boundary wall was built. It was also a self-contained farm. His son Edward Francis Belt became owner in 1899. In 1904 met the Earl of Morgan Castle and obtained a fine marble mantle and fireplace (now at Highfield home of Mr and Mrs John Ayers) restored after 1954 earthquake.’*

*Reference: ‘Aussie Heritage’]*