

Acc. 9002 / 14

Mata Grande

San Julian

Sept. 2ⁿ 1897

Dear Sister & Brother

I was received your letter & was sorry to see by it the anxiety I had caused you by not writing & the only excuse I have to offer is that I had built up so many castles in the air as to how I was going to get on. I was going to get rich in less than no time & be able to send home money to help father; but I have found that these airy castles are built on very shakey foundations which are easily swept from under them, & that in reality the wheel of fortune grinds very slow. When I was working in the Falklands serving a master I had always money at my command & was able to send home occasionally a little for father, but now since I have started for myself, I can never get hold of anything & it made me so ashamed of

on (I have my animals where I am stopping on an-
 other man's camp), & didn't write just then, as
 I was intending going the length of Chubut &
 writing from there, but didn't go that far so
 could not write untill I returned, else you would
 have had a letter sooner. It took me about 3
 months to go & come. I left on the 2nd of June
 & returned on the 30th of August. There were
 four of us started & it took us six weeks to
 to go up & we got caught in a snow storm
 it snowed for 3 days & 3 nights & we got stuck
 untill it cleared up, then we shifted camp
 down nearer the coast on to clearer ground;
 & stopped there for a week to give the horses
 a rest. We had nothing to eat for about a
 couple of days, then we had a hare amongst
 four of us untill at last we killed a mare
 then we lived like lords. From the time we
 left San Julian untill we got to Cameron's
 Bay north of the gulf of St. George "a dis-
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 -ing soul except ourselves & we never were under
 a roof, just sleeping behind a bush. So you can

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picture for yourselves the jolly life we lead here. One of my companions went to Chupat & the other two we stopped in Cameron's Bay to wait on him coming back, & I came back alone to Port Desire within 100 miles of home, my provisions were running short so I called in there for a fresh supply, then from there I got company home. I came down in less than a month, I left Cameron Bay on the 2nd of August & arrived in San Julian on the 27th after a very good passage only a little wearisome. In all the passage down I only saw 2 pumas or lions; the one I shot dead & wounded the other but he got away from me, he was shot through behind the fore legs, so he wouldn't go far before he stretched out also. I may add that on the way back I found a piece of camp that I will go & settle on if nothing happens to stop me, it is within 20 miles of where I am staying at present. I am thinking about moving there in the month of March or April, but it is not far to move & will not give much trouble.

Spirits so wishing you all health & happiness
I will remain ever your loving brother

George Anderson

Mata Grande
Port San Julian
Via Punta Arenas
South America

P.S. Please write to Jean & Mary &
ask them to write & give me their address
as I should like very much to hear from them.
I have never had a letter from them since I
came to this country, but I suppose that the
fault is mine.

Good bye, write soon

of myself that I never wrote. I cant say that I am in debt to anybody but wool is so very low that I can barely get as much money as pay for catables & dep, without talking about a shepherd to help, but I hope still to soon overcome the pressure of difficulties.

I see by the wool sales an account of some I sent home that it sold at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per lb & when freight, insurance, commission & other expenses are paid out of that, it goes away with a good portion of it. The wool is the only thing you get from the sheep here to pay their expenses, there is no market for wethers or anything about here to raise money on, it is only the wool that is to be depended upon. The sheep are always increasing, it is true, I have now about 1300 between ewes & wethers & now when they have come to that they will soon mount up to something, providing that the plague or South American lion do not do too much damage among 'em, it is nothing for him to come in a night

& kill 10 or 15 & I have known him to kill in one night, between sheep & lambs as many as 100. about 2 years ago he killed that number to a neighbour of mine, in one night. so it isn't all play sheep raising here. Still we must not always look on the shady side of things, "live in hope although you should die in despair" is the best motto to follow up, I havent the least doubt, "if spared," that things will come all right in the end.

There have been a few changes with me since last I wrote. My partners have all sold out & I am now alone, they got disgusted with the slowness of the proceedings they thought they would be million hess or less than no time, but they found they had made a mistake - sold out, but I mean to stick to it, now that I have started, I will follow it up to the end, if a person doesnt perceive he cannot expect that things will come to his hands themselves. When I received your letter I was just starting away up north to look for a piece of camp to settle

I think I have given you all the news about myself that would be of any interest to you except that I am in perfect health & have always been so in this country which is a good thing as doctors are few & far between.

I was happy to see by your letter that you were all well & that you had joined together again & doing well, which I hope sincerely that you may long continue to do so.

I was happy to see that father was still in good health & looking fresh. I should like very much to get the photographs of you all now with your families to see how you all look. I suppose if I was to get amongst you now with all your children round you it would make me feel old & lonesome, as it seems I am to be the bachelor of the family. I think I will have to apply to you to get a wife for me yet, else in any an old squaw out here as there is nothing else & she would not be a pretty ornament in a house. Adam is still in Glenstead, he is stopping well there, they have a good size of a family now.

I was sorry to hear about Ferns boy being dead. I am also sorry to hear that she is not strong, & it is a good job that she & her husband get on well together.

I wish I could afford to come home & see you all once more. I often weary & wish to be home to have a tussle amongst you, but it is no good. I must submit to the inevitable & await with patience the time that I may be able to do so; which I hope may not be far distant.

You seem to think that Mary & her husband dont get on very well together. It must have been a mercy to her to have her boy taken away when he wasnt right. She has only 2 girls living it is a good job for her that she hasnt more; as in my opinion it is plenty in a house where husband & wife dont agree.

I dont think I have any more remarks to make, only that I hope I may hear from you soon again with a little news of the country.

Hoping this may find you all well as it leaves me in good health & in pretty fair