

While every effort has been made to accurately transcribe these letterbooks, the transcriptions may contain errors.

Allport, Morton - Folder 5 Letterbook August 1874-July 1876

Page 1-10

Lebrena
Hobart Town
7th August 1874

Dear Mrs Rutter,

You little guess the great pleasure with which I hailed the photographs and letter which recalled the dear old days at Coton House and all the sunny memories of that time. Of all four you seem the least changed and I do so long for one good chat with you. Your change of residence was a wise one if it only took Mr Rutter away from too much work and I wish I could do the same thing for my father but he is incorrigible and works in spite of us all. I remembered Twickenham well and should like to see it again. I too have moved from the house in which I have lived for the past 18 years having built upon of my Father's ground so as to be near the old folks and to take advantage of the lovely trees which have been planted nearly forty years and look far older owing to the rapid growth in this climate. You will hardly guess the derivation of the name of our new house Lebréna. It was the word used by the Tasmanian aborigines for House. And now let me describe my new house in which we have been just three months and are scarcely yet settled. It is built of very hard variegated stone which looks like magnified specimens of ribbon agates. We are just a mile from the water (River Derwent) but are 500 feet above it. The house faces the North East and the noble river (three miles wide) is seen towards the North, East, and South. Towards the North & East the middle distance is filled up with the Town while on the South Gardens & fields stretch away towards the River which in this direction widens out like we almost see the open Ocean the view of it being blocked out (due south) by the gentle slope of Mount Nelson 1100 feet, from the summit of which several of what we call hills, and you would call mountains, ranging from 1000 to 1500 feet carry you on to the grand perpendicular colours of Mount Wellington, now smothered in snow, 4,700 feet above us, but the summit not [more] than 3 miles from us as the crow flies.

Mount Wellington is nearly due west and from thence Northwards the view embraces Knocklofty, 1000 feet cultivated nearly to the top. Mount Direction 2000 feet – [Mt?] Quoin 1500 feet and Grasstree hill 2000 feet- of these the Quoin - is the most remarkable as it presents a precipice 500 feet high, edge on thus [illustration: drawing of a hill] from this point & on the other side of the Derwent begin a series of smaller but still high hills ending at Mount Nelson & shutting the wide estuary of the River in so as to make it resemble a lake.

The House stands on a double terrace and up the steps you walk into a Verandah 9 feet wide which runs from the front door along two thirds of the front, thence round the bow window of the dressing rooms towards the south east and on past the two windows Library and then into my camellia garden - the whole verandah being over 80 feet in length and 12 feet high the ceiling being flat as a covered balcony of the same size extends over it. The front doors & the four drawing room windows and two library windows all open on to the Verandah, the sashes running up

into a groove in the wall so that one can walk out like a Christian or any other man. As you enter the hall the drawing room & library (between which are large sliding doors) are on your left hand - the main staircase in Front and the Dining room on the right. Past the dining room is a hall at right angles to the entrance leading ~~past~~ to storerooms etc & to the back staircase for servants, children & hoc genus omne. Next to the Dining room is a breakfast parlour which we generally use while the boys are at school & which serves as an anteroom between kitchen & dining rooms.

There are in all twenty ~~five~~ three rooms, all (except a cellar) on the ground & first floors – and two attics. Making 25.

The dining room is 24 feet by 15 ft. Drawing room 24 by 16. Library 18 by 16 & each 12 feet in height. The upstairs rooms are the same dimensions. One room is over the Drawing room. The room over the Dining room is my Museum & is a lovely room opening on to the balcony- as do our room Drawing room & one other the whole is slated- hot & cold water all over the house. Turkish bath – with a most convenient hot room. hot & cold shower & a steaming douche ~~douha~~ that comes down the back like a thousand of bricks. I will shortly send photos of the house itself & of the panorama from the balcony which takes in all the view described as I have arranged it so as, so we can walk round three sides of the house. Both the Balcony & Verandah have Indian bamboo blinds for summer. The trees round us comprise many that you know well & many that you cannot see in England except under glass. There are Oaks Elms Cedars many pine Sycamores, birch Walnut Chestnut. Horse chestnut (such masses of blossom in spring) & many palm like plants from New Zealand & Australia several species of bamboos and six or eight of oranges & lemons which bear abundantly and are very ornamental. I forgot to say that every vessel coming to or departing from Hobart Town is in full view from the balcony for five miles below the Town and on a summers afternoon I can see the snowy gannets in hundreds shooting themselves from heaven into the blue water.

Do excuse the awfully bad writing but I am in an arrear of letters and working to overtake time [I?] [en]close a photograph of self & will send others of the chicks shortly. We are expecting Cis in town soon to go in for an examination against the picked scholars of all the schools in the Colony. There are 22 candidates many of them older than Cis. and we expect him to be in the first 5.

He has taken scholarships to the value of £100 already and is an awful swell in the matter of learning though where he caught it I don't know. I do my best to keep him back but he wont be held. Gordon the next is following in much the same course and is very good at my hobbys, Natural history etc.

Minnie has grown very tall (for a short family) and is just over 17 – Lillie the next girl is very pretty & a romp the other two Russell & Eva Mary are likewise noisy.

Business increases here and you may easily understand that I have not as much spare time as I should like to devote to science. My runs into the wilds of the Colony are getting fewer & fewer but I enjoy them with a keener zest than ever & often let off some of my experiences at our Royal Society's meetings. I must send you one or two of my next papers.

Give my kindest regards to Mr Rutter and all of you that are within reach & Believe me

Yours affectionately

Morton Allport

P.S. My dear Wife is yawning sadly and asking whether I ever mean to leave off so have not time to read over & correct.

M.A.

Page 11

Hobart Town
8th August 1874

Dear Wauliss,

A good supply of trout ova are being sent free, gratis and for nothing to Western Australia & all arrangements made to ensure their safe transit so make your mind easy. I should have no belief in the attempt to send the fish as they are liable to so many accidents.

When are you coming across here? There will be good fishing this season as the proprietors are waking up & mean to stop poaching.

With kind regards to Mrs Wauliss

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

T.D. Wauliss
Ballarat

Page 12

8th Augt. 4

Dear Curzon,

Mrs Allport's trust

Let me have the accounts at once as I am winding up with my contractor.

When will you be over. Make it the end of Sepr. as Cis will be with us then for his examination for the A.A. degree. He has to go in with 21 others some of them very good & nearly all older than himself.

With love to Annie & the youngsters

Yours affectionately
Morton Allport

Curzon Allport Esq
Chaucery Lane
Melbourne

Page 13

8th Augt. 4

Dear Sir,

Very many thanks for your photographs which I was much pleased to receive & which came in excellent order.

My address is "Lebrena – Hobart Town" but I have no special branch of malacology my own collection being chiefly confined to Fossil forms of every genus and species I can get in the Colony.

I remain

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Mons Jules Colbeau
Sec. of the Malacological
Society of Belgium
Brussels

Page 14

21st Augt. 4

Dear Sir,

By coach tomorrow (Saturday) I will forward a few Topazes (Tasmanian) from my cabinet to which you are heartily welcome.

I have had one or two cut in Ballarat as specimens which turned out very well especially the brown tinted ones.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

James Smith Esq

Page 15-20 [Page 20 is copy of page 19]

Hobart Town
20th August 1874

My dear Sir,

I received yours or 15th July only a few days ago and was much pleased to get it as I was in trouble about how to address to you the enclosed slip from the Mercury of 5th instant in which you will perceive I have recorded my conviction that our large fish from the tideway about New Norfolk are brown trout after all.

I have many times longed to see you and explain all the circumstances which have led to this conviction and which would take some time in the telling. I have very carefully dissected out & counted the pyloric appendages of more than a dozen of these fish and have never in one single instance found as many as are always found in the specimens of *Salmo trutta* from our pond. But more than this many of these tideway fish have retained a larger number of the Vomerine teeth than are to be found in that fish specimen which you & I examined together and which I still have preserved in spirits. Can it be that some of these fish go further into the salt water than others & then lose more of the Vomerine teeth? The more I see of the life history of the genus *Salmo* in this Colony the more convinced I am that British authorities are all at sea on many points and that numbers of the so called Species are but varieties due to differences of food locality etc.

I am of course taking full notes of every scrap of information I can get and shall work ~~nts~~ the subject up up [sic] some day or hand the whole over to more competent naturalists.

You have of course heard of the capture of the Grilse & of the payment of the reward. I enclose my notes on the subject written for the Royal Society here & which will I trust be some compensation for the disappointment as to *Salmo trutta*.

It has always struck me as next to impossible that the large fish could have been Salmon trout if no salmon made their appearance as the number of the former was so limited as to give the Salmon at least 100 chances to one.

I have a part of another fish taken in a tide pool in Ralph's Bay which is in my opinion part of a much finer grilse than the one on which the reward was paid.

Several salmonoids or trout have been taken in the upper Huon which unfortunately have not come to the hands of the Salmon Commissioners but from the description I have strong hopes that they were *Salmo trutta*. I have now offered a reward for fish from that locality.

The last of the fish taken at New Norfolk near the bridge towards the end of the season 73-74 weighed 16 ½ & was a noble specimen a female in grand condition but with well marked vomerine teeth and with only 35 pyloric appendages.

What think you of the perch in Lake Wendouree at Ballarat which Lake was dry in 1869. but from which ten tons of perch at least were taken last year & sold at an average of -19^d a pound?

If you think it advisable to supplement your admirable letters to the Field with one explaining my altered views as to *Salmo trutta* it might be worth while to refer to the Ballarat perch.

Should you come over in Summer I can put you on to as good a bit of perch fishing here as you could wish to see as I have a finer Lake than Wendouree well stocked and saw thousands in it last summer. It is 4 or 5 miles in circumference with an average depth of about 12 feet - & alive with food.

Several 3 pounders have been taken in the Jordan.

I have wanted your assistance here lately as some of our sapient Legislators made a fierce onslaught against the Salmon Commissions expenditure and tried their level best to let the [small?] Meshed Scrapers into the River but they failed by a narrow majority. I had no notice of their Kind intentions or should have [princd?] one or two members – however I'll give them a dose before next session which shall expose some of the nonsense let off this time & uncontradicted. The finest statement made was that the closing the River had produced a perfect dearth of fish in the Hobart Town market besides ruining the poor fishermen & hawkers etc. Now when we closed the Derwent two some boats which followed the unfortunate spawning fish

into the upper bays were Knocked off their unholy poaching & besides these boats there were 15 graball boats Known as Scrapers, which had raked nearly every thing out of the Kelp beds between here & South Bruin – and two boats properly fitted as Deep see boats for line fishing only. Of all these the two deep sea boats only were paying well. There are now 35 of the deep sea boats all doing a thriving business. Some of them splendid craft and all much better than the two original boats the quantity of fish coming into the port being at least 15 times what it was when we stopped the netting. It is quite true that fish is dearer than formerly but not because there is less of it but because it finds its way, very naturally, to a better market – Melbourne. Not one of our M. Ps took the trouble to learn anything of these facts so we nearly lost our River bailiff and all the advantages, now becoming more & more apparent, ~~of the~~ of the preservation of the spawning grounds above the Town.

My new residence is now finished & we are getting gradually settled in it. You will I hope enjoy a rubber in it when next here.

With kind regards to Mrs Francis in which all my belongings, Father, Mother, Wife & girls join.

I remain

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

H.R. Francis Esq
Melbourne
Club

Page 21-24

Hobart Town
4th Sepr. 1874

My dear Sir,

I did not at once reply to yours of 18th [May?] last as no attempt was being made to repeal a large part of our Rural Municipalities Act and had such attempt been successful much of this letter would have been unnecessary.

The truth is that the whole system has worked & is working so badly that it is likely soon to be abolished.

Many of the most able men in our Legislature foresaw much of the evil likely to arise under the act but allowed it to pass as the readiest means of getting rid of some of the per[illegible] effects of the old Convict regime. You can easily understand that the stipendiary Police Magistrates and their staff of Officials and constables all trained in the days when a large percentage of the inhabitants were or had been convicts were not the class of men required to deal with a free population rapidly increasing after the discovery of gold and the cessation of transportation And the Act really did for the time good service in breaking up old combinations and getting rid of the arbitrary [sic] Police Magistrates and convict constables retained long after the necessity for either existed.

The chief [eirl?] of the system as now in operation relates to the Police who being under the control of the Warden & Councillors of each petty [illegible] municipality cannot as a body [illegible] made available (as they [illegible] ought) for the general [illegible] of the whole community purpose of the whole police force.

Had [illegible] been under one of the Islands efficient central authority no such mischief could have arisen as occurred in the enforcing the Launceston & Western Railway rate when the Police of several municipalities acting under the orders of Councillors, themselves liable to such rate, declined to carry out the orders of the Executives and riot was the inevitable result. As each municipality has the power of rating itself for municipal purposes and appeal against valuations are referred to the Councillors themselves all sorts of anomalies arise so which would be avoided if assessors were appointed by the cent[ral?] Government for the whole Colony.

A good story is told of one of our rural municipalities. Three Councillors met for the purpose of deciding appeals. A smiling at B & C appealed and the valuation his property was promptly reduced B smiling at A & C followed suit & received the required relief but when the unfortunate C who came last tried the same thing he perceived that his brother Councillors did not return his smile and had determined on serving him out for some breach of Municipal etiquette and not content with refusing to reduce C's valuation actually increased it.

Several attempts have been made by Municipal Councils to indirectly tax the larger Towns for purely municipal local purposes. For instance, in an evil hour, the various oyster beds of the Colony were handed over to those municipalities which they respectively adjoined and power was given to them to make regulations and issue Licenses to fish & fix the price of such Licenses. The immediate result was the fixing of a scale of charges not merely sufficient to ensure the proper working of the beds & the observance of the regulations which, in the true interest of the public, is all the funds raised from such a source ought to do but an attempt was made to extort revenues for other local purposes by charging excessive license fees ultimately paid by the unfortunate consumers in distant Towns. Of course this worked its own cure & the beds are now controlled by a central authority.

Although the Act provides that none of the Municipal bye Laws shall be repugnant to the general Laws there is unfortunately nothing to prevent the by laws of one municipality being repugnant to those of another and the consequence is that a man may on one side of a stream do that which will be treated as a misdemeanour if done on the other. It is true that the Law officers are supposed to prevent such errors but as a matter of fact they do not interpose any check one main reason being that many Municipal Councillors are also Members of Parliament & exercise a strong political influence.

I enclose our Rural Municipalities Act & some parliamentary [returns?] bearing on the subject (under a separate cover) which if of no use you can easily put behind the fire.

I remain
Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Sir. C.W. Dilke
76 Sloane St
London S.W.

Page 25-26

Hobart Town
7th Septr. 1874

Dear William,

Reeve tells me that in reply to an application from the V.D.L. Co's agent as to the projected tramway to Mount Bischoff he pointed out that he could not come to terms with his eyes shut but that he had offered to send one of his staff to survey the line & make the necessary sections if the Company would pay such surveyor's salary for the time (say one month) he was actually engaged. He went on to say that having staff & plant at his [immediate?] disposal it would suit him well to undertake the work even if he had not a large interest in the mine. As it is certain we should not get the tramway so quickly in any other way and as it will enhance the value of every section with tin on it. You might do what you can to induce the ~~Co~~ V.D.L. Coy's [sic] agent to accede to Reeve's offer & have the surveyor on the ground at once.

Is there any chance of my getting anything back out of the G. Crown? I pitched up the Boobyalla section as there seems much doubt as to the validity of the discoveries in [illegible] Locality.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Wm. Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 27

8th Sepr. 4

Dear Sir,

Mr Stephens has kindly enclosed for me (in a box he is sending to you) three specimens from the carboniferous limestone in this neighbourhood of which specimens I can make nothing. They are numbered 1, 2 and 3 in pencil. 1 & 2 having the paper close to the fossil of which I should like your opinion – these two are of the same species & if either of them would be of service to you pray keep it & return me the duplicate at any convenient opportunity with No.3 of which I have as yet no other specimen.

If you can enlighten me as to the species of ~~all three~~ each I shall be greatly obliged.

I made enquiry as to your copy of our transactions & hope you will let me know if any numbers are still missing so that they may be forwarded.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

The Revd. W.B. Clarke
St. Leonards
Sydney

Page 28

17th Septr. 4

Dear Mr. Fox,

The lists are just out and Cis gets his first class being third on the list which stands Buckland [3082?] Riley 2894 – Allport 2634. Lethbridge is some distance down the second class and there are 4 males & 1 female plucked. Altogether & taking his age into account I think Cis has done well though he gets no prize in any subject, and credit only in mathematics. He passed in Geology getting 131 marks.

Lethbridge is much disgusted at getting only a second class.

With Kind regards to Mrs Fox & to Mr & Mrs Richards I remain

Yours sincerely

Morton Allport

W.W. Fox Esq

[Horton] College

Page 29-30

22nd Septr. 4

Dear Mr Fox,

Though Cis himself was slightly disappointed at getting no prize I think his position on the list a very satisfactory one and am quite certain you have done your very best for him. After all I had far rather see that he exhibits fair ability all round then that he should shine in one pet subject and come to grief in the rest as this proves good steady work in everything.

I wish Cis to make his appearance at the College for a week or two before the end of the half so that he may not vacate his Exhibition and will try to get it transferred to the High School for the last year.

Do you think he could make any shape for the Tasmanian? or Gilchrist? He fancies you think he would [illegible] wasting time & very properly attaches great weight to your opinion. Nevertheless he [illegible] is willing to go on & make an effort.

I am just sending a telegram to ask you to let Gordon come to the demonstration if he likes and I wish you would change your mind & run down with him. With kind regards to all at the College.

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

W.W. Fox Esq

Horton College

Page 31

30th Sepr. 4

Dear Mr Richards,

I duly received yours of the 24th inst. On the whole we are well satisfied with Cis, as the examination is an unmistakably stiff one.

In reply to your queries as to the house etc. Houses or apartments can be easily obtained but servants & especially cooks are both bad & expensive. Any person coming should, if possible, bring their servants with them.

I wrote Mr Fox as to Cis returning to the College for a short time this quarter so as not to vacate his Council's exhibition but have not had any reply will you kindly remind him on the subject.

With kind remembrance to all at Horton College.

I remain
Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

The Revd G.B. Richards
Horton College
Ross

Page 32

1st Octr 4

Dear Sir,

The Perch which are the most suitable fish for the Coal River, are now spawning and if you are likely to be in Town within 3 or 4 days I can get you enough spawn to stock the River well in your Neighbourhood. The spawn can be taken up in a bottle which must be kept in the shade with a wet cloth round it and it must on arrival at the river be sunk in about 18 inches of water amongst some weeds with the cork out - the fish will when hatched find their own way out and pick up a living without further trouble.

Please let me know when you are likely to be in Town, which should be as soon as possible, and I will have the spawn ready.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Mr E. Goodwin
Rosebank
Campania

Page 33-34

Hobart Town
5th Octr. 1874

Dear Gould,

Yours from Canada reached me last mail by which time I thought you were not going to write again as mail after mail came & no letter. Scotty to whom I delivered all your messages writes you very fully this mail about Ramsay as to which I have as strong hopes as ever. Bischoff shares have a temporary cloud over them in consequence of a s/6 call & a certainty of another to follow but will be valuable some day in spite of Launceston mismanagement & worse. The last move is to establish smelting furnaces at Launceston – the site being rented from one of the Directors of the Company who is to be paid 2/- a Ton on all the ore smelted, a pretty job altogether – the more worthless ore smelted the better for the Director. Hobart Town shareholders have unanimously Risked, but without success, at this spoliation. The accounts from the mine itself tend to show that the quantity of ore is even greater than was as first supposed and some of our adjoining sections will yet prove valuable as the V.D. Land Company have decided on at once making a tramway from Bischoff to the Coast. This will be a great lift for Ramsay too.

Cecil went up for his A.A. a fortnight ago & out of 20 competitions of whom he was the youngest came out 3rd in the first class with a prize for Geology – his examiner in that subject being a Mr Goldstraw of the Wesley College Melbourne – As Cecil is only 16 I am well satisfied with the result.

Will you let your Father know that no account reached me with the last shipment of books and that I am rather in the dark as to the amount owing. If you are likely to remit soon you might as well deduct your Father's account & save the exchange.

I have not heard from Smith lately but will write fully when anything more turns up from the north.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

P.S. R.C. Read has seen the Bunyip in Lake Echo last summer – 40 yards off & thinks it is a gigantic platypus.

M.A.

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Hobart Town
6th Octr. 1874

Dear Henry,

Herewith I send cheque for £6.5.0 call on 50 Bischoff Shares standing in Gould's name.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Henry Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 36-38 [Page 36 same as 37, 38 same as 39]

Hobart Town
6th Octr. 1874

Dear Sir,

I beg to return you my best thanks for the useful Field Memoranda for Tasmanian Botanists handed to me by Mr. Stephens. It will fully supply a want that I have long felt and is therefore most acceptable.

I trust we may some day meet & have a chat over our tertiary fossil flora in which I take much interest having often ransacked the travertine quarries on this side. I notice you speak of Elm like & Fig like leaves but I am inclined to think the resemblance is but superficial as so many of the forms found in our tertiaries still remain that if plants allied to the Elm or fig had existed at so recent a geologic period some traces of allied plants would surely have survived. There can have been no great change in climate since the Risdon travertine was deposited as I find existing mammals & plants there in conjunction with others which I cannot make out but which are strikingly similar to the leaves of deciduous trees – And without a very marked change of climate we could scarcely expect deciduous forests to give place to one all but entirely evergreen.

I trust you will get light upon a good supply of fossil seeds as these will do more to settle the question of species than the leaf impressions (thought beautifully perfect) ever can.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

R. M. Johnston Esq.
Railway Officer
Launceston

Page 40

Hobart Town
8th Octr. 1874

Dear Sir Robert,

Unless you have some person in view to undertake the duties I think it would be better to urge the Government to let things remain as they are through the coming season as this is a very bad time to change Secretaries. We shall find some difficulty in getting a competent man at the pittance we have hitherto paid Mr Clark.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Sir Robert Officer
New Norfolk

Page 41-44

Hobart Town
10th Octr. 1874

Dear Howard,

I have delayed answering your long letter of June last till now because it was uncertain till quite lately whether a small quantity of Sea trout ova could be obtained for you or not. Last season's ova from the fish reared in fresh water all failed. & the original parent fish have gradually died out consequently the Commissioner had resolved (before the receipt of your own & [illegible] letter to part with no Salmon trout ova this season. Nethertheless I hoped if the show of eggs was good & they appeared to be hatching in a satisfactory way to obtain a reversal of this decision as far as you were concerned but I regret to say our hopes have been again frustrated as the ova with but few exceptions turned out barren proving beyond all questions that the fish will go on deteriorating without access to the sea or some change treatment. We still retain a good stock of the fish derived from the eggs of the first lot hatched from English eggs and are now trying a thorough change of diet giving them salt water mussels as this may have some effective in increasing the vigour & ultimately the [functity?] of the fish. I now feel that we were right turning out 2 large numbers of the fish to hatchings into the Huon as the young fish obtained by us showed the migratory instinct so strongly at the smolt stage that I can doubt that the Huon fish went to sea & this received what was lost by the parent fish detention in fresh water.

You may make your mind easy about the Salmon, where that Grilse was left in a tidepool last year you may rely upon it there were plenty of others and the Grilse prove that Salmon were and are in the River because once show that smolts have reached the Grilse stage and there can be no remaining stationary they have thus completed their history up to the point of reproduction and nothing but time is wanting to fill our suitable waters.

I cannot at all account for your trout not spawning till September & later ours are all hatching by that time. Depend upon there is something thoroughly wrong in the waters where such late spawning occurs & the same cause may affect the vitality of the ova. It has long been ascertained that trout or salmon hatched from eggs kept in water of a rather lighter temperature ~~that~~ than usual so as to force them prematurely are never healthy and a slight further increase of temperature would probably kill the eggs. Now if your fish spawn in November it is quite possible the eggs are subjected to too high a temperature before hatching. Try to hatch a few slowly with the help of ice.

Our River Trout are doing wonderfully well – today I saw about 60 fish in one of the small mountain rivulets above my house ranging everywhere from a pound to two or three ounces.

I enclose my last utterance on the Grilse question which please read carefully. Since writing it I have dissected out the pyloric appendages & find the number above the average of Salmon trout thus confirming us in our opinion as to the species.

When shall we see you again in these parts? And where is our silent friend Clifford?

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

H. Howard Esq.
Salmon Ponds, Wallace Town, Otago

Page 45

10th Octr. 4

Dear Sir,

I should have replied to yours of 19th June long ago but that all the ova of sea Trout failed last year and it was therefore determine to send away more this season and in spite of this determination I wished to get your Society a shipment if there was any prospect of this years eggs turning out well –

I regret to say they have again failed and we are driven to try some more experiments in feeding in the hope of counteracting the evil effect of obtaining the fish & unnaturally in fresh water. Should these experiments succeed I will bear your Society in mind before distributing next year's ova.

I have written very fully on the subject to Mr Howard & remain.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Thos Perkins Esq
Eldon Chambers
Invercargill

Page 46

20th Octr. 4

Dear Sir Robert,

I have had a long talk to Butler and Buckland on the subject of the Secretary ship and we all think that a meeting is absolutely necessary to enable us to arrive at any satisfactory ultimatum. Can you make any early trip Townwards suit your convenience?

The Smolt caught last night is a picture but shows unmistakably that Seine nets must be kept out of the upper waters because I will never believe that the one or two which find their way clandestinely to me represent anything like the number caught & destroyed. With kind regard to Lady Officer

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Sir R. Officer
New Norfolk

Page 47

20th Octr 4

Dear Gearand

All right the spawn sent was perch spawn fast enough it only had the slight drawback that it had hatched out some day ago. The good spawn you will see in clear water hung in a sort of ribbon often 3 feet long & the fish will be seen [illegible] in every egg.

If you can, do send some to the Revd. Mr [illegible] of Launceston

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Wm Gearand Esq
Oatlands

Page 48

Hobart Town
26th Octr. 1874

Dear Sir,

Enclosed I send a list of the specimens and publications forwarded in the last case for the museum at Brussels. I will write fully to Mons de Dorré by the outgoing mail and trust the case will reach him safely.

You will see that the large collection of eggs (one of the best ever made in this colony) has been presented by my son. & where he had several he has sent a good supply of each so as to serve for exchange.

Of the minerals & fossils I have made a beginning but think it better to send a few of in each case then to send all such heavy articles at once.

The majority of the fossils are from my own collections and must only be looked upon as a small instalment to be soon followed by others.

The Bird skins are all in excellent order.

With kind regards to Mrs Becke & the young Lady.

I remain
Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

G. Becke Esq
Melbourne

Page 49-50

27th Octr 4

Dear Curzon,

The rod which I had sent for was to have been transferred to you if the party ordering it did not shell out but as he did shell out I could not very well refuse him the rod.

You ought to send to Chas Farlow. Strand for a good rod. 3 joint screw joints, spare top, winch complete.

In the meantime I send by Lucas my only spare one which please take care of & bring back when you come you must get a small reel for it. Some brute has the spare top & the landing not handle having forgotten to return them last season. Send to Lucas for the rod.

The air-gun I can't get repaired & am afraid it is done for

I got amongst the Bream at Brown's River last Saturday & caught 8 nearly 2 lbs. each besides several small ones & an eel. Seal caught one over 3 lbs. a beauty.

Why don't you have a shy at that Ballarat perch?

With love to Annie & the youngsters

Yours sincerely

Morton Allport

C. Allport Esq
Melbourne

Page 51-52, 55&56

29th Octr. 4

Dear Sir Robert,

The Fish is a most interesting one and at the first glance I set it down as identical with the Salmonoid caught in Finlay's Mill race at Bagdad last year with five others. You may recollect that was at the same season (written a week of the same day) and the fish were evidently on a migration seawards, or as I now believe to the brackish estuary of the Jordan.

In both the Bagdad fish and that sent by you I find a very marked difference from the Smolts caught in the salt water near Hobart Town for in your fish the scales are firmly set & require some force for their removal while in the smolts the seals separated at a touch so much so that if handled for an instant the fingers become silvered with them. The number of the fin rays do not exactly tally with Günther's formula for either Salmon or trout but this I have long regarded but a doubtful test. fully proved to be a doubtful test in the fish now sent by you as the Sentinel fin on one side has one ray more than its fellow on the opposite side

Günther's most constant test the number of scales between the last dorsal fin & the lateral line obliquely forward is against your fish being a smolt as it has 15 scales. Whereas the smolts taken in the salt water have 13 the numbers of the true salmon.

But still finding the appearance of the fish so very unlike most brown trout I would give no opinion without further [investigation?] and in company [illegible] Buckland dissected out the Pyloric appendages and am much astonished the result as I find far more than the usual number given by Günther for the Brown trout and more than the minimum number for salmon. More too than in the Bagdad fish which contains about the [illegible] for trout. But the arrangement of the pyloric appendages

aid their individual size is alike in the Bagdad fish & the fish sent by you while they both differ from the arrangement of those in Grilse & in the Smolt from salt water. I have for some time doubted whether the number of pyloric appendages was very constant and this specimen makes the range of numbers very wide if we are to regard it as a trout. I will preserve the appendages carefully & shall have to examine a much larger series before arriving at any conclusion as to their value.

Taking everything into consideration I feel certain that the fish of which you sent me were on their way to [backish] winter but that the want of [deciduou] scales the absence of parr [illegible] beneath the scales and the large number of scales between the last Dorsal & the lateral line prove that the fish you sent was not the smolt of the true salmon and I think it most probable that these fish are the progeny of the beautiful silvery trout which locate themselves in the Derwent between the falls and the mouths of the Sorell Rivulet off [sic] which stream I saw a monter last summer myself.

It will be very interesting to watch the progress of these fish if you can keep them separate at the Plenty and I should much like to have any that may die sent to me for fur. examination of the pyloric appendages. I firmly believe that if the fish had been sent to England with the pyloric appendages untouched it would have been pronounced a migratory species.

Mr Graves (the author of the letters signed "Fisherman" has tried to throw discredit on the last smolt captured by hinting that it was not caught in the salt water at all but high up the River - In dissecting it however I lighted upon evidence of its locality somewhat stronger than Fisherman's nonsense - for its stomach contained 3 good sized anchovies fish never found above the Town till later in the season. These may account for its splendid condition.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Sir R. Officer
New Norfolk

Page 53-54, 56 [duplicate of Pages 51-52,55]

Page 58

Hobart Town
29th Octr. 1874

Dear Sir,

I have just forwarded by the hands of my good friend Mons Gustave Becks of Melbourne a case of specimens and publications addressed to you at the Museum Brussels which I hope will reach you in good order.

The fossils and minerals will be soon supplemented by another shipment but they are so heavy that I think it better to send a few in each case than to send many at once.

I have enclosed all the paper relating to our Geological Survey that I have at present been able to collect but hope to add to them in the next case.

Herewith I send copies of the lists (enclosed in the case) of specimens sent & have marked separately those sent by the Royal Society of Tasmania by my son and by myself.

I remain
Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Mons. A. de Borré
Page 59

31st Octr 4

My dear Miss Howells,

Very many thanks for the manner which owing to your careful packing reached me in beautiful order. I presume you got it from the broad leaved peppermint tree & not from the drooping gums which I remember at the Shannon?

It always seems to be more plentiful in warm dry season than in others but as it supposed to be exceeded only from punctures made by insects I should be glad to hear whether you have noticed any unusual number of insects about the trees from which this was obtained.

Have you seen or heard anything in the Shannon yet or have the Cormorants taken them altogether as they are doing in many of the clear Rivers? I hope somebody your way is shooting these birds occasionally.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Miss A. Howells
River Shannon

Page 60

3rd Mar 4

Dear Roope,

We shall not have good steady fishing weather before the first week in December but I will do all I can to lay your friend Captn [Selby] in to the Trout at any time he comes over.

Your notion of getting Fry over is a mistake as the expense is so much greater than for over while the chances of success are much less. If you cannot get young fry from the Gisborne Ponds in Victoria this year you will be able next seasons as they will have spawning fish.

I mean to have a few trout somehow this season but am much pressed for time.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

L.G. Roope Esq
Bank of Australasia
Warrnambool

Page 61

6th Novr 4

Dear Sir,

The late Mrs Henslowe's trust Herewith I enclose cheque in your favour for £42.0.0 to be expended in the purchases of a bill on London payable to my order and shall be obliged by your forwarding me such Bill at your convenience.

I also wish to place the balance of interest on the Debentures in the names of the Trustees Francis Hartwell Henslowe, William Knight and myself as a fixed deposit for twelve months.

My Cotrustees seem doubtful whether the Bank regards the Debentures as held on the joint account of the Trustees or on account of myself alone and I therefore desire it to be distinctly understood that they belong to the Trustees jointly and shall be obliged by your stating in reply that they are so regarded by the Bank.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

The Manager
Union Bank
Melbourne

Page 62

6th Nov 4

Dear Sir,

Reeve & self meant to start tomorrow to avail ourselves of your kind permission to try the river in your neighbourhood but the weather is so compromising that we propose waiting a week and hope to reach Montacute same time the Saturday coming this 14th inst which day will I hope be as convenient for you as the one first fixed.

I so seldom get away that I scarcely like running the risk of getting my holiday spoiled by bad weather.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Wm Langdon Esq
Montacute

Page 63

11th Novr 4

Dear Mr Smith,

Herewith I return the correspondence. Please refer for one moment to the paragraph (marked in pencil) in Mr Youl's letter of 24th December 1869.

Regarding the circumstance under which the correspondence came into my hands I am of course precluded from calling Mr Abbott to account for the unfounded and malicious statements he must have made to Mr Youl. I never had any private communication with Mr Abbott on the subject in my life and I will defy him or anyone else to find one syllable in any public utterances to warrant his statement.

Mr Youl's illjudged letter to the Mercury was shortly after supplemented by a much more sensible one to myself and I at once did what lay in my power to remedy the very slight mischief caused by my having published an erroneous account of the packing of some of the bosses and at the same time pointed out that the mistake probably arose through my unluckily confusing the facts detailed to me by Ramsbottom. Mr Johnson the persons affected by my report wrote to me in reply expressing his satisfaction at my at once correcting the error.

Mr Youl & myself have since corresponded very regularly & not at all in the spirit of bitter enmity referred to by Mr Abbott and which only assists in the fertile imagination of that eccentric genius.

Yours faithfully,
Morton Allport

P.J. Smith Esq
Windermere

Page 64

Hobart Town
19th Novr 1874

Sir,

I beg for a universal Lease of the section of 80 acres at Mount Ramsay to which my license to search for minerals applied.

Charles Gould
By his Attorney
Morton Allport

To the Hon.
The Minister of Lands

Page 65

11th Novr 4

Dear Sir,

Herewith I send P.O. Order for 4/6d general police rate on the Lands at the Forks

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Mr P. Driscoll

Torquay

Page 66

Hobart Town
20th Novr 1874

Dear Henry,

Herewith cheque for £6.5.0 call on 50 shares in the Mr Bischoff Coy. standing in the name of Charles Gould.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Hy Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 67-68

30th Novr. 4

Dear Gould,

Not a blessed line from you for months. whats up? We are doing the scientific with two American stations established here to watch the coming transit of Venus. Of course as clear skies are indispensable we have had about two clear days in the last 3 months. One station is at Hobart Town (Barracks) the other at Campbell Town. Abbott T.R.A.S. [hobserves?] for himself. A bran [sic] new transit instrument which he had fitted up for the occasion had to be unfitted again as the old boy followed the written instructions literally & forgot he was in the Southern hemisphere whereby the [machine?] came wrong side up in which condition Jamieson (of New Norfolk) who is very good at Astronomy found it and, much to my grief, put it right.

The DuCanes left yesterday & will be much missed. A very large crowd (more than for any former governor) saw them off. The V.D. Land Coy have commenced the Tramway to Mt Bischoff and we shall be smelting tin here on the first of February at the latest.

Harman has come on a lot of stuff, resembling the [illegible] jewell [sic] sand, somewhere near Emu Bay from which I have taken lots of good sized sapphires & zircons some nearly a quarter of an inch through. Our prospecting lot have begged the ground. Ulrich writes urging Smith to do something with the Bismuth section at Mount Ramsay at once. He (Ulrich) evidently think it of great value. As the season advances we shall probably get some of the capitalists from Sydney (not Moreton or any of his crew) to send prospectors to look at the ground. We shall probably work one of the tin sections ourselves for a time as it can be made to pay for the prospecting.

W.W. White of Launceston has skedaddled with debt amounting to £60,000 or £80,000 & letting in heaps of others. One story told of him is that being a large holder of paid up shares in the Golden Point Co. at Nine Mile Springs he managed to draw

£10,000 from the Bank of Australasia in sovereigns & just more than half of them into one [crushing?]. from which he took his div. & then sold out at once from all the Companies on the line, of all of which he was a promoter. He worked the Bank by gammoning one Mills the cashier during the temporary absence in Melbourne of the Manager Turnbull, who on his return discharged Mills and Mills at once joined Whites as partner in the Auctioneer business!!!

Peter Barnard & Co. of Launceston have also gone for the moderate figure of £150,000 leaving about half Launceston in a pretty mess. Some of the disclosures as to the method in which the business has been conducted in the north are very edifying. Morrison is the heaviest loser by the last mentioned failure and after him Fysh.

Old Grubb of Launceston declined to come to lunch with Judge Dobson on a Sunday but the old skunk has been lending money to merchants on goods in bond at £1 per cent per week or £52 % per annum. and seems to like it.

An ole Jew in Melbourne one Moton Moss was let in by W.W. White for £16,000 and is now wandering about Launceston exclaiming to all & sundry "Robbed, robbed of £16,000! My God "and they call this Sleepy "hollow".

Des V[oex?] & family have left for England and the club mourns.

Financially the Club is an enormous success. All the building for the billiard room, the billiard tables furniture & stock of wines etc. are paid for and we have a balance towards the repayment of the promissory notes given by members for £10 each.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Charles Gould
26 Charlotte St
Bedford Square
London

Page 70

30th Novr. 4

Dear Knights,

The late Mrs Henslowes trust

I duly recd. yours of 29th July last and now enclose Copy letter from the Manager of the Union Bank from which you will perceive that the Bank regard my letter (of which you have a copy) as quite sufficient to prove that the Debentures belong to the Trustees jointly.

The balance of interest which now amounts to £121.12.6 you will notice I have placed as a fixed deposit for 12 months at £5 % this is a better arrangement than the purchase of a Debenture as we should have to pay £100 and should only receive £5 % in £100-

Please hand Mrs Knight the enclosed draft for the half year's interest amounting to £41.15.6 and ask her to return me a receipt.

With kind remembrances to all your circle.

I remain

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

W. Knight Esq

4 Berkeley Gardens
Campden Hill
London W.

Page 71

Hobart Town
9th Decr. 1874

Dear Sir,

Herewith I enclose Ulrich's report which please take care of as I have no copy.
I am sorry Ulrich cannot come over as it may delay our work at Ramsay.

Please bear in mind that I shall willingly join in liberal terms to any one taking
the Bischoff sections.

In great haste

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

James Smith Esq
Miss Buttons
Launceston

Page 72

14th Decr. 4

Dear Sir,

As a Fellow of the Linnean Soc. London and at the instigation of Mr J.K.
Clark I have the honor to request that my name may be added to the list of the
Linnean Soc. of N.S. Wales about to be established and enclose P.O. Order for £1.1.0

I remain

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

T. Stackhouse Esq
Australian R.U. Club
Sydney

Page 73-74

Hobart Town
16th Decr. 1874

Dear Curzon,

Just pack up your traps & come across for a month as it will do you a world of
good and I want you to see the Governor who is not at all in a good state of health &
keeps me in perpetual suspense because he will try to get to work when he ought to
take is easy. Huston to whom I spoke a few days ago wants you to bring Annie over
and to leave her & the children here for a spell which you had much better do. The

trip would only cost the passage money as we can keep you while in Town & the Wife & chicks will serve to fill up the gap at New Norfolk which the Gaynor's leaving will make there. If you come I will make a day or two for a fishing trip though I am hard pushed for time now the Governor is so much away from Stone Buildings.

As a matter of business I think it very desirable you should get over this summer as there is much I could talk to you about on family matters which will never be written therefore make a big effort & come along.

Young Evett will probably shape about Christmas for a short visit & you ought to be here as near that time as possible. Give the enclosed to Annie & Believe me

Yours affectionately
Morton Allport

Curzon Allport Esq
Melbourne

Page 75

Lebrena
18th Decr. 1874

Dear Annie,

I have written very fully to Curzon urging him for several reasons to come over as soon as possible & from what your good Father told me a few days ago I am in hopes that you will be induced to ~~ship~~ leave everything under [your?] brothers care for a few months and come over for a trip to the Family mansion so as to see the Gaynors before they leave. Curzon could return first & send George over for you, at any time. Do try to work it this [illegible]. I will send a photo of Cis when he returns to Town in a few days.

Yours affectionate[ly]
Morton Allport

P.S. Mrs Morton joins in love to yourself & children.
M.A.

Page 76-77

29th Decr. 4

Dear Sir,

By the "Harriet McGregor" which left a few days ago I have sent a case containing specimens of fish.

The largest is a migratory Salmon weighing 3 lbs taken a month ago in the salt water of the Derwent estuary on its way back to the upper waters, it is a make of about the same size as a female grilse taken at the same season last year and in external particulars agrees with the female except that the specimen sent has not lost so many of the vomerine teeth.

I have not opened this fish to examine the phloric appendages as I wished you to see it un mutilated but I did dissect the female and could only conclude that it was a true Salmo salar.

I have also sent two specimens of Salmo trutta in which the ova & milt are fully developed though they have never left the fresh water and are the progeny of parents which were hatched from English eggs and purposely detained in our fresh water ponds. These specimens were of course out of condition but may prove interesting as the parr markings are still plainly visible though the fish had twice assumed the migratory [illegible].

The 3rd specimens sent are fish locally known as "whip tails" which in some years come into the Derwent in considerable numbers - these I have sent for identification.

Several smolts have been captured lately on our salt water beaches with the sieve net some of them showing the parr markings when the scales are removed & others rapidly advancing towards the grilse stage.

I am still without any acknowledgment of the last case of fish sent for the museum but trust they reached safely.

I enclose rect. for the case now sent.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Dr. Günther
British Museum
London

Page 78

5 Jan 5

Dear Sir,

Mt Bischoff sections Mr Roope & self have expended in rent & survey fees up to this date£77.5.0
Paid Ulrich£40.10.10
Paid your acct11.4.0
£128.19.10

Mr Smith has expended in rent & survey fee £28.15.0
Stores & prospecting 43.2.3
£71.17.3

The total expenses are therefore £200.17.1 of which sum one third £66.19.0 is payable by you. By this post I have sent to Mr Smith £4.18.3 which with the sum of £66.19.0 payable by you will clear off the £71.17.3 owing to him.

Will you therefore let Mr Smith have the sum of £66.19.0 at your earliest convenience so that we may start clear for the coming season during which I hope something may be done to advance our joint interests.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Messr Cummings Henry & Co
River Don

Page 79

5th Jany 5

Dear Sir,

The lease is dated 1st August 1873 so that we have yet more than six months to turn in. I agree with you that we ought to run no risks of losing the Lease but I believe an extension of time could be readily obtained on the ground of the inaccessible nature of the Country & the difficulty of prospecting.

Mr Roope & I have expended in rent, survey fees & Cummings & Ulrich's account

£128.19.10

which with your acct

76.7.3

Makes

£200.17.1

one third of this sum viz £66.19.0 is payable by Cummings Henry & Co & I have written them to pay you that amount and now enclose cheque for £4.18.3 being the balance of the £71.17.3 owing to you.

I trust the good news relative to the smelting may stir you up some of the Sydney capitalists to have a shot at our sections.

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

Jas Smith Esq

Miss Buttons

St John Street L'ton

Page 80

11th Jany 5

Dear Sir,

In accordance with Mrs Fenton's wish the £20 has been this day remitted to W.R. Murray Smith.

Mrs Smith's amenity was forwarded two mails ago.

The draft advertisement was settled this morning & will appear tomorrow.

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

A. Riddock Esq

New Norfolk

Page 81

15th Jany 5

Page 83

18th Jany 5

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 18th Ulto enclosing account for calls in the [Niagdala] Coy came duly to hand & I shall be obliged by your deducting the amount £5.7.6 from your next remittance

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Wm Nixon Esq
Ballarat

Page 84

Hobart Town
25th Jany 1875

Dear Sir,

The rods last sent reached me in good order and I now enclose bank draft in your favor for the price and expenses viz.
£5.6.0

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Mr Charles Farlow
191 Strand
London

Page 86,85, 87-88

25th Jany 5

Dear Gould,

In accordance with the instructions in yours of 5th Novr. last I took advantage of a temporary spurt & sold your Bischoff at the highest figure yet realized viz £4.10. so the account stands

Sale of shares	£450.0.0
Stamps	£ -8.4
Commission	22.10.0
Paid Webster &	
Self print & inst.	133.8.3
	<hr/>

156.6.7
Balance £ 293.13.5

With which I have purchased bank draft in your favour [illegible] £292.1.2 on the London & Westminster Bank forwarded herewith.

The mineral exploration share would be sacrificed by selling just now so I have held them back. All north coast land is rising steadily in value so they will certainly be saleable before long.

You would change your note about blackfish & trout if you had tasted a five pounder I caught a few days ago on the falls at New Norfolk. Spinning deep pink flesh & most delicious. I hooked a bigger the same day but he got off without breaking the tackle.

By the Harriet McGregor which left a month ago I sent a lovely grilse to Dr. Gunther – it was caught in lower Sandy Bay. I have had 18 or 19 smolts this summer and heaven knows how many more have been destroyed. A party of Amateurs seining off “Howrah” below the second bluff at Kangaroo Point the night before last caught a beautiful female Salmonoid of this season 1¾ lbs ~~aufe~~ unmistakably the young of a true salmon and when the net was close in shore from 50 to 60 others of the same size went over the net some of them two feet out of the water. Now mark me I’ll show you something in salmon before many seasons are over that will astonish the Britishers. The parties who eat the one caught say it was delicious & after all that is a very satisfactory test - for thousands of such fish in our sea bays must be a boom to the community. Whether we call them Salmo solar, trutta or hybrids.

My good Father has at lengths permanently cut the office which though it very materially increases my income also throws more work on my shoulders and I scarcely have time to turn.

Scott assures me he has now sent you a good deal of information [illegible] Ramsay but I will add that the two associations – Yours Scotts & mine (being one) and the exploring lot Smith Hammond and a number of others (being the other) have amalgamated on what we think very fair terms and the explorers are now out to further prospect the sections on which the tin & Bismuth are known to exist. In this amalgamation I had no authority to decrease your [intt] and as you held a free share in cash of course two free shares stand to your name in the amalgamated spree. Some of the parties rather shyed at this because they say in the event of our dealing with foreign capitalists the large number of free shares would be a serious drawback. As it would already be to your advantage to get the thing worked off into a company soon it might be worth your consideration as to whether you would make any concession as to one of your free shares of course this is strictly between ourselves & I have not hinted to any of the shareholders a notion that you would make any such concession so it is entirely in your own choice. Should anything fresh turn up from the Prospectors I will send you early notice. Rich ruby tin is being very cheaply worked at Georges Bay & the small craft deliver it in Melbourne at £2.10/- a ton.

Something is going on very successfully in Launceston and you will soon have an opportunity of seeing some of our ~~£~~ 80 lb. ingots in London.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Charles Gould Esq
26 Charlotte St.
Bedford Square
London

Page 89

Hobart Town
25th Jany 1875

Dear Sir,

In my last letter enclosing list of objects sent for the museum at Brussels I omitted to enumerate the molluscs included in the case but a list accompanies the specimens a copy of which I now send.

I have just heard of the arrival of another parcel of books at Melbourne as advised by you and hope to receive them in a few days.

I am getting ready a number of Birds & insects for you

I remain

Yours sincerely

Morton Allport

Mons. A. de Borre
Brussel

Page 90

28th Jany 5

Dear Sir,

I have not seen Mr Roope but am quite prepared to join you in fulfilling the conditions of the leases and shall be glad to hear that a party is set on to the Sluicing at once.

It will be better for you to manage the whole matter & call upon me from time to time for our portions of the expenses.

From all we have seen there can be little doubt that sufficient ore could easily be raised to meet the expenses after the first start.

I see no prospect of getting away at present but should much like to see Bischoff when Ulrich is there so please keep me informed if he is to come.

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

James Smith Esq
Miss B[illegible]
Launceston

Page 91

6th Feby. 5

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the request made in yours of yesterday I now forward cheque for £40 on account of Roope's and my own shares in the sections, which please acknowledge.

Will you kindly bear in mind your promise to send me a few hand specimens of minerals with authentic localities.

I trust to hear of the prospectors lighting on paying ground before the season is over & remain.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

James Smith Esq
Miss Buttons
St. Johns St
Launceston

Page 92

9th Feby 5

Dear Waut,

Owing to the rush of visitors to the races rooms are scarce but I have at last secured them at the "Waterloo" in Murray Street overlooking the harbour. Several people who have been there recommend them strongly as very clean & comfortable & speak well of the Landlady Mrs Kearsley.

The prettiest sitting room is at present engaged & may be for a day or two after your friends arrive but will then be at their service. Good large Bath room.

I have agreed for one week certain after the steamer arrives at £6.6.0

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

R.C. Waut Esq
Sydney

Page 93

18th Feby 5

Dear Gellibrand,

The fund for the destruction of [Comorants] has always been raised by private subscription & is now some four or five pounds overdrawn but a fresh list has been

opened to which I trust some of the large settlers with good river frontage will liberally subscribe.

I should much like to have a Salmon farm on the upper Derwent and have repeatedly said so but the objection has always been raised that the Comitty [sic] members of the Commission (Langdon, Reed, Jamieson, & Butler) never attend the meetings & to ensure a quorum two more town members were required otherwise no new appointment would have been made.

I fear Wauliss won't come this summer & see small chance of getting away myself

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

W.A.B. Gekki-brand Esq
Cleveland
Ouse

Page 94

18th Feby 5

Dear Sir,

Since I received your letter for the 9th I have talked the matter over with Mr Roope and he quite agrees that it would be well to get the Leases amalgamated.

I have also seen Mr Moore who is prepared to favour any application we may make and I will at once draw the necessary memorial & send the Draft over for your perusal before copying and sending it in. I will endeavour to get the amalgamated Lease dated from the present time.

Yours faithfully,
Morton Allport

James Smith Esq
Miss Button's
St John St
Launceston

Page 95

4th Mar 5

Gentlemen,

I duly recd yours of 23rd ulto, & the enclosed Bill of Lading [sic] for 1 case Books which case arrived in due course. With thanks I remain

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Messr Wm Crosby & Co
14 Queen St
Melbourne

Page 96

4th Mar

Dear Sir,

The case of Books of which you advised me some time back only reached me by the last steamer. They were in excellent order and will be duly acknowledged by the outgoing mail. Trusting that Mr Beckx and your family are all well.

I remain with many thanks

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

G. Beckx Esq
Consul General
For Belgium
Melbourne

Page 97

10th Mar 5

Dear Sir,

I have been unable to see Mr Roope this morning but have so frequently talked with him on the subject that I have no hesitation in saying he would far rather the men should at once commence on the Antimony section. In this I quite concur both for myself & all others interested.

The memorial for getting the Leases amalgamated is drawn and if I can get Mr Roope's signature tomorrow I will send it up for yours tomorrow night. From what I gather in the Department I imagine there will be no objection to the amalgamation.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Jas Smith Esq
Miss Button's
St John St L'ton

Page 98-99

11th Mar 5

Dear Sir,

I have been unable to see Mr Roope today so cannot send the memorial till tomorrow.

Mr Giblin cannot get away in time for the Argyle but purposes starting about Monday week.

I am so pushed with work that I see no prospect of getting away at present & fear I must wait till the main line will do something towards shortening the time required for the journey.

Mr Hunt (who was at Bischoff some time ago & who did not like roughing it) says he satisfied himself that the tin ore along the break in the antimony section would never pay for working as the cost of carriage up to the mount would be enormous, but I imagine you understand the difficulties quite as well as, if not better than, Mr Hunt and I much doubt whether he was there long enough to see the capabilities of the place or to judge of the quantity or quality of the ore.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

James Smith Esq
Launceston

P.S. If you have any opportunity of saving me some hand specimens on you [land?] I should be greatly indebted to you.

M.A.

Page 100

12th Mar 5

Dear Sir,

I now send the Memorial to His Excellency as to the amalgamation which please sign in presence of a witness & return to me.

When the new Lease is granted I will draw a short [memo?] for the signatures of the Lessees, Roope, yourself & Harwood, stating on whose behalf & in what proportion they hold the Land.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Jas. Smith Esq
Miss Buttons
St John St L'ton

Page 101-102

March 12th 1875

Dear Sir,

Herewith I return Mr Bervay's letter enclosed to me in your's of the 8th inst. From your description of the Water reserve referred to I have no doubt that English perch are the fish best adapted for the locality as the want of a permanent stream and the high temperature of the water in Summer would be fatal to Trout.

The vessels for carrying the fry should be made of tin as galvanised iron invariably poisons them. The tins should be wide at the bottom & should hold at least 4 gallons. Many have been constructed on a useful pattern by a tinsmith in Murray Street.

If only a few fish (6 or 7) are placed in each tin the water will not require changing frequently the best method being to pour off a small quantity two or three times a day and to make up this deficiency by pouring a similar quantity in from a height.

The young perch can generally be procured at two days notice at the cost of a few shillings for carriage.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

The Hon. Wm. Hy Walsh Esq
Tasmanian Club
Hobart Town

Page 103-104

Hobart Town
Mar 22 1875

Dear Sir,

I had hoped to have seen you before your final departure & have shown you the beautiful young Salmon of which many have been caught below Hobart Town this summer but will send word when the inevitable 30 pounder arrives.

Thanks for the extract which I had seen & recognized. I post a Mercury to show that I had given Geelong a rub in the same direction as a return for the impudent assertion that the Commissioners were pretty well convinced that his (Rutherford's) views were correct.

All my people send greetings to Mrs Francis & yourself & trust to hear of your safe & speedy arrival in England.

I duly received the extracts re *Salmo quinnat* but do not think any steps would be taken here for its introduction even if strongly advocated.

I spun a noble six pound trout off the falls in December last & wish you could tasted him.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

H.R. Francis Esq
P & O Steamer Ceylon

Page 105

Hobart Town
22nd Mar 1875

Dear Mr Richards,

Herewith I send cheque for £28.14.6 College fees for Gordon to June.

I trust Mrs Fox & the son are doing well please congratulate Mr Fox for me.

With kind regards to Mrs Richards I remain

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Revd. G.B. Richards
Horton College
Page 106

Hobart Town
15th April 1875

Dear Curzon,

re Rutherford

Which he's a [hass?] – see the accompanying clipped from the Mercury & written by a party near this sheet of paper.

The common trout (*Salmo fario*) no matter which variety will always ~~will~~ always get coloured flesh if the food is suitable.

Where insects and crustaceans abound the flesh is a deep pink and sometimes even red as in our Clyde fish.

Of course all have been derived from the Plenty stock but not one single fish taken from the ponds has ever shown pink flesh while their descendants from the Clyde, Jordan & Lower Derwent are of all shades from pinks to deep red.

Everything else being equal the cooler the water the better the trout which may account for the poorer quality of Victorian fish but unless you want the whole of the Colony down on you you had better not hint that Victoria can't grow them larger & better than any other country.

If you could feed your fish for 3 months on shrimps or young lobsters the flesh will inevitably be pink.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Curzon Allport Esq
Chancey Lane
Melbourne

Page 108

Hobart Town
16th April 75

Sir,

I enclose a small order for Mr Belstead and shall be obliged by your sending me the following articles.

1. Walking stick fly rod with winch & line (silk & hair).
 1. 4 joint Greenhead trolling rod with spare top.
 1. dozen fine gut lines 3 yards – coffee colored.
 1. dozen stout gut bottoms on swivel for spinning.
 2. dozen assorted minnows – various sizes.
 1. spinning case.
 1. dozen coachman flies &c. & 10 hooks.
 1. dozen red hackles with gold twist on the bodies – small hooks →.
 1. dozen very small grey flies – the smallest hooks.
-

Mr Seal has also sent an order by this mail & wishes his goods to be sent in the same case with Belstead's & mine the whole to come to my address by Wheatley's express overland.

I you will enclose Mr Belstead's acct. to me with my own I will collect & remit the amount

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Mr Charles Farlow
191 Strand
London

Page 110

26th Apl. 5

Dear Sir,

The Acclimatisation Society here has had nothing to do with the introduction or distribution of fish and your application therefore should be made to the Chairman of the Tasmania Salmon Commissioners Sir Robert Officer – New Norfolk

In the meantime I will mention to the secretary to the Commissioner your desire to obtain ova from the next spawning.

Yours Faithfully
Morton Allport

Charles H. Swift Esq
Secr. of the Geelong
& Western District
Fish Acclimatisation Socy.

Page 111

Hobart Town
27th April 1875

Dear Swan,

Many thanks for your note and the nest & egg which arrived in excellent order and which I at once transferred to the Roy. Soc. Museum in your name. I have certainly never seen the [Calamoberpe] in Tasmania & gladly welcome it.

Of course you will have no objection to my reading an extract from your letter at our next meeting as an explanation of the presentation.

I have just received a beautiful specimen (shot at Sorell) of the Nankeen Kestrel (*Tinnunculus cenchroides*) which adds another beauty to the Tas. airfauna

Pray let us have any further notes that may be of interest in air birds & believe me

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

E. Swan Esq
St Leonards
Launceston

Page 112

4th May 5

My dear Sir,

I wish to get the enclosed letter delivered to my brother without delay and shall be obliged if you will find me a messenger to take it & send a memorandum of your charge.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Mr. Wm Barwick
Midland Hotel
Oatlands

4th May 5

Dear Evett,

Curzon has sent a Telegram asking you to go over as quickly as possible. So put up your traps and come to Town without a moments delay.

Yours affectionately
Morton Allport

F.E. Allport Esq
[Lemont]
Eastern Marshes

Page 113

6th May 5

Dear William,

In an evil hour I was induced to buy two pieces of Crown Land on the Forth (Parish of Bradworthy) containing respectively 100^a & 63^a as they stand on the Govt. charts in the names M. Allport & F.E. Allport and as I am tired of waiting for anything to turn up which might improve their value I wish to get rid of them. Do you think you could find me a purchaser at from £1.6.0 an acre? Perhaps Smith might know some one in the neighbourhood who wishes to acquire a moderate sized holding?

I have heard nothing of Roope's sections at Bischoff lately but scarcely think they can prove worthless.

When are you coming across surely it is nearly time you took a run this way?

With love to Mrs William & the young people

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Wm Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 114

12th May 5

Dear Mrs Fenton,

It was through an unfortunate oversight that the money was not remitted to Dr Figg and I regret that any inconvenience was the result. The money has now been sent. With kind regards to all at Fenton Forest

I remain

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Mrs Fenton

Fenton Forest

G[illegible]

Page 115-119

14th May 5

Dear Gould,

By the accompanying account you will see that I have expended in respect of the 3 sections at Mount Bischoff the sum of £226.15.10 as the proportion payable by Roope & self for our half interest . You were in the first instance liable for 1/6th of the above debt as you sold 2/24th one to Dobson and one to Clarke. Your debt is reduced to one twelfth vizt. £18.18.0 Dobson & Clarke being each liable for £9.9.0. From Clarke I have recd. £9.9.0 but Dobson objected that the two first items were incurred before his purchase and that 30/ of his £9.9.0 must be debited to you which makes your little bill £18.18.0 & £1.10.0 = £20.8.0.

I should not have bothered you with all the above if I saw any [immediate?] prospect of recovering preliminary expenses from any purchaser or purchaser of the section but I do not though I firmly believe in their great value and that it would be very unwise to force them into the market at present.

Your Father omitted to send any account with his last shipment of books and I do not know in how much I am indebted to him but it would save exchange if you would ascertain the amount & pay it for me out of £20.8.0 [illegible] as above leaving the balance till we settle up finally.

The Bismuth will rival Mt. Bischoff in results as the lode is practically inexhaustible. They have now leased it for more than five chains in length and of unknown width but always richer as they sink deeper. I paid by this mail a pretty hand specimen of the ore but which is not nearly so rich as some I have sean [sic] but could not obtain. Smith (who is cautious) puts an enormous value on the section and has some notion of disposing of it in England to correspondents of Col. Crawford who have made overtures on the subject. You may be of use to us if any reference is made to you on the subject. Ritchie or Smith will probably write you by this or next mail.

Stream tin is turning up on both sides of the Land taken by the Mineral Exploration Company and a few days ago a sample was brought from Mt. Horror of the same quality as that from Flinders but in nuggets weighing from one to six ounces. It is found right up a rivulet running into the Ringarooma & in one small area [100?] yards by 30 yards the stuff is so rich as to yield from the surface to about 2 feet at the

rate of [6 lbs] to the dish. A few of us have four men cradling this stuff out and expect at least £10,000 worth of ore from the patch.

Of course these patches are few and far between and like Queensland numbers of claims taken up will prove mere traps but here & there great finds of ore are being made. In some of the Granite from Mt. Horror the ruby tin is disseminated in string so thickly that it will probably pay to crush and we have taken up several sections where the granite exhibits these strings on the chance.

The very same rock and stream tin occur on Mt. Cameron & rich specimens (sev^l. ciots) have been sent in for smelting from there.

Will you tell your good Father that the Nankeen Kestrel (*Tinnunculus cenchroides*) and the reed warbler (*Calamoherpe Australis*) have turned up in Tasmania as I have notified in proc. R.S. Tas. Why don't you send us a few notes however slight to show you retain some interest in Tas. or in some of its inhabitants.

Of domestic news there is little as I have to work night & day lately & attend letters to current scandals. All my people are well & desire to send kind remembrances. Agnew, Webster, Huybers, Robert & all the usual club lot are flourishing. The Club goes steadily ahead there are now 125 members & we are out of our difficulties with a balance at the Bank & an ever increasing business. We seriously contemplate building soon and shall then coin money.

I am looking anxiously for your next letter & remain

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Charles Gould Esq
25 Charlotte St.
Bedford Square
Lond

Page 120

M. Allport p^d in respect of half interest in Bischoff sections.

Octr. 1872. Survey fees	£17.10.0
Jany 1873. Rent of North sec	20.0.0
July 1873. Survey fee & rent of [autuciary?] sec	28.15.0
April 1874. Rent of South sec	20.0.0
Jany 1875 Rent of North sectn.	20.0.0
“ “ Ubrich for report	40.10.10
Feby 1875 Call for prospecting	40.0.0
April “ &o	<u>40.0.0</u>
	<u>£226.15.10</u>

C. Gould's 1/12th of £226.15.0 = £18.18.0

Page 121

14th May 5

Dear William,

Many thanks for the hints about the Forth Land.

I have written fully to Gould by this mail & sent him a sample of the Bismoth ore but think Crawford should put his friends in communication with Gould if possible by an early date.

C. Goulds address is

Care of J. Gould Esq

26 Charlotte St

Bedford Square

London

Crawford's correspondents might thus learn all about the position of Mr. Ramsay & the nature of the Country, its mineralogical character &c. but all the details as to terms of sale of the sections should be settled here.

Yours in great haste

Morton Allport

Wm. Ritchie Esq

Launceston

Page 122-123

Lebrena

17th May 5

Dear Mrs Meredith,

At length by [dint?] of much importunity [sic] I have obtained £5.0.0 from the "[Cormorant?] fund" to be expended at the rate six pence per head for the Black shags only – the smaller species being very harmless in comparison.

Will you kindly hand the enclosed cheque to Mr Meredith and ask him to keep a [memo?] of the heads for which he pays the [illegible] as we wish to get reliable statistics of the numbers killed.

I should have written sooner but found on enquiry that the fund had dwindled so set to work to raise it first.

We have spent more than £50 on these pests & of course a very few really find the money as in all public Tas. matters involving good to community at large.

Please remember that every bird shot in spring is worth 4 shot at any other time as it means destruction to a nest.

Talking of birds the most beautiful songster in Australia the Reed warbler (Calamoherpe Australis) has been found this season in Tasmania. Its note comes

nearer the nightingales than any other bird I know. I do trust its very insignificant appearance will save it from the fate meted out by larrikins to our other small birds.

With kind regards to Mr Meredith.

I remain
Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Mrs. C. Meredith
Malunnah
Orford

Page 124

2nd June 5

Dear William,

I have seen all the parties interested in the sections on this side who have determined to let them go at the [price] & on the terms named by you [ie.] £16,000 – one fourth cash & balance by Bills.

We all feel that Smith & yourself are much better able to judge of the value of the sections than we are.

The price cannot be regarded as excessive for three sections if it is true that one 80 acre section has been sold for over £30,000.

Hoping the arrangements may be successfully carried out

I remain
Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Wm. Ritchie Esq
Launceston
P.S. I return Sargeant's letter
M.A.

Page 125

3rd June 5

Dear Sir,

I duly rect. our letter of the 28th ulto, and avail myself of the first post for reply.

On receipt of your previous letters I wrote to my Brother and in reply had his assurance that the overdraft was in course of payment and that I should hear no more about it.

I am surprised to learn that the account has not been reduced and will write you further in the course of a few days.

I may however point out to you that you have made a mistake in charging me with the whole of the overdraft if you will refer to the Bank you will find my liability is limited to £400.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

The Manager of the Eng. Sect. & Aust. Chartered Bank
Melbourne

Page 126 [Copy of letter on page 125]

Page 127

10th June 5

Dear Sir,

By this Post I forward a report embodying the account of the Salmon experiment.

Some of the Trout ova were obtained from Alton on the Wey a tributary of the Thames running through Hampshire and others from High Wycombe on the Wyk another tributary of the Thames in Bucks.

The Wyk fish are celebrated for their Salmon-like qualities but this may depend in great measure on the food.

As these fish are mere varieties of one species they will of course breed readily together and the distinctive peculiarities will therefore (except in very favourable localities) be soon lost.

Much is yet to be learnt on the natural history of the Genus Salmo & the experiment here will open the eyes of the [Savans?] some day.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

T.J. Irvine Esq
Launceston

Lebrena
Hobart Town
12th June 1875

My dear Lady Du Cane,

The dresses are lovely and arrived in beautiful order, please accept our best thanks for all the trouble you have taken over them.

Since you left my good Father has retired from the office which has necessarily much increased my work leaving me little time to follow up my own particular hobbies but I did get one good day fishing & landed one of the great silvery trout from the falls around New Norfolk a most delicious fish.

You will I am sure be glad to learn that nearly every branch of business in the Colony is at length looking up I think a marked improvement is consequently to be found in the value of property.

Much of this is no doubt due to the rich mineral deposits now being discovered on our north coast and the value of which will be enormous.

The Club flourishes and we are seriously thinking of building as with the Insurance Company so that altogether Macquarie Street is improving.

News reached here 3 days ago of the death of Capt. Clinch (of the Sydney Steamer) very suddenly as the vessel was leaving for this Port on what was to have been his last trip.

There has been more illness throughout Tasmania since you left than for many years past and many old residents have died.

We have not yet seen Mrs Weld who only arrived, plus ten children, a few days ago, those who have met her describe her as resembling Mrs Gore Browne. It is rumoured that dancing parties will be few & far between a matter which does not trouble me much but about which the juniors growl & draw odious comparisons.

Since you left two new birds have turned up in Tasmania one a lovely representation of the English Kestrel the other the most beautiful songster in Australia the Reed warbler (*Calamoherpe Australis*) whose note resembles the nightingales this latter is a great acquisition as it is an insect ~~feeder~~ destroyer and so utterly insignificant in appearance as to afford no inducement to the genus Larrikin to molest it.

If I can be of any use to you in these wilds pray do not hesitate to say so and with kind remembrances to Sir Charles in which all my people join

Believe me
Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

The Hon. Lady Du Cane
Braxted Lodge
Essex

Page 131-132

Lebrena
Hobart Town
12th June 1874

Mr dear Knight,

Are you & Mr Henslowe really serious in declining to accept interest on the trust money which (whether we accept interest or not) must remain in the Bank till the amount is sufficient to buy another ~~dep~~ debenture?

How can there be any breach of trust in taking a receipt from the Bank for the money remaining in their hands instead of leaving it there without such receipt?

The money [can?] at the sacrifice of the interest be withdrawn at any time & if you wish it I can at once stop the interest accumulating but you must excuse me if I entirely disagree with you as to our duty as Trustees in such cases.

Please thank Mrs Knight for her last letter and say I will write shortly as I have so much to do by this mail.

My Father has permanently left the Office & thus much more work has fallen into my hands.

Cecil is working on steadily but whether he will continue for the Scholarship is not yet certain. I should greatly like him to have a run to England whether or not.

Did I tell you that I had been elected as Member of the Council of Education? Why I scarcely know unless to find some unworthy representative of Natural Science.

Does the Roy. [Col.?] Inst. elect members at a distance? as I should like to join if I could get copies of the published proceedings.

Do you ever see our Roy Soc. proceedings or do you care to do so as if so I could easily post them for you?

Please remember me kindly to all your people & believe me

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Wm. Knight Esq
4 Berkeley Gardens
Kensington W.
London

Page 133

Lebrena
Hobart Town
12th June 1875

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for the interesting & beautifully illustrated pamphlet on the Tasmanian Aborigines which duly reached me last mail.

The Copy for our Royal Soc. was delivered at once & will no doubt be suitably acknowledged.

I also received a pamphlet (addressed to me by you) on the Family of [Synanceoides?] by P. Blecker but am uncertain whether it was not put up by mistake

for a triplicate copy of the other as I wished to obtain one on the Aborigines for our Public Library.

The very last Tasmanian Woman "Truganini" is yet alive but very decrepid. Her recollection of her old Language is still wonderful and far surpasses what we should expect in a civilized being that had been separated from his early companions from the age of 17 to 60.

I remain

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Dr J. Barnard Davis
Shelton Hanley
Staffordshire
England

P.S.

Acting upon Mrs Knight's instructions I have drawn nothing from the April dividends but shall be glad to hear whether any alteration is to be made in the October remittance.

Yours
M.A.

Page 135 **[Letter starts midsentence]**

limited means at present at our disposal we are making a very satisfactory profit.

Since you left the Council of Education have elected me a member, an honor which I felt very doubtful about accepting from an appreciation of my own unfitness but Irving urged me against my [illegible] [illegible] whether to good purpose or not remains to be seen.

Our Royal Society flourishes and I think you will be pleased with this years volume of transactions as some of the papers notably those by J.E.T. Woods are very good.

Dr Bright has commenced building a large house in Macquarie St. just above Harrington St. next door to a Tombstone manufacturers which is what the Americans would call [illegible] "appropriate" as in the event of a patient being past his skill he (the patient) can be referred next door.

The old shabby corner next to the Savings Bank & opposite to Stone Building is being filled up with a set of handsome offices for the [Derwent] & [Tames]

Page 136

15th June 5

Dear Mr Richards,

From Gordon's letter just received I gather that his illness was something very like a mild form of Scarlet fever & as the danger of contagion is much stronger when the skin is peeling off I venture to ask you to let him have a warm bath to be followed by a rub all over with Salad oil before starting for home as the medical men assure me it is the best preventive.

I was rejoiced to see the College heading the list for the exhibitions and think you ought to have the pull of the honors for some time.

With kind regards to Mrs Richards

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

Revd. G. D. Richards
Horton College

Page 137

22nd June 5

Dear Sir,

In reply to yours of the 16th inst, I beg to say I am willing to continue my guarantee as before to the extent of £400

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

G. Walker Esq
Actg Manr.
[Eny]. Scot & Aust. Charterer
Melbourne

Page 138-139

24th June 5

Dear Sir,

I now enclose a cheque for £40 amount of past call in respect of the Bischoff sections which I should have sent earlier but that I had some difficulty in persuading Mr Roope to authorize any further expenditure. Would it not be possible to deal with some of the Victorian or Sydney now if we are satisfied with a moderate paid up interest?

Many thanks for the mineral specimens which reached me in excellent order. The sample from the Antimony section scarcely bears out old [Hunt's] statement that nothing but a small quantity of fine tin would be found there.

One of the Survey officials told me yesterday that the rent on one or two of the sections was in arrear ought not this to be seen to.

The Governor in Council has approved of the application for amalgamating the north Antimony section and I shall be obliged by your sending me the Lease of the Latter.

On [illegible] I may at once [illegible] the surrender of the old Leases & the new Lease to yourself, Roope & Hammond.

Of course I shall make no charge for my own worth but the few shillings for engrossing the deeds should be paid by the shareholders.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Jas Smith Esq
M[iss] Button's
Launceston

Page 140

29th June 5

Dear Sir,

I have been unable to see Mr Roope all day but have no doubt he will concur in either of the arrangements suggested by you that is £6000 for the whole or £4000 cash & a tenth in shares fully paid up.

I will write fully tomorrow after seeing Mr Roope & will then return Le[illegible] note.

I am myself rather in favour of the £6000 & selling right out.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Jas Smith Esq
[Miss Button's]
Launceston

Page 141

29th June 5

Dear William,

Thanks for your note the Lease.

I worded the [memo] craftily & trust to get the approval of the [Lob Govt.] to a new Lease for 21 yrs.

I have not yet seen Roope but for my own part would willingly sell right and for £6000 or take the £4000 & one tenth in paid up shares.

I will see all partners & write Smith tomorrow

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Wm Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 142

29th June 5

Dear Sir,

I enclose my Father's cheque for £5.5.0 in payt. of your account forwarded in yours of 22nd inst. My father hopes to hear of some offer for the land before long and trusts that you will at all events see that no further [illegible] are made upon the timber unless under your sanction.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

A.B. Willis Esq
Wynyard
Table Cape

Page 143

30th June 5

Dear Sir,

I have now seen Mr Roope and others interested in the section on this side who desire me to express their [conviction] that we should at once sell at £6000 or at £4000 reserving one tenth in paid up shares. If we have the choice we should prefer selling right out at the £6000.

I now return the letter from Sargeants.

As the parties at Ballarat may wish to have all three sections would it not be well to pay the rent on the southern block? I will pay it if you telegraph me to do so.

Please let W. Ritchie know that we have come to this decision.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Jas Smith Esq
Miss Button's
St. John St
Launceston

Page 144

6th July 5

Dear Sir,

The late Mr Henslowe's trust.

Herewith I enclose cheque in your favour to be expended in the purchase of a Bill on London for £25 payable to my order and shall be obliged by your forwarding me such Bill by return of Post. Will you also send me a memo of the amount remaining in your hand after deducting the cost of the Bill.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

The Manager
Union Bank, Melbourne

Page 145

Hob. Town
6th July 1875

Dear William,

Roope seems quite determined to spend nothing more on the Bischoff sections (or rather not to authorize me to spend more on his behalf). And after some talk with him today he wound up by offering to sell his interest which is one with [1/6th] of the whole for £500 and to take a good Bill at 6 months for the amount.

Though not in a position to accept this offer myself it struck me that you might know some one who would like the chance but if you do it [much be taken at once as Roope stipulated that the offer should only be open pending the receipt of a relpy from Sargent as if Sargent accepts the offer made to him Roope's share will be double the amount he can ask.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Wm. Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 146

10th July 5

My dear Henslowe,

I was grieved to hear by the last mail of the loss you had sustained and now write, as suggested by Knight, to point out that your proper course will be to take out Letters of Administration in Melbourne to the Estate of your late Wife. To do this it will be necessary to appoint an attorney there and to furnish such attorney with proof of her death intestate.

The settled fund now consists of £19,00 in Victorian Government six per cent debentures. £121.12.6 on fixed deposit at £5 per cent in the Union Bank Melbourne due 12th Novr. Next and a small balance standing to the credit of the current account.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

C.W.E. Henslowe Esq
Sec. Department
Of Public Work
Allahabad
U.W. Bovines
India

Page 147

10th July 5

Dear Mr Knight,

It was with great grief I read the account of the loss of your little granddaughter who must have endeared herself to all of you.

In accordance with your wish I have written to Melbourne for a Bill on London for Twenty five pounds £ but which will not be in time for this mail so will be forwarded next.

I have written fully to Cecil Henslowe and shall be obliged by your letting William know that I have done so.

I delivered your letter to Mr Sharland and with kind regards to all your family

I remain Yours sincerely

Morton Allport

Mr Knight

4 Berkeley Gardens

London

Page 148

12th July 5

Dear Sir,

Bischoff Leases

Herewith I send the Surrenders and one part of the Lease for your execution. Please sign them in the presence of a witness in accordance with the printed instructions pinned to each card and return them to me.

You will see that the new Lease is for 21 years from 1st August next which will give us a fresh start. The draft has been approved by the Solicitors General so that the Commissioner can hardly refuse to sign it. Roope still demurs to incurring further cost but I will write you fully in a few days.

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

Jas. Smith Esq

Miss Buttons

Launceston

Page 149

15th July 5

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 9th instant covering Bank draft for £25

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

The Manager
Union Bank of Australia
Melbourne

15th July 5

Dear Curzon,

Trust accounts

Please let me have these without delay as I am winding up my building accounts & am scraping as much together as possible

I send mercury with some Salmon notes with love to all

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

C. Allport Esq
Melbourne

Page 150

20th July 5

Dear Mr Meredith,

I should have written to you before but have been trying in vain to trace a missing book I wanted to send you "Fieldings painting in oils & watercolours" I am not without hope it may yet turn up & if so you shall at once have it.

The beautiful dragon allied to the Sea horse is Phyllopteryx foliatus.
(Phyllopteryx foliatus).

The fish allied to the Ostracion is Aracana aurita.

I have not yet seen the tables but trust they are in good order & have not been treated as the drawings were.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Mr Meredith
Orford

Page 151-152

29th July 5

Dear William,

Roope is only now interested in one [sixth] of the Bischoff sections and negociations [sic] are now pending as to the same [sixth?] failing such negociations [sic] I think the sixth may be got for £500. The holders of the remaining two sixths would all concur in any arrangement you recommend.

I hope to draw a very short declaration of trust by the new lessees tonight setting forth the interests of the various parties for whom they hold and will leave blanks for you to fill up as to the Northern holders as there may have been some changes and I shall be obliged if you will peruse & return the ~~Dee~~ Declaration as soon after I send it as possible.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Wm. Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 153

(Private)

30th July 5

Dear William,

Bischoff sections

Please peruse & return the accompanying draft declor [sic] after filling in the names of the Northern Shareholders.

All Roope's interest was transferred to Roberts about twelve months ago which will account for the change in the names of the Southern holders.

I suppose I had better have the declor [sic] engrossed in dup. & send you one part for the Northern shareholders.

Let me have the draft back as soon as possible as I wish to complete the whole thing & will send a cheque to Smith for the sum due on this side.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Wm. Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 154

Private

3rd Augt. 5

Dear William,

Hitherto I have had to pay the greater part of all the money spent on the shares of the Bischoff sections held in the south and was getting rather tired of the operation. Now I am happy to say there is a good prospect of a new hand at the bellows who will be quite ready to meet our views & carry on the prospecting vigorously.

Personally I shall be very glad to join in any rules you propose & with you would sketch them out & send them for the consideration of those on this side.

What sum will be sufficient to carry on the prospecting for say one year?

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Wm. Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 155

4th Augt. 5

My dear Colonel Crawford,

I have placed your request for ova in the proper quarter and have no doubt a special supply will be sent with the northern lot. I have also directed our secretary to furnish you with a copy of the printed direction as to treatment. With an even gentle stream of water, about an inch & a half deep over the gravel, the main thing [illegible] want is leaving alone.

When hatched put plenty of flat stones for the fry to hide under and turn them out when six weeks old.

Bucklands book on fish hatching is the best.

Don't listen to any bosh about Bull trout. People cannot understand that in streams abounding with food & with no enemies the fish will at first grow far larger & quicker than when the waters are stocked.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Col. Crawford
Leith
River Forth

Hobart Town

6th August 1875

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your letter of the 2nd May last which, as you will see by the paper sent by this post, leaves me in greater doubt than ever whether the immature migratory salmonidoe can be distinguished from one another with certainty in all instances. As a matter of fact the salmonoids caught in the Derwent very greatly in some of the characters which I had supposed were most constant and I firmly believe that time will show that the great majority of them are true salmon.

I have now carefully examined some 50 specimens and have preserved in our museum here examples showing the variations to which I refer.

I am greatly disappointed that my last lot of Tasmanian fish should have turned out so badly as I took extra pains in the packing them & had many brought from a great distance. I have another lot nearly ready including a few which I think will prove interesting.

I have been trying to stir up the fishermen here on the subject of the anchovies but without much success as they make money too easily at present to risk new ventures however promising.

Could the Whip-tails [(Macrourus?)] be the same species as the New Zealand ones? We never find ours exceeding one foot in length.

Some curious information will be thrown on the subject of the migratory salmon kept back in fresh water by the experiment here as we find that although the Parent fish made the rids and deposited ova from which a large percentage of fry were reared that the fry having arrived of maturity produce a much greater percentage of barren eggs ~~that~~ than the original fish – and that is not due to any want of either sex as both males & females are abundant & apparently healthy except at the breeding time when many become much diseased and the females are worse then the males.

We have tried changes of food several times but without benefit and it is clear to me that a generation or two will see them all out unless permitted to visit salt water. All our surplus stock of the fry bred in fresh water amounting to some 1100 fish have been turned into a most beautiful River (The Huon) admirable suited to the fish but no return has yet been proved though the first were turned out more ~~that~~ than 5 years ago.

As illustrating the difficulty of determining the species of the genus *Salmo* I notice that both Krefft & Hutton have labelled specimens of the large River trout (*S. fario*) from brackish water as *S. trutta*. Krefft's specimen I know was a female and I strongly suspect Hutton's was the same as the mistake could scarcely arise with the male fish which is very unlike *S. trutta*.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Dr [A?] Günther

Page 159

Lebrena

6th August 1875

Dear Mrs Knight,

I now forward Bank draft for £25 as promised in my last. I have increased the amount £5 more than you asked as if more than you require for any repayments you can easily account to Cecil for the difference.

I shall probably hear from Cecil by the incoming mail though not in reply to my letter.

Please remember me kindly to William to whom I will write fully when I have learnt Henslowe's wishes.

I remain
Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Mrs Knight
4 Berkeley Gardens
Campden Hill
London. W.

Page 160-161

Lebrena

6th August 1875

Dear Gould,

We were all very sorry to hear of your illness and think you had better try another run out for change of air. I am glad I held on to the Min. explor. shares as tin is being found in quantities close to ~~it's~~ the Land taken up and the value is therefore sure to increase. On Mount Horror we have hit on something very like a second Bischoff [illegible] of [Euritic?] [illegible] giving from 20 to 40 percent of tin.

The Bismith [still?] looks well. Do you [wish?] to sell any part of your inlt. and at what figure? Buyers are knocking about but no one here will part with a share.

When writing again let me know if the present low price of tin is likely to continue or to what the fall is attributed as I feel rather inclined to get out of some of my ventures. I have just received another part of the Birds of Asia from your Father but no line from him.

Our Parliament has just commenced its session & Gellibrand (Bill) is making a fearful ass of himself as usual.

You see Dr Günther comes down as to one species of migratory salmon and I am equally certain that during the last two years I have had brought to me 25 specimens at least of true salmon. We shall see. A whopper must be caught before long as some of the bays were alive with the young fish last year. I should be very

glad to be convinced that the grilse sent was a salmon trout as I should be certain of the success of both but I cannot believe this yet. See the accompanying Mercury.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

C. Gould Esq
[26] Charlotte St.

Page 162

7th Augt. 5

Dear William,

The shares which stand in the Draft Declaration of Trust in the name of John Roberts have been purchased by Mr Samuel Smith Travers and we shall now be prepared to go on with any prospecting you & Smith advise but I should like to get some estimate of the maximum sum to be called up for one year.

Of course if anything can be got off the ground it may go to swell that maximum.

I must say I was very loth to part with my interest without giving the ground a trial and am very glad the present arrangement has been carried out.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Wm. Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 163

Dear William,

Bischoff sections

Herewith Declon of trust in dup. please get same signed by Smith, retain one part and return the other.

The account sent by you shows that the Southern holders are indebted to Smith for £59.13.9.

On this side I have paid.

Ingrossing surrender of Leases. Lease in dup. &

Declon of Trust in dup £1.12.8

[Iobs.?] General's charge 2.2.0

Stamps 1.5.0

£4.19.8

Of this one half has to be paid in the north viz £2.9.10 deducting which from the total £59.13.9 leases £57.3.11 for which I enclose cheque payable to Tas Smith

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Wm. Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 164

18th Augt. 5

Dear William,

I will collect the £1 for each 96th from the Southern holders pay the rent & remit the balance but should like you to get some estimate of probable calls from Smith – to lay before the Shareholders here.

Roope tells me he has received [illegible] that the Southern section will be forfeited if the rent is not at once paid. Does Smith still adhere to his determination to abandon this section?

What do you think of the Report re Main' Line?

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Wm Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 165-166

26th Aug 5

Dear Irving,

The time within which Leases could have been obtained under the applications put in by Manton & Co ran out long ago. And all then spent goes for nothing. I have made enquiries & find the Sections at Killiecrankie (what a jolly name for a Company the Killy Cranky) & Settlement Point are still open for Leasing as no one will look at them in the face of the recent rich discoveries all along our North Coast. To secure Leases the Survey fee £8.15.0 and one year's rent £20 must be paid in advance on each 80^a section. My strong advice is pay nothing of the sort as far better sections can be got on the main Land.

There was no chance of my getting away to the Exhibition as my Father has quite cut the office.

Castray will do the cocked-hat business to his own entire satisfaction & will probably make an exhibition of himself.

I was astonished to hear of Edward's having started, Cis is hard at it still but whether he will go for a scholarship is yet doubtful.

I am grieved you are not coming but trust soon to see an alteration in the period of the year for holding our exam. which will fit your convenience.

Mrs Allport desires to be remembered to Mrs Irving yourself & the young people many of whom judging by my lot must be grown up.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

M. H. Irving Esq
Hatherton House
Melbourne

Page 167

1st Sepr. 5

Dear Sir,

Under a separate cover I send the Salmon Commissioner's report for 1873 which gives a detailed history to that date, of the experiment. Also a Mercury Newspaper which may be looked upon as containing an appendix [to the report?]

The whole question has been dealt with in Fuller detail by our Tas. Royal Soc. proceedings but unfortunately a complete copy cannot now be obtained.

I shall be glad to hear that the papers now sent will answer your purpose.

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

G. Teale Esq

Allandale

Malvern Road

Prahran Victoria

Page 168

2nd Sepr 5

Dear Mr Travers,

Bischoff Sections

As the rent has to be paid and prospecting resumed will you please send cheque for £16 (being £1 on each 96th).

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

S.S. Travers Esq

Boa Vista

Page 169

1st Sepr. 5

Dear Sir,

I lost no time in putting in the application for ova for your brother but whether there will be as many as 2000 at our disposal after dealing with the previous application I do not know.

I have further requested our Secry. (J.W. Clark) to write to your brother at once on the subject.

Wishing you a very successful hatching I remain

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

W. E. Shoobridge Esq

Valleyfield

New Norfolk

Page 170

4th Septr. 5

Dear Sir,

I much regret to find I had overlooked the extra amount payable for the microscope & now send P.O. order for the amount £1.5.0

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Messrs. R. & J. Beck
31 Cornhill London E.C.

Page 171-172

4th Septr. 5

Dear Gould,

I have posted a Tribune newspaper to your address containing a notice by the Eminent Wintle of his discovery of the eggs of the Porcupine (Echidna Setosa). I did not see the specimens which had been dissected out so am not one of the Physiologists & Naturalists who were thereby convinced that "this" animal like the "Ornithorhynchus is oviparous"

But Wintle in an evil hour presented the skin to the Roy. Soc. Museum & on examining it I was delighted to find well developed spurs half an inch long on the hind legs from which I gather that being a Male Mr Wintle's eggs were probably the testicles which in this creature (as in birds) are internal !!!

As Wintle has sent the so called eggs to Professor Owen I wish to guard against your supposing that some of us had not more sense than to believe in them.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

C. Gould Esq
26 Charlotte St.
Bedford Square
London

Page 173

1[0]th Septr. 5

Dear Sir,

I usually decline to notice what any unknown mischief maker may be pleased to write but having always given you credit for a desire to advance scientific knowledge I am glad of the opportunity of contradicting the ridiculous statement that the Royal Society was about to interfere with any communication you chose to make to Professor Owen or any other man.

Had you referred when I saw you to the notion that the Echidna was oviferous I should have urged you to examine your specimen more closely being myself convinced that the Creature, like the Ornithorhynchus, is viviparous because a large mammary gland is during the Spring months developed in the female which gland yields an abundance of milk to two pouches in each of which an embryo Echidna has been found in an early stage of development.

It is quite true that I have not seen the “organs” referred to by you but I have examined the skin of the animal from which you stated you extracted them and find that the hind legs are armed with the horny spur peculiar to the male from which I inferred (and you will probably admit with some show of reason) that the “organs” were not a double uterus or eggs.

Further I know that the testicles of the Echidna like those of the Platypus & of birds are internal & this you clearly did not or you would have taken the hint kindly given you by Mr Roblin.

Had it not been for an ill advised letter in the Tribune speaking of your specimens as ova and blowing a loud trumpet over the supposed discovery not one syllable of the matter would have come before the public as I should have waited like I saw you but being assailed with questions about it of course the facts became known. In conclusion I beg to assure you that I would always rather give you information to prevent you making an unintentional erroneous statement than stand by & see you make it and that I should expect the same forbearance from any other scientific investigator

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

S.H. Wintle Esq
Georges Bay

Page 175

21st Sepr. 5

Dear Sir,

Herewith I send a cutting from the Tribune containing what I erroneously called a letter but which you will perceive speaks very positively as to the nature of the discovery and its importance.

I still wish I had seen your specimen and regret I missed you as I might possibly have cleared up the difficulty as the 4 testes. If they were very different in size the two smaller were probably part of the carunculated organs attached to the testicles & in which the seminal fluid is first deposited. Of course this is a mere guess & must not be taken for granted without careful dissection.

In answering your first letter I scarcely thought it necessary to what your correspondent said of myself but on reflection I wish you clearly to understand that I am too well aware of my own defects of knowledge ever to accuse a man of “deplorable ignorance”

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

S.H. Wintle Esq
Georges Bay

Page 177

4th Octr. 5

My dear Miss Gould,

I was much grieved at the contents of your note of the 20th July and am very anxious to learn that my great friend Charles is better. His going away left a blank here not-easily filled up and I have always tried to persuade myself he would yet see us again.

I may assure your Father that I will incur no liabilities on Charle's behalf beyond the trifle necessary to prevent the sacrifice of valuable interests and that I will lose no opportunity of realizing on them in accordance with Charles' own instructions.

Trusting to receive better accounts by next mail & with kind regards to your Father

I remain
Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Miss S. Gould
26 Charlotte St.
Bedford Square
London

Page 178

Hobart Town
10th Sepr. 1875

Dear Sir,

Since the receipt of your esteemed letter of the 3rd April last two of my children have been so seriously ill as to prevent my attending to any correspondence but having now happily recovered I am again working to complete my next case (now almost full) for your museum.

I note your remarks as to the geological specimens & will in future when possible give some indication of the position & strata from which such specimens are taken. This can be easily done with those specimens collected by myself personally but it is not always possible as to those collected by others as we have now no geological survey and the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Pray thanks Mr. [Caspin] for the pamphlets on the fossil f[illegible] from our coal measures which he so kindly sent and which I have distributed with great pleasure.

I need scarcely say how much I value the other works continued in the case last sent. The Secretary of our Royal Society has already acknowledged the consignment made to them.

I remain, Dear Sir
Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Mons. A. de Borre
Musée Royal, d'Historice Naturelle, de Belgiguine Brussels

Page 179

4th Octr. 5

Dear Irving,

I am anxious to get two dictionaries (English into Greek & English into Latin) for Cecil as soon as possible. Could you kindly get them for me & send them with a memo of the prices?

I would not bother you but that I have been unable to get them here and know you will only get such as will be of use.

I think Cecil will do fairly in mathematics next year but much doubt the Classics.

With kind regards to Mrs Irving & the young people

Yours sincerely

Morton Allport

M. H. Irving Esq
Wesley College
Melbourne

Page 180

8th Octr. 5

Dear William,

I went to the Survey office & inspected the recent surveys of the Ringarooma but do not think the River is anywhere less than from a mile & a half to two miles distant from the min. explor. land. Of course Tin may be on that Land but whether of no its value must be increasing with the discoveries in the neighbourhood.

I have paid the rents of the two Bischoff sections viz £30. (£20 for one & £10 for the other as the latter was paid to Febry. next & I objected to pay twice) & will enclose the rects. & the balance of the £1 call in a few days. Before making further calls send me some memo of what it is proposed to do.

No chance of getting to the Show.

Yours sincerely

Morton Allport

Wm. Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 181

19th Octr. 5

Dear Sir,

When furnishing Dr J. Barnard Davis (the Author of the accompanied work) with the material on which that work is principally founded I made it a bargain that a copy of his publication should be presented to the Tas. Pub. Library and I have now the pleasure of presenting the publication accordingly.

I remain

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

A.J. Taylor Esq
Pub. Library

Page 182

26th Octr. 5

Dear William,

I have seen most of those interested in the Ramsay Sections and find they are quite ready to concur in any such scheme as that proposed by you.

For myself I should be only too glad to see something turn out well; my experience having hitherto been unfortunate in all mining matters it would be refreshing to get out of the Bismuth with profit.

Is there not any chance with the prospect of the tramway of working off the Bischoff Sections to a Melbourne Company.

Have you been on any of the Ringarooma claims yourself and if so do you know the "Atlas Coy's" ground or can you give me any information about it?

With love to Mrs Wm. & the youngsters.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Wm. Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 183

1st Novr. 5

Dear Sir,

The goods advised duly arrived in excellent condition and I now forward Bank draft for £20.10.6 being £15.15.10 on my own acct. & £4.14.8 on account of Mr. Belstead.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Mr Chas. Farlow
191 Strand
London
W.C.

4th Novr. 5

Dear Sir,

Tas. Tin & General Mining Company.

As I do not feel disposed to extend my mining ventures in the north I shall be obliged by your remitting my share of the assets of the above Company at your convenience.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Henry Edgell Esq
Launceston

Page 184

[14th] Novr. 5

Dear Henry,

Herewith I send scrip for 50 shares in [account?] Bischoff Coy with transfer from Gould to myself endorsed and shall be obliged by your getting new scrip in my own name.

No^s 6566 to }
6615 }

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Henry Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 185

17th Novr. 5

Dear Sir,

Mr Seal & myself purpose leaving this by the mail tomorrow (Friday) night & want you to meet us with a trap at the York Hotel Bridgewater & take us on to New Norfolk. please send telegram to say you will be there.

Will you also ask Mrs Arnold to have supper & bed ready for us.

Also tell Lumsden we want his boat on Saturday & Sunday.

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

Mr E. Brooks

New Norfolk

Page 186 [Page is blank]

Page 187-189

28th Novr. 5

Dear Sir,

Yours of August 15th duly reached me and I have posted Bleeker's Fishes to your address as requested.

Many thanks for the additional memoir which I have handed to our Public Library.

I will endeavour to get you the Photograph of Truganina & post it by the mail following this. She is still living though she suffered severely from bronchitis during the past winter. I often have a chat with her about her old trips with Robinson.

The bust you speak of was by a man named Law who took casts from a number of the Aborigines years ago.

Pray give kind remembrances to Dr. [Milligan] from me when next you see him as we were fellow workers on the Council of our Royal Soc. many years ago though I never get a line from him now.

Iain from whom you obtained the skull was a General collector of all sorts of objects & his localities are to be accepted with some caution as the most painstaking men who do not actually kill & preserve their specimens are sure to be constantly misled and from all I have heard he was no exception to the rule.

I have not gathered from your letters that you take much interest in minerals but if you do you will be much astonished at the discoveries of Tin & Iron on our Northern Coast.

The deposits of both are of great richness & the quantity seems unlimited – the export of Tin will probably reach 1000 tons during the next 12 months & that from a Country which produced none three years ago. One effect is a steady rise in the value of property which means an increase of business so that I really begin to hope I may some day visit England again.

Please add my name (if not too late) to the list of subscribers to the
Supplement to Thesaurus Craniorum
& believe me

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

R. J. Barnard Davis
Shelton Hauley
Staffordshire

Page 190-192

29th Novr. 5

Dear Knight,

I am puzzled at receiving no reply or communication of any sort from Cecil Henslowe especially as you speak of his having taken some steps in reference to taking out [illegible] of Administration.

Till I do hear the dividends must go on accumulating & be idle with the sum formerly on fixed deposit which fell in on the 12th instant.

Every interest in this Colony seems now steadily improving due mainly to the marvellous mineral discoveries taking place daily miles upon miles of Country looked upon hitherto as worthless are now proved to be rich in Tin & but little less than 1000 Tons of that metal will be exported during the next twelve months. A jump in three years from none to £80,000 worth of Tin is something to stare at, but this is only the beginning of the end as there are plentiful indications of the presence of other valuable minerals, notably Bismuth, Silver, copper and lead.

Property is going up very much in value and the holders who have tided over so many years of depression are jubilant.

I am trying to make hay while the sun shines so rarely get time for much amusement I have not been two consecutive working days away from the office in the last two years and have to do much night work also.

A fine Salmon grilse was caught at Kangaroo point yesterday in an ordinary graball net, this fish weighs 3 lbs 1 oz and a larger one escaped as this net was being hauled into the boat, over 20 were captured last year and in a few seasons we shall be exporting them largely much to the astonishment of the learned in ichthyology.

I am uneasy at hearing nothing of or from Gould since July last when his sister wrote me that he was seriously ill, have you seen anything of him?

As I must enclose a few lines for Mrs Knight before the mail closes

I remain
Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

W. Knight Esq
20 Longridge Road
Brought S. W.
London

29th Novr. 5

Dear Mrs. Knight,

Thanks for your letter of 1st Octr. & for all the news of your young people which it contains. Is there no prospect of any of them seeing Tasmania again?

On Minnies nineteenth birthday we burst out into a party in our new house taking the opportunity while the man of war "Dido" was here. Although our guests numbered 99 we had no crush & lots of room for dancing. Minnies not much like her Mama being rather taller & with dark eyes but not quite black hair. Lilly [sic] the next girl is also taller than her Mama and is very like what I remember my mother but [shorter?]. Cecil is the tallest of all the family very like Mrs Allport with jet black hair. Gordon is quite a shrimp yet but we hope will grow some day he is 12 & working steadily at Horton College. Russell & Eva are mites, the latter very bright & quick now though only lately recovered from Whooping cough, from which tiresome sickness Russell suffered dreadfully last winter.

My dear Father & Mother keep well & happy though neither of them look as young as when you left. I think I told you my Father has long left the office & now takes long fits of gardening & outdoor rambles far better for his health.

My good wife & I are ~~gett~~ getting streaked with silver but yet find ourselves gardening at 6 every summer morning & our Terrace & Flower garden are at this moment one mass of choice Geraniums, [freesias?] & roses which the Camellias and azaleas are just over. We have never been without abundance of flowers for the last 10 months & yet we grow everything out of doors. From where I am now sitting I look over a slope covered with brilliant verbinas & fragrant Mignonettes beyond which rises a dense mass of Oak, Ash, Elm, Cypress, Poplar & Sycamore & beyond that the whole Town is in full view backed by the blue Derwent and the hills behind Rosny. With a telescope I can see the cricketers playing in the domain and (unwanted sight to Tasmanian eyes) the Railway trains coming into the station.

Cecil is away up Mount Wellington having started at daylight for a long ramble arrived with his collecting boxes & bottles but desired me to thank you very heartily for all you kind messages concerning him. He is trying hard for the scholarship & may possible succeed. If so you will certainly see him.

With kind regards to all of your family in which Lizzie & the girls join. I remain

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Pages 197 & 198 [Each page is a copy of page 196]

Mignonettes beyond which rises a dense mass of Oak, Ash, Elm, Cypress, Poplar & Sycamore & beyond that the whole Town is in full view backed by the blue Derwent and the hills behind Rosny. With a telescope I can see the cricketers playing in the domain and (unwanted sight to Tasmanian eyes) the Railway trains coming into the station.

Cecil is away up Mount Wellington having started at daylight for a long ramble arrived with his collecting boxes & bottles but desired me to thank you very

heartily for all you kind messages concerning him. He is trying hard for the scholarship & may possibly succeed. If so you will certainly see him.

With kind regards to all of your family in which Lizzie & the girls join. I remain

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Page 199 [Page is blank]

Page 200-204

Hobart Town
7th Decr. 1875

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for the parts of the fish sent over which owing to the good packing reached me in perfect order.

I should have written by yesterday's mail to explain my curt telegram but was busy up to the last minute.

I have not the shadow of a doubt about the species being a brown trout (*Salmo faris*) as either Salmon or Salmon trout of any weight over 3 lbs would have lost the Vomerine teeth which in your fish were present in large numbers for nearly an inch along the middle of the Palate.

To enable you to judge of the next specimen yourself let me call your attention to this diagram of the upper jaw (seen from below) of a trout

[Drawing of a jaw with an A & B pointing to vomer teeth]

in which A represents the vomer with a line of teeth turning alternately outwards right & left. Now the young fish of all three species have these teeth but the Salmon & the Salmon trout lose them after getting into salt water. In the series of specimens in the museum here I can show you the whole series from a smolt of 6 ounces with all the vomerine teeth to a Grilse of 3 lbs without one except at the very front end marked **B** & in specimens of 1 lb, 1 ½ lb & 2 lbs you find the gradual decrease of these teeth from behind forwards.

You will please understand that this, while a very sufficient test in trout of 3 or 4 lbs weight cannot be relied on when the fish have resided occasionally in brackish water & grown to 8 or 10 lbs weight as such trout frequently lose the vomerine teeth completely, especially the females, and I have several specimens of undoubted brown trout in which this test signally fails, but the converse never occurs that is though you may find brown trout without vomerine teeth you will never find a Salmon or Salmon trout of over 3 lbs weight with these teeth showing all along the line from **A** to **B**.

Though unable to [illegible] you on the presence of Salmon trout [illegible] I do not believe you could find a better substitute than trout in such condition as this fish must have been in. So small a head to a fish nearly 4 lbs weight must have made it a very handsome specimen & the brilliance of the seal, is unquestionably due to the brackish waters which always has this effect of increasing the silvery coating especially on the females.

Has anyone tried spinning an artificial minnow or a real small fish in any of the ponds about the cataract? I've a notion I could take [some?] twisters out there as I have done on the Derwent just above the tideways. Though not quite equal to fly fishing spinning is the next best thing and I have always taken the largest & best conditioned fish in this way. The grilse caught here on 27th November last as a graball net was the handsomest [lot?] taken, the side like a bar of silver innocent of spots except very few high above the lateral line. It was [illegible] one of those who eat its [illegible]. They tell me it was excellent and in one of the tests given by "Gunther" (the number of pyloric caeca) this fish measured to the true Salmon & the true salmon only.

If by any chance you should visit Town I should like to show you the means employed to test the fish sent to us & in the meantime shall be very glad to see any portions of specimens you may think it worth while to send over as it is much more satisfactory to determine the species if possible than to be left in doubt.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Gen Collins Esq
Launceston

Page 205

9th Decr. 5

Dear Simson,

Your note unfortunately reached me a day after the last mail left so that I could not write to Legge by that opportunity but now enclose a letter to him for you to forward to your Brother. I have taken care to mention your desire to exchange insects. Thanks about the Todeas and especially for your promise of Lucani which will be a great catch. We shall have a good haul of beetles for you to weed a few out of when next you are in Town.

Did you hear that we had another grilse from the Derwent about a fortnight ago? It was eaten & said to be excellent.

I suppose the tin prospects are still good but we hear less about them than I expected.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Aug. Simson Esq
Gould's County

Page 206-207

10th Decr. 5

Dear Mr Spicer,

I am sorry to hear you are such an invalid and wish you were nearer this end of the Town that I might have a botanical yarn occasionally with some one who appreciates our many lovely plants.

All the flowers were from the southwestern slope of Mount Wellington at the extreme end of the track cut for the water supply of Hobart Town the beautiful *Anopterus glandulosus* (Native Laurel) being first found about six miles from Town.

My boy Cecil (who brought these to me) also found a very charming fungus scarlet & black shaped like a gigantic campanula bell which he thought was new but which I have seen in our Western Mountains though never on this side of the Island.

It is a very gorgeous object amongst the deep [greens?] & browns of the wet valleys but has a peculiarity not confined to the fungus tribe amongst plants vizt. a most fearful carrion like smell which is quite overpowering in a room.

I have placed the specimen in acetic acid & in the museum.

Cis also brought an miniature specimen about the size of a large marble which I carefully planted & which has come into view today for the first time & will I hope be in full beauty in a day or two could you not manage a drive up to see it?

I will carefully save & send out anything I think you may take an interest in and hope to have many a botanical chat with you before the summer is over

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

The Revd. W. W. Spicer
Jutland
Augusta road
New Town

Page 208-209

Hobart Town
16th Decr. 1875

Dear Collins,

Many thanks for the photographs which show that the fish must have been a real beauty as I expected from the small size of the head.

I received the fish said to have been caught at George Town and it is most unmistakeably a brown trout (*Salmo faris*) & bears no resemblance to the sea giving smolt of either the Salmon or Salmon trout as it most certainly had not the deciduous silvery sealer and does not show any parr markings as it would have done if it belonged to either of the two migratory species.

Brown Trout are frequently caught in very brackish waters & in heavy freshes get to far down as to be taken in the seine nets about Hobart Town. A great beauty was thus captured the night before last it weighed 8 lbs, a male fish in splendid condition.

The Commissioner sent it to Government House and I have since heard that the flesh was a deep pink when cooked and of excellent quality.

I need scarcely tell you that the colour of the flesh is no test of the species but is merely the result of particular feeding. I can produce trout from the Clyde which are caught above a fall 6 feet high shutting off all communications with the sea and yet these fish have flesh as red (when cooked) as Salmon. And far deeper in colour than the bulk of Salmon trout.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

G. Collins Esq
Launceston

Page 210

Between the date of the last settling with Mr. Clark & the commencement of the new arrangement under the Declaration of trust I paid an account of the half interest held by The Southern Shareholders the sum of £101.7.9

Viz. Balance due to Jas. Smith for	
prospecting etc.	£59.13.9
Call for rent etc.	40.0.0
half Law charges	<u>1.14.0</u>
	<u>£101.7.9</u>

One 24th of this is payable by
Mr Clark viz. £4.4.6

Since the execution of the Declaration of trust one call of £1. has been made on each 96th share. as Mr Clark holds two ninety sixths. his account will now stand as above

	£4.4.6
call	<u>2.0.0</u>
	<u>£6.4.6</u>

Page 211-212

Hobart Town
23rd Decr. 1875

Dear Simson,

I have delayed answering your last in the hope that the fish spoken of might turn up but they have not yet arrived so I cannot say whether they are new to me or not.

I found the Alsophila on Maria Island 30 years ago as recorded in Proc. of Roy. Soc. Tas. but should much like a living specimen as they stand exposure to sun better than Dicksonia.

Papilio Machayanus is numerous on the Huon road but I never found the caterpillar or chrysalis though I have hunted the Sassafras prostanthera & other trees where the butterfly abounds.

Have you seen the pretty black & white fritillary which often accompanies the Papilios.

I saw the shell (valvata) when they first arrived.

We are beginning to get the hot weather in earnest & I wish I could get a day or two along some of the streams you mention as a relief from dust & parchement.

Another nice Salmon smolt about a pound weight was brought to me yesterday so the [illegible] fish must be increasing somewhere.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Aug. Simson Esq
Gould's Country

Page 213

26th Decr. 5

Dear Sir,

Enclosed are two of the Photographs of Truganina by Baily which gives a very good idea of her actual appearance at the present time as she has quite recovered from her recent illness and may remain the last of her race many years.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Dr. J. Barnard Davis
Shelton Hanley
Staffordshire

Page 214

26th Decr. 5

Dear Henslowe,

As I have received no reply I fear my letter of 10th July last has miscarried and now forward a Copy.

Our news is very scant except as to the marvellous development of mineral wealth in the Island in the shape of Tin of which metal we shall export to the value of more than a quarter of a million in the next 12 months. Some of the lodes are of immense extent & far richer than any of the Cornish mines.

I remain
Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

C.W.E. Henslowe Esq
Sea Department
Of Public Works
Allahabad
V.W. Provinces
India

Page 215

1st Jany 6

Dear Sir,

I am the owner of two blocks of Land on the Forth containing respectively 100^a & 60^a standing on the chart in the names of myself & my Brother and wish if possible to sell.

Could I get anything like £2 an acre on liberal terms say one fourth cash and the balance at 5 years bearing £6 per cent?

If you could effect a sale for me I will of course, pay your commission.

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

Richard Hall Esq
Leith River Forth

Page 216

Hobart Town
13th Jany 1876

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 10th inst. covering cheque for £9.15.3 dividend on M.M. Clumes shares less Magdala Cales.

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

William Nixon Esq
Ballarat

Page 217

Hobart Town
Jany 13. 1876

Dear Sir,

The accompanying Gazette extraordinary will show that I have lost no time in putting a check on the present slaughter of young salmon and I further intend to urge on the Commission the necessity for closing the River still farther down than at present and that we may enforce the regulations by the appointment of additional water bailiffs.

18 more young fish were brought in this morning bringing the total up to about 150 fish.

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

H. [Button?] Esq
Examiner Office
Launceston

Page 218

Hobart Town
13th Jany 1876

Dear William,

Many thanks for your list of which I hope to avail myself.

Will there be any chance of working off the Bischoff Sections or the Mount Ramsay D^o this summer?

The Salmon are coming to the front well and some 150 have unfortunately been slaughtered before we could put a stop on the destruction but that game is now over and my friends the siene net men will have to seek fresh fields for their scraping.

In a season or two the fishing will be splendid.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Wm. Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 219

Stone Building
17th Jany 1876

Sir,

I regret that your letter of the 15th instant did not reach me a day sooner as I could then have laid it before a full meeting of the Salmon Commissioners though I do not imagine it would have altered the conclusions at which they have arrived.

You may rest assured that neither the Salmon Commissioner nor the public will ever be satisfied to leave the enforcing of the regulation necessary for establishing a most important [interest?] to men who have been more than once convicted of breaking the Law.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Mr Thomas Ikin
26 Collins St.

Page 220-221

Hobart Town
17th Jany 1876

Dear Sir,

I should have forwarded one or two of the fish to Launceston but that there was such a rush for them that I could get no chance. I trust we may now light on the spawning beds before long and will whenever we do so strongly urge the Commissioners to send every egg to be obtained to the Northern Rivers.

Those interested in Launceston might strengthen the hands of the Commissioners materially by joining in the request to close the Derwent against the seine nets if we find the Government inclined to hang back.

Of course these nets can scarcely scrape all out but they can & probably have retarded the increase and if encouraged in the slaughter by finding purchases will rapidly grow from two nets now employed to twenty.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

R.J. Irvine Esq
Launceston

P.S. I am glad to hear the North Esk is turning out good trout for it is a lovely River to fish. M.A.

Page 222-223

20th Jany 6

Dear Gould,

I was greatly pleased to see your writing again after so long silence and trust you will soon be quite set up in health & equal to a run out which after all is not a great undertaking in these days.

Since receiving yours I have put one half your interest in Ramsay under offer to some parties who are nibbling after it & may work them up to £250 though I am inclined to [think?] that an outside price at present. For your Bischoff interest there is no chance of a purchaser till the tramway now being constructed by the V.D. Land Company is completed.

Webster has promised to look out the box of books to which you refer and I have little doubt the boys of both families will be glad of them.

No end of Smolts came down the Derwent in October last and during the week commencing on 13th Jany last no less than 200 of these fish increased in weight to from lb 1 [sic] to 1 ½ lbs were caught in Sandy [Bay?] & on the opposite side of the Derwent below Kangaroo Point. They were sold at prices varying from 1/- to 5/- each till I cut into the trade by pointing out that both sellers & purchasers were liable to a heavy penalty & I am now busy trying to induce the Government to shut the net men out altogether. I have not the shadow of a doubt about these fish being true Salmon and will have something to say about it at the next Roy. Soc. meeting & will forward copy.

I send Mercury summary referring to the matter & will only say that the non believers are now few & far between in this Colony.

Would you kindly ask your Father to send me a memo showing how my account stands with him as I wish to settle up.

All my people who are in good health & spirits desire me to make their salaams to you & believe me

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

C. Gould Esq
26 Charlotte St, Bedford Square, London W.C.

Page 224

21st Jany 6

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 3rd Novr. last intimating that I had been elected a non resident Fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute and as I prefer compounding for the annual subscription I now enclose Bank draft for £10 payable to the Treasurer.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedt. Servt.

Morton Allport

T. Young Esq

Hon. Sec.

Roy. Col. Institute

London W.C.

21st Jany 6

Dear Sirs,

Herewith I forward P.A. Order for 8^s/6^d amount paid for Insurance of Goods forwarded to Mrs Allport.

The dresses gave great satisfaction.

Yours faithfully

Morton Allport

Messrs Russell & Allen

18 & 19 Old Bond St.

London

Page 225-226

24th Jany 6

Dear Mr Youl,

While heartily joining in the congratulations which you are sure to receive on the latest development of the Salmon experiment I wish to send you some information ~~about~~ which would not otherwise reach England till the publication of the next Transactions of our Royal Society.

Out of the 76 fish taken at one haul of the seine below Hobart Town I selected three fish varying somewhat in size but a good average sample of the whole & these 3 I carefully dissected & found the pyloric appendage in the first numbered 65 in the second 62 and in the third 67 proving that these were true salmon as the maximum number for Salmon trout is 61 according to Dr. Gunther.

I need scarcely say the Commissioners entertained no doubt, as far as they were able to judge from external characters, before these dissections were made.

I remain

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

J.A. Youl Esq C.M.G.
Waratah House
Clapham Park
London

Page 227-228

Hobart Town
27th Jany 1876

Dear Read,

Let me introduce Mr Field who wishes to see the ponds before returning to England which he will do very shortly.

The Mercury people asked me for some memo of the recent capture for the summary & I accordingly furnished the same to the best of my ability and you may judge of my disgust & annoyance at finding all that rubbish about Sir Robert & myself interpolated.

As you know I have always avoided any personal allusions from the feeling that the one single idea of every Member of the Commission was to ensure success if possible but had I ever alluded to the individual efforts of the Commissioners your name would most certainly have occurred to me first not only from my appreciation of the liberality with which you have always dealt with the Commission but from my feeling that the untiring manner in which you have made thousands of people acquainted with the work at the ponds has tended more than anything else to render the experiment popular in this & the neighbouring Colonies.

With kind regards to Mrs Read & the young Ladies.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Page 229

Hobart Town
3rd Feby 1876

Dear McPherson,

Herewith byelaws which may prove useful but I greatly doubt whether the municipality has (without an express Act of Parliament) any power to interfere with either fishing or shooting.

The protection of the Swans is a mistake for they are worse poachers than the cormorants ~~for~~ as during the spring months they destroy immense quantities of fish spawn perch spawn they are [especially] [illegible] of and in May in England more than a [first?] of spawn has been frequently taken from one swan.

I have left the amount of penalty blank but would recommend a small sum 10/- or £1 – or magistrates will not convict.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

D. McPherson
Oatlands

Page 230

10th Feby 6

Dear William,

Mrs M Allports trust

Under separate cover I send assignment of mortgage and memorial for execution by David.

Will you oblige me by getting his signature & returning same?

When shall we Ulrich's report on Ramsay?

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

W. Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 231

9th Mar 6

Dear Sir,

Yours of 6th inst. covering cheque for div. on N.N. Clunes shares less calls on Magdala duly received. Thanks for your information on the strength of which I wired you to sell seven (7) of the N.N. Clunes shares and decided to retain 6 for the present.

I have not the scrip at the office but will send it by next mail.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

W. Nixon Esq
Ballarat

Page 232

15th Mar 6

Dear Sir,

New North Clunes scrip for 7 shares as advised in my last now sent herewith.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Wm. Nixon Esq
Ballarat

Page 233

20th Mar 6

Dear Sir,

I shall be obliged by your sending me the following articles.

1. Two Panniers say 7th size brass mounted with straps complete.
2. Two dozen traces - extra stout - single gut two swivels.
3. Twelve phantom minnows 5 inches long from nose to end of tail hook. 8 of them light coloured and 4 dark.
4. Four dozen triangle hooks of the same size as those attached to the above minnows.
5. Four chapman spinners say 3 ½ inches.
6. Two Derby silk lines 100 yards each.

As I do not want the above till October they may be sent by the first sailing vessel direct to Hobart Town.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Mr. Charles Farlow
191 Strand London

Page 234

23rd Mar 6

Dear Sir,

Yours of 20th instant covering sale note and cheque for £164.7. duly received.

I am content to hold on to the remaining shares on the chance of the mine ultimately improving.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Wm. Nixon Esq
Ballarat

Page 235

4th April 6

Sir,

I duly received yours of the 27th March and now forward two copies of the directions as requested.

If you intend to get some of the Trout ova this season you should defer your journey till July or the beginning of August as the ova will not be ready for removal til then. And you will find it quite useless to attempt carrying the fish without a large supply of ice and some apparatus for keeping the water in motion.

Should you come down you will, at small cost, be able to visit the ponds and see the fish in various stages and thus learn more in one day than you could by months of correspondence.

You can at all times get a small supply of English perch & tench which will carry well in still water.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

[Mr?] J. Stuart
158 Pitt St
Sydney

Page 236

13th Apl. 6

Dear Sir,

The remainder of Mr Wedge's Land is just advertised for sale by auction by Mr Bell in Launceston on next Thursday the 20th inst.

Should you still wish to purchase the piece of land you referred to you should lose no time in writing to some person in Launceston to bid for you.

Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Silas Parsons Esq
The Grove
Victoria-Huon

Page 237

13th April 6

Dear Sir,

Re Dandridge decd.

I duly received yours of 18th February and lost no time in seeing Mrs Dandridge therewith, who now admits the Trustees could deal in no other way with the money derived from the plate than they have done.

As the whole fund in the hands of my co-Trustee & self are invested we have advanced Mrs Dandridge the £10.11.10 referred to in your letter till some of the capital falls in.

With thanks for your explanation.

I remain
Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

Saml. Copping Esq
5 Godbinan St.
Doctor's Commons E.C.
London

Page 238-239

14th April 6

Dear Sir,

The questions in your last relative to the cost of living in Tasmania cannot be satisfactorily answered at the present time as the recent valuable mineral discoveries have materially altered the aspect of affairs in the Colony.

Increase of permanent population and large numbers of visitors from the other Colonies have made it very difficult to get good houses except at high rates. We have just let a very old and patched up house in the upper part of Davey Street containing about 16 rooms with coach house stable &c. for £150 per ann. Tenant paying taxes some £20.

Many persons wishing to get residences are quite unable to find them. A Major Pasley last year brought all his Family from England intending to settle but was so disgusted with the difficulty of getting a house & with the cost of living that he packed up and returned.

Building is now going on but mainly by individuals who cannot otherwise get house room and not as a speculation. A good house of 15 or 16 rooms if of stone would not cost less than £3000. And the site if a garden is included would probably take £500 or £600 more.

Servants are now scarce & bad in all the Colonies and you should therefore bring a staff with you if you come.

We have still one advantage over the wealthier Colonies which is that a family may retain a good sound position in Tasmania without keeping up a large establishment or being expected to entertain on a grand scale few people being now in a position to do so.

My Father & Mother desire to be kindly remembered and would gladly welcome you if you should make a visit to these parts & I need scarcely say I should enjoy a chat over old times.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Col. H.N. Davies
Aryab
British Burmah

Page 240-241

10th May 6

Dear Sir,

At the request of Sir Francis Smith I have forwarded by the Southern Cross two cans containing 18 english perch & have given him a memo as to their treatment en route.

These fish owing to the lateness of the season are rather larger than they ought to be for safe carriage but will some of them probably spawn in October next.

If you have any isolated weedy pond at your disposal turn all the fish into it & one spawning will give you enough fish to stock all Australia.

As the cans sent belong to the Tasmanian Salmon Commissioners I must ask you to return them to my address. ~~Set~~ "Stone Building, Hobart Town".

Hoping to hear that the fish have reached you safely.

I remain
Yours faithfully
Morton Allport

L.M. Cullen Esq
Waymouth St
Adelaide

Page 242-243

13th May 6

Dear Irving,

By the post that takes this you will probably receive a communication from the President of the Tas. Council of Education urging you to resume your old office of Examiner and I need scarcely say how glad I should be to hear that you have acceded to the request but I am even more anxious that you should strain a point to get away now than ever because I believe that with your personal assistance those of us who wish to change the date of the examination in future will succeed in accomplishing the most desirable reform. If possible therefore add to your many services to Tasmania this one.

I would, of course, expect you to take up your quarters at my house altogether but for the fact that Cis is again up for the Scholarship and must therefore be content to have you after the examination is over & he is well [plucked?].

My self denial in this case goes much against the grain because I should not have the smallest objection to your staying in the house of any other of the candidates parents.

I trust all your belongings are flourishing as we are at present. How does Edward like his home (English) life?

Whether you come in September or not you may surely make part of your summer run over here as there is much we want coaching up in.

With kindest regards to Mrs Irving.

Yours sincerely

Morton Allport

M.H. Irving Esq
Hawthorn
Melbourne

Page 244

24th May 6

Dear William,

Dobson &ors to Mathews

Under separate cover I send transfer of mortgage for [exion?] by David also memorial for his signature. Will you please see to this for me & return the Deed & memorial as soon as possible.

From what I have seen of Cadell I hope that he will settle in these diggings as he will make a very desirable addition to our population. He was to have gone up Mt. Nelson with me last Sunday but his mate Dr Scott was unwell.

Hoping all your people are flourishing.

I remain

Yours sincerely

Morton Allport

Wm. Ritchie Esq
Launceston

Page 245-248

29th May 6

Dear Sir,

At the request of the Revd. J.E.T. Woods I went on Saturday to the Geilston Bay lime works & obtained specimens of the basalt from near its junction with the Travertin which specimens I send under another cover through the kindness of Mr Grant, by rail.

A reinspection of the locality confirms me in my early belief that the basalt has tilted up the Travertin at one part and been poured over it at another thus fixing its (the basalt) geological age as subsequent to that of the deposit of the tertiary Travertin.

I also send specimens of what I believe to be similar [illegible] from the opposite shore (or Hobart Town side) of the Derwent.

Enclosed also are a few good leaf impressions from the Travertin, three fragments of fossil wood and 3 specimens [of helix?] probably of extinct sp.

Further investigation has considerably modified my belief in the very recent geological age of this Travertin that some of the plant remains belong to existing species and that some of the bones are those of *Phalangista fuliginosa* I am perfectly certain but I am also sure that four of the seed vessels which I have unearthed have no baring counterpart in Tasmania and in this I am borne out by Baron Von Mueller who has carefully examined the specimens.

I have now found well marked impressions of one of the coniferae resembling *Athrotaxis cupressoides* with what I feel certain is the cast of one of its cones but which I must send to the Baron for examination.

Altogether this quarry is a great puzzle and makes me more certain than ever that leaves alone are a fallacious test for species & that vegetable remains generally are more troublesome to the Paleontologist than animal.

I greatly regretted having failed to see you again when last in Town but was called suddenly into the Country & on return went at once to Webbs & found you had left the day before. Of course I need scarcely say you are perfectly welcome to the loan of any of the specimens of this Travertin now in my cabinet if they are of any use to you and at any rate I should much like to show them to you.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

R.M. Johnston Esq
Launceston

P.S. Many thanks for the bone which you left with Mrs Roblin but which I have not yet made up my mind about. M.A.

Page 249-250

28th June 6

Dear Sir,

By tonight's coach I send a sample of the massive greenstone of which the columns on Mount Wellington consists & which is identical with most of the large mountain masses of Greenstone on the south side of the Island.

As soon as I am able to visit the spot in which it occurs I will forward another specimen which has always interested me greatly, it occurs about two miles from Town & forms a small dyke about 6 inches across which has intruded through a mass of the large grained greenstone the intrusive rock being fine grained as though the mass having cooled more rapidly the crystals are smaller. The large mass had evidently cooled & been split by the intrusion of the small dyke & I should much like to know whether they are chemically identical.

I am glad you saw the remarks re Travertin in the Mercury (Royal Society proceedings) as it was mainly owing to your paper not being read that I made them – because not expecting any meeting from the wretched weather Agnew very properly determined to postpone your paper till we had an audience and at the last moment several people dropped in including some strangers and to fill up a gap I was compelled to let off something on the spur of the moment as Agnew is awfully helpless when taken unawares.

The more I consider the matter the more certain I am that the bones found were deposited long after the vegetable remains.

By post I send drawings of two of the species of [illegible] by my daughter which you are at perfect liberty to copy if of the slightest use to you and return at your leisure.

Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

R.M. Johnston Esq
Railway Station
Launceston

Page [251]

5th July 6

Dear Sir Robert,

On receipt of your letter I saw Mr Clarke who at once disclaimed any intentional want of Courtesy towards yourself or the Commrs. in not appearing and reminded me that in telling him of your appointment I had said "Sir Robert does not say where the meeting is to be held" so that I am myself in some measure to blame.

I next spoke to Mr Clarke as to the notices and now feel certain he had no wish to slight your instructions but he has been under some misconception as to the process by which the notices are to be made available and on this subject I shall have something to say at the next meeting which I will arrange for as soon after the mail leaves as I can see the Commissioners.

With kind regards to Lady Officer.

I remain
Yours sincerely
Morton Allport

Sir Robert Officer
New Norfolk

Page [252-253]

8th July 6

Dear Frances,

Herewith I send portraits of two of my two little girls just that you may realize the fact that I am no much younger than I was. I should greatly like a peep at you all again & often think of the old days at Coventry. It is quite possible that Cecil may find his way to England before long and you would I am sure like a talk with him over these wild parts of the Globe.

I am now very much worked since my Father left the office and have the whole conveyancing ~~of~~ branch of a large business on my shoulders.

We are now in the depth of winter but it is not a very trying season for Sarah bolted after me when I left home this morning & caught me at some distance from my house without the Ghost of a hat on. She is very well & jolly.

Show William (I mean your brother) the pictures & remember me kindly to him. I wonder whether he is losing his hair like myself but expect he does not do quite so much brain work as I am compelled to.

My good wife sends her love & would much like to renew her acquaintance with England but I fear it is not to be.

With kind remembrances to Mr Shingsby & all other cousins.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Morton Allport

Mrs Wm. Shingsby

Broad Gate

Coventry