

Raukum.  
S. S. Tainui.  
Sydney  
Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 85.

My dear Father,

I am writing a short  
note to Mother a few days ago,  
by the "Valletta"; I have received  
home letters, of date July 11<sup>th</sup> 1885,  
forwarded from London, & which  
are the first I have had for a  
long time & doubly welcome on that  
account. My best thanks to Mother  
for them -

I write today for the Pacific Mail  
S.S., which sails shortly for Pisco,  
with mails & passengers. This Company  
has been running a monthly boat  
for some time, but talks of discon-  
tinuing it in Nov<sup>r</sup> when their  
contract for mails expires. The  
arrangement of mail subsidies  
at present is most unsatisfactory, &  
likely, I should think, to prove very  
temporary. Each colony subsidizes a

2) different lines, some of them  
two or three lines. The P. & O. gets  
£87,000 a year from Victoria. N.S.W.  
subsidizes the Orient & Pacific Mail  
Cos. & Queensland the British India.  
A good <sup>joint</sup> subsidy to some one company  
which would run fast weekly  
boats either via Suez & across the  
Pacific, would be a great boon  
to all: & is one illustration of  
the great benefits that would  
accrue to the community as a  
whole, by the joint action of the  
colonies. I see by telegrams in papers  
here that the C. P. N. is making a move  
in this direction, & I trust they may  
prove successful, is it would  
be an immense mutual benefit  
to both communities, that closer  
commercial & social relations  
should exist.

Sydney is a very jolly place,  
quiet, orderly & prosperous: good  
streets, fine buildings, & apparently  
plenty of very pleasant people.  
I only regret that we have not  
another week or two to spend here.

3/ as the time might be occupied pleasantly & profitably. Yesterday the Capt. & I visited the hospital, lunching with the house staff, & attending one or two operations which were appointed for the afternoon. The building is a fine new one, well appointed in every way & resembles much some of the N.Y. institutions which Mother & I visited some years ago, & from which many of their ideas have been taken. It seems to be handsomely supported. Besides <sup>public</sup> contributions, most of the patients are able to pay fairly well, & for every pound contributed in either way the Govt. gives a corresponding one. The University, with a handsome building not unlike Toronto, is on the London University model & occupies the same ground, a fine site; & near it & affiliated with it are English, Ch., Presbyterian & Catholic colleges. Their medical school for which a handsome building is being erected, is only 2 or 3 years old & has not yet turned out any graduates, although they have already upwards of 40 students.

The other day I picked up, here a couple of photos of New Guinea masks & totems, which are singularly like the things we saw in L<sup>o</sup> Charlotte Ids, & which I send as an illustration of how closely native workmanship corresponds all round the Pacific shores.

We sail again from Sydney on the 16<sup>th</sup> & expect to reach London via Bombay, about the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in Nov<sup>r</sup>. I shall then have completed the P.T.O. circuit, & see all their present ports of call, except Japan. Whether I decide to go on leave for a time or not will depend on circumstances, & on what funds I may be able to contrive at the time. In Canada, as you know, I have nearly \$2,000, besides investments in land &c. in the West, but do not suppose that I consider this as personal booty. If it is required at any time for your own, or family use, I can always make shift for myself in one way or another. In any case I fancy it would be a mistake for me to throw up my present position until something better offers, especially as I am more or less in the way of things, whilst here.

With best wishes & all kind regards

Believe me as always

Your affectionate son

Ranham