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Birkenshaw,

Little Metis.

July 14, 1885

Dear Rankine,

We have been  
sending for some time letters  
& papers via San Francisco  
to the care of Messrs Elder, Smith  
& Co. of Adelaide, but see  
by a notice in the newspapers  
that the despatch of  
mails that way has  
been discontinued. Whether  
that will affect any of  
the matter already sent  
we do not know; but I  
now try by the other way round,  
hoping it may reach you before  
the ship leaves Australia;

First I may say that we  
 remembered with many  
 kind wishes and prayers  
 your birth-day, and wish  
 you many happy returns  
 of it. Next I would say  
 that Anna received your  
 letter from Mother this week,  
 and we are all glad  
 to hear of your welfare in  
 you. Lou is at Cambridge  
 on a visit to the Campbells,  
 but is set to home to-day.  
 Minerva is well, but  
 exceedingly impelled fitting to  
 Miss Brooks, who is painting  
 her portrait, which George and  
 I have arranged to have  
 done, so that there may



be a memoir of his in the family.  
 I have read the letter and all  
 well, & I believe that he will  
 try to be out at 1st of November.  
 I have been making up sheets of notes  
 for his travels for lectures at the Boston Inst.  
 Lecture, and am preparing new sheets  
 of some books new on sale, as a  
 book them up to date. There is  
 with us, & as perhaps you have heard  
 may hold to the family news of these  
 days. I will soon set out at 1st Nov. & send  
 you the latest accounts & news of the movement.

My dear Mr. ... I have the pleasure to inform you that ...

I have the pleasure to inform you that ...

I have the pleasure to inform you that ...

I have the pleasure to inform you that ...

I have the pleasure to inform you that ...



feel for some time that  
 at my age it is necessary  
 to ~~leave~~ have my money  
 invested in the best  
 shape as possible, and  
 I have been endeavoring  
 to concentrate what I  
 have in investments that  
 might help Maria  
 and Lou of Greece  
 as they will have a not too ample provision at best  
 taken away. I have nothing  
 to depend on from the  
 College either for tuition  
 allowance or pension to  
 my family, so must  
 keep a close eye on the case.

trusting I also of my being invalided, or super-  
 annuated, which would be the commencement in  
 some respects than being cut off thus suddenly.  
 Of course I reckon all money given to you  
 or the others for education or advancement in  
 life as investments which you must pay  
 back to the helpless members of the family  
 after I am gone, so do not but judge  
 anything of that kind, if you can make  
 it pay. I shall be glad however to hear from  
 you as to your plans, and hope the time is at  
 pressing when you may settle somewhere if real  
 the best to reach the better. I have left little room  
 to say now dear you are to all of us, and have glad ear  
 are to hear of your welfare from time to time. Ever yours affectionately  
 M. D. Allen



## Australia

P.S. I have no doubt  
that the voyage to Australia  
is just what - you desired,  
though it carries you  
away. It is a very  
interesting country. In a  
physical point of view  
the oldest in the world  
since it has served as  
a refuge for all the forms  
of animal and plant  
life dislodged from the  
Greater Continents. It has  
been a place of banishment  
for things used up and  
out of date at home  
ever since the Mesozoic age  
J.W.D.