

Hastings N.7

15 July 1930

Dear Miss Bowen

I owe you an apology for a letter  
received some time ago thanking me  
for a frozen lamb sent to you  
it was gratifying to hear that you  
both enjoyed the flavour in preference  
to the English mutton dont feel offended  
if I say I dont agree with your choice  
& decision personally give me English  
Beef & mutton every time but I will  
surprise you to hear that lambs  
in this district are fattened slaughtered  
& frozen direct from the mother ewe  
& not feed on Turneps & Rape  
we are blessed here with good  
land & fine Cheshamshire weather & the  
sheep owners do not provide winter  
feed for their stock but they are  
all having a most disastrous bad time  
owing to the low selling price of both  
wool namely 7<sup>d</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> 9<sup>d</sup> finest of  
just half the price of previous years



PHONE 12  
BOX - 171

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E. NEWBIGIN  
Burton Brewery  
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT  
And Aerated Water Manufacturer  
HASTINGS

HASTINGS, ..... 192

There was more on our line  
& Dad didn't object to the price  
best in one out of the Basket first  
& set it as a sample then got  
into trouble with the Native who  
strongly objected to his conduct  
he explained it was fine & the  
first peach he ever tasted in his  
in his life the majesty of Nature  
at that time were a tall handsome  
race of people patriarchal the  
high cast male & female civilization  
Food & habits of living have departed  
themselves to a certain extent but kindly  
& generous to a fault they have  
disposed of the best of these lands  
in journey East Brother & Sister  
& Father Deed of Toph's favor this  
let me love to provide my little



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four years old I was fortunate  
in getting a good job with a  
Brewer to look after his pouring  
& then American Puggery the old  
man drove me through the town  
& country three days a week solving  
orders of Beer Whisk & wines news  
& in this position I <sup>knew</sup> learnt all the  
of merchants in town & country  
the principle street at that time  
was queen street & the maines  
were the principal occupants  
& the gate or back up was situated  
halfway up at the corner of  
Victoria Street I occasionally  
paid a visit to the old town  
& look with astonishment & amaze  
ment at the huge city it now is

many speculations have been raised  
the estates with heavy mortgages are  
being sold for half the original cost  
this appears to be the fate of the  
first & second generation of families  
that I have known for many years  
The former old principles are being  
out they were hospitable honest  
& trustworthy the life & lives  
of the present Colonial Borneo  
is entirely different to day the family  
including father & mother all enjoy  
themselves on every thing that is going  
womens cigarettes & cards Bridge  
is the favorite gambles horse racing  
Poping matches haveen turns  
Hurdle racing & now they are  
taken to flying machines.

during the night we are blessed  
here with a fine blanket only  
these months very cold weather  
& therefore winter food is not produced  
the sheep country land is principally  
lime stone formations on the  
flat lands are planted all kinds  
of fruit are grown peaches lemons  
apples & oranges but stock owners  
are having a very bad time this  
year owing to the heavy drop of  
in price of wool in fact to be  
correct at just half previous years  
prices & the price of land has  
come low considerable yet there  
is no reduction in laborer wages  
who demands 14/ per day

Dudley has left this morning for  
Linton Collier at Motaka on the journey  
down there was a heavy fog

went into Business on my own  
& up to 1931 had <sup>done</sup> very well until  
the great Earth quake ~~then~~ came along  
& ~~ruined~~ <sup>ruined</sup> ~~ruined~~ about 130,000 in property  
& owing to the law selling price of the  
principal products of Sheep & Cattle wool  
& Fruits the value of land & town property  
has gone down to just half of its original  
value & owing to the huge increase  
of population & production I don't  
think we will ever see the happy  
prosperous times we <sup>used</sup> ~~used~~ to have  
however I have a lot to be thankful  
for although suffering with <sup>neuritis</sup> ~~neuritis~~ I have  
a comfortable house & home free of  
all encumbrance & surely my work  
is now done also dance & glue  
& glass formerly there is 2 <sup>single</sup> ~~unmarried~~  
daughters very comfortably with a Business  
order them managed by the Brother  
Fred who has also a very fine home & 2  
acres of ground well planted with trees  
& tennis lawn he is a very popular chap  
at present on holiday tour to the  
Waitanga celebrations brought about

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by the ~~Liberty~~ & generosity of our  
present Governor & I can speak of  
many since 1874 since Sir George <sup>Grey</sup> time  
although Jellicoe is not to be despised  
he was a good sport & well liked  
by every one the majority were poor in  
comparison to the present subject

I enclosed for post to you an illustrated  
paper with particulars of his wonderful  
gift which has been neglected & <sup>booked</sup> ~~lost~~  
upon as no value owing to the poor  
land on that District; <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~  
there is now equal & in the north  
to this District although that is the  
first & oldest inhabited part of N.Z.  
by the white people I know all about it  
for I worked in a Coal mine near by  
for a short time it is situated on the  
extreme position of the North Island  
& nearer to Australia than any other portion  
of N.Z. Father was granted 140 acres  
of land before he ~~left~~ he left England by  
the Government. he did ~~not~~ ~~come~~ out  
as an Emigrant but paid the passage  
money of all his family & was entitled  
to this Grant of land I sold it at  
3/6 per acre & have never seen it

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The northern Railway here now runs  
near by or possibly through a portion of  
it. I think the reason that took up  
his land there he knew of the  
Burdetts of Orongham were living  
in that direction or District ~~and~~  
on some occasion I met Mr Burnett  
who told me the man servant that  
came out to Mr Webb there had a  
recommendation from father the poor  
fellow committed suicide by drowning  
himself in the River I believe he  
bought a section of land in the Township  
which is a fairly well built town today  
which is called Whangarei I had quite  
a romantic trip by a sailing cutter to  
this pretty village as I said if I told  
the Captain on the Auckland Wharfe  
that we had land somewhere in the  
District he invited me to take a trip  
with him & so did we had a very  
rough passage & put into a port for  
shelter it was inhabited by Norwegians  
from Cannada ~~at~~ Scotch all spoke  
Galick I was glad to get ashore & a dear  
old woman gave me a warm feather Bed  
for the night the following morning



I was glad to see the Cutter lying at anchor the Capt came ashore & bought a Bag of Potatoes then proceeded on to Whangari where we arrived early in the afternoon, our Cargo consisted principally of Tea Sugar Flour Cheese & other household stores there was a few young girls waiting for their Mail & three <sup>Horses</sup> grazing lazily along the Bank of the River. I hopped ashore & walked up the Road & thought it was the prettiest place I had ever seen there was a few mabos near the Public House & to my surprise I meet a Coal miner that come out on the Ship with us a married man who told me that a Mr Beddington from Birmingham had opened coal mine there or was manager or designer there I felt over joyed & payed them a visit but the route visit of Road never reaches the Land I went to.

We left England for  
New Zealand on the Salem  
ship Arabee arriving  
in Auckland on the 17 Decr  
after a voyage of 120 days  
in 1864. Shortly after arrival  
elder Brother William John  
aged 21 & Sister Eliza 19 died  
of fever in the 12th Dec  
and also died  
Clara Jane survived  
& was married to my  
brother <sup>George</sup> John Smith  
of Napier

William John Newbiggin  
Died of fever &  
at Auckland New Zealand date  
Eliza Newbiggin Died of fever  
at Auckland New Zealand  
John Newbiggin Father of the above Clara Jane  
Died Hawkes Bay New Zealand

Mr. E. Newbiggin,  
Brewer,  
HASTINGS.