

Mtamboa Khena  
September 7th 1856

My dear Fred, you will see by this if it should ever reach you that I have left the diggins & am now in another part of the world my luck was very bad in the colonies for I found but little sold, my mate robbed me to after 10 months of hard work for nothing. I took salt water for it again & shipped in the Salsette for 12 months bound for anywhere. We sailed from here to Sydney & sat a cargo to Calcutta & from there sat a cargo for this place. 8 months of the 12 expired as yet we have not heard where we shall go from here, but I think back to India had luck to us as wages are low there & it is too hot for me & I am half afraid the Jew of a skipper will try to cheat us for my time will be up & I want stop 5 minutes after. 3 parts of our men sacrificed part of their wages & left in Calcutta & we have 5 of us white men left on board 2 mates & 2 boys & 22 natives of India, Kalashers they are called & our captain don't treat them well & they are discontented &



of the other day hitched into the Captains of  
would of killed him but we interfered  
when they had fired him enough, but we  
were not quick enough (I did not intend to be)  
to prevent him from getting what he deserved  
for his bad treatment of us, but however it  
was attended with bad effects for us since  
they were too cheeky, because they will  
leave here, & last night hitched into the mate,  
they knocked him down & all hands were on him  
but when we got aft & sat a word or two in  
there was a change of in affairs we drove  
them with anything <sup>we</sup> could get hold of before the  
main mast of the mate got hitals out the  
cabin & we kept stem forward & I suspect this  
will help to get them out of the ship & I ~~hope~~  
~~hope~~ hope so for they are a treacherous lot &  
if they make up their minds would murder <sup>us</sup>  
pull them selves after & me are too few to guard  
against a surprise when at sea. Well, I cut  
this yarn about those lather complexion deal  
& just wonder what you are all doing now for  
I have never heard anything from you since I  
got my dear mothers letter in Plymouth.  
I have called at the Sydney Post Office but



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never was fortunate enough to fit a letter  
but I do hope you received mine. I think  
father must have removed from Escater &  
I hardly think you can still be at Mr Haydon's.  
I think I must stick for home next for I long  
to see you all again. Fanny & Sophie must  
be selling ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> woman & all the little ones.  
I don't suppose I would know ~~how~~ I take you  
are doing some good for yourself but I have  
heard things are very bad in England.

I am sure we ~~would~~ <sup>could</sup> all do well in  
Australia if you could manage to get out  
I was never ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> until ~~last~~ I came to Calcutta  
when I nearly thought I should never leave.

I had the fever & it killed me down very low,  
but I ~~was~~ <sup>had</sup> great ~~reason~~ reason to be thankful  
for nearly all of us had it & 2 men died & every day  
you ~~would~~ could see the English half mast high  
for some poor fellows, although I am pretty  
slight & about as long as a 50 year old looked  
my constitution is as strong as anyones & since  
I left home I have been through some ~~bad~~  
hooks that would have killed many a strong donkey



This is Sunday with me my dear  
brother & I hope your time is better  
employed than most of our Sunday, for I  
can assure you that I have found out that  
old sailors sayings to be quite true,

"There is no Sunday in 7 fathoms of water"  
I have written this in the expectation of

getting some money to buy for these letters for  
as yet our old man ~~has~~ as said he will  
send us ~~some~~ <sup>nothing</sup> none: ~~for~~ all now finished for

all present finish by & by when I know where  
we are bound for

Shanghai

Dear Fred you see I am in another ship  
we were distressed after picking up a row  
with our long skippers but I will tell  
you about it. Please God I have to get home  
we are bound for London & I expect to get  
home about the beginning of May. I have taken  
up my pen to conclude this for there is a  
most awful row in the fore-castle, though  
this is Sunday well feel very uncomfortable  
I hope to see you are well for myself I am not  
quite right but I hope to see the land in a  
short time & find you all well & my  
side

faller in comfortable circumstances &  
now my dear brother looking to see  
you all well & hearty. I am ever

your affectionate brother  
W H Small