

Auburn Road

Auburn

Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> 1886

Dear Will

I hope this will find you all well as I am at present. I hope you will come up on Saturday to stay as before. Try & come up early in the Afternoon as I will be at home & expecting you.

I have no news to tell you so will conclude with Kind regards to your Mother & all the rest & accept the same yourself. I remain your sincere  
Chum

E. W. Burns.

mind & come up



I think they are going to  
pay too much for a  
tent. Father says you  
can buy a new tent  
for 10 for 15 or 16 shillings  
so they ought to get the  
loan of it a bit cheaper.  
E. D.

Auburn Road  
April 19<sup>th</sup> 86

Dear Will

I got home  
all right but had to wait till  
9:10 for a train. If all goes well  
I will be down in the 11:27 train  
at Sydney <sup>on Friday</sup> a quarter to 4 from  
Auburn. I will also bring the  
Tea with me. I hope it will be  
a fine day on Friday and on  
the other <sup>days</sup> three too. do not forget to  
bring a pannikin with you & a  
Towel & Tinplate I have nothing  
else to say at present so will  
conclude with kind love to  
all & accept same yourself. I remain  
your faithful servant E. W. Burns



The nights & mornings are very cold  
up here now. I have no news to  
tell you at present so will conclude  
with kind love <sup>to</sup> you you all also  
Jim. George George & ozzzzzzzz  
I remain yours truly  
E. W. Burns

P.S. Write & Tell me when  
you will be coming up again.  
your Obedient  
son  
Ed.

E. W. BURNS

Auburn

May 27<sup>th</sup> "86

Dear Will. I got home  
all right on Monday night & made  
enquiries about the Duck Eggs  
but Mother says she has got none  
as the Ducks are not laying. or you  
could have some. We will be able  
to get you a clutch when they lay  
next if you like. I hear that the  
Kimberley Rush is turning out  
a very good one & by the papers  
I see that all the men are getting  
pretty good gold. What do you  
say if we go over there camping  
at Christmas we might make  
our pile in a short time



AUBURN AXLE FORGE CO.,

Auburn, July 7 ..... 1886

Mr. W. Johnston

Dr. to BASSETT, BURNS & CO.

Dear Will

I received your note all right & was glad to see by it that you are coming up on Saturday. Come straight from work up, as I want you to come early. I have no news to tell you now as I will tell you all when I see you. With kind love to all remain yours Faithfull  
excuse paper as I cannot find  
any other. C. H. Burns.  
P. S. Be sure & come up early



He was up on Anniversary Day  
I have no news to tell you so I  
must close with love to Mother &  
Father & all the rest & accept the  
same yourself I remain  
your Faithfull Chum  
E. W. Burns.

(P.S. Give my love to Joe)

Try & Come on Saturday

Auburn Road  
Auburn  
March 10<sup>th</sup> 89

Dear Will

I now drop  
you a few lines to let you know  
that I am not forgetting you  
I am very sorry that I did not  
write before but you must excuse  
as you know I am not much of  
a hand for writing. & I thought  
you would have wrote before. It was  
my Birthday on Tuesday week &  
I was sweet eighteen. & Come up  
from work on Saturday if you  
can & stay till Monday Morning  
you know that you promised  
that the last time you were  
up. & if you dont come up  
look out for squalls the next  
time I see you. I have not got  
a letter from Jim Spickett since



and you could have a ride on  
the horse as I am going to get  
a nice one tomorrow I think.  
You could come up on Monday  
Night & stay all night.  
If you dont come up I will meet  
you down at the corner of Bathurst  
& George Sts about 8 O'clock if you  
like. I am very sorry that I won't  
be able to get the holidays.

I have no news to tell you so will  
conclude with kind love to Mother  
Father & I've & the Rest of Yourself

Included I remain

Your Faithful  
Churn

E. W. Burns

Mind you come up on Monday night  
or Tuesday morning

Auburn  
June 18<sup>th</sup> 1887

Dear Will

I received  
your letter all right and was  
glad to see by it that you were  
all in good health as  
this leaves us all at present  
I am very sorry to say I  
will not be able to be down  
on Jubilee Day till the 10 to 7  
Train from Auburn as I will  
have to deliver my newspapers  
as usual. But I would like you  
to come up in the morning &  
wait for me to come down in the  
Night that is if you have  
no particular place to go.  
I will have nothing to do from 8 in  
the morning till about half Past  
three in the afternoon so we could  
have a good knock about



Right as I had something very particular  
"On" but I will very likely come  
down on Saturday week next  
& have a Trot around with you.  
I would like you to come up on  
Saturday week or next Saturday &  
stay as usual if possible.  
I would have written before but I have  
had a bad hand lately I was getting  
down out of the Dray when I slipped  
off the shaft & fell & I put my hand  
out to save my head & it got  
sprained a bit & ever since I  
can hardly hold anything in my right  
hand but I hope it will soon be  
all right again.

The New Wesleyan Church is going  
to be opened next Sunday so I hope  
you will be sure to come up

If not write & let me know

I remain Your Faithful

Chum

E. Burns.

P.S. Give my love to all at home

Auburn Road  
Auburn

August 9<sup>th</sup> 1887

Dear Will

I received  
your notes all right & they were very  
acceptable I can tell you. You must  
excuse me for not writing before as  
I have been pretty busy lately &  
not much news that would interest you  
we had a great night at the Lodge  
last night there were nine Official  
visits from other Lodges, including all  
to-gether about 125 persons there was  
a bit of a spree tea & coffee & ~~Catals~~  
we also had a few good songs & recitations  
& broke up at 10:30. The Election  
of Officers was on Last Monday  
week & I was Elected "Worthy Financial  
Secretary" have to keep the Roll &  
look after getting all the fees & Dues.  
I could not come down last Saturday



29<sup>th</sup> October 1887

From Ted,

Auburn  
Oct 29/87

Dear Hill

I will expect

you up this afternoon  
without fail as arranged  
when I was down come up

straight from work &  
have dinner here I thought  
I would have had a

note from you before

Excuse my not disappointing  
me or else I will get you

I remain your faithful  
Chas. E. Brown



address

Limestone  
Palmer River  
North Queensland  
May 11<sup>th</sup> 90

Dear Will

I suppose you will be surprised to hear from me in this part of the world, but I suppose you heard that I had come up here. I intended to write before, but put it off from time to time till now. I left Sydney on January 15<sup>th</sup> so that is 4 months ago. Father came down home at Christmas & on the Friday night before he was coming away again, he said I had better come up with him, as I could get a job at £3.10.0 a week, I did not want to come myself, but as Mother persuaded me to come for company to the loco-

I came. We have been here now just three months & I have only done 5 weeks work all that time so I am sorry I came at all, The Mine got flooded out & as the Wet season was on it could not be bailed out till the fine weather came on. We are going to start again in about 3 weeks I think. The work I was doing was mining & it is pretty hard work I can tell you. The Shaft is 150ft deep. It is very warm at the bottom we all take our shirts off before we go down as it is too hot to work with them on. I don't think I will stick to it long as this place is very dull that is there are no girls at all about here & it is no use being stuck here very long at that rate.



There is plenty of life here one way that is Drinking & Fighting it is the worst place ever I was in for that, there was three fights here last Sunday, and I have had to pull drunken men out of my bed 4 or 5 times already when they get tight they go and lie in the nearest bed that comes. We are Boarding at a Shanty & pay 25¢ a week for Tucker & it is pretty rough I can tell you. plenty of Bread & Beef that is about all, we get Spuds on a Sunday sometimes.

The Blacks are pretty bad in some places about here they killed a Chinkee the other day out on Cannibal Creek about eight miles from here the troopers are after them now

Dear Will You must please excuse me for not coming up to see you before I came away I would have done so, only that I had so little time from Friday till Tuesday that was all. On the Sunday I had to see the girl of course, & then I had to get a boat to work in the Wood yard I did not get one till Tuesday Morning. I was working till dinner time & caught the Steamer at 5 O'clock so you will see how it was. You must also excuse me for New Year's Eve but I was out with the girl till Eleven anyhow I will make up for it Next New Year I hope. I suppose you are Spiced by this time. I will now conclude with Kind love to your Father Mother & all the little Johnstons & the same for yourself I remain your Faithfull Chum  
 please write soon  
 Ted



Limestone  
June 13<sup>th</sup> 1890

Dear Will

I received your letter of June 26 all right & was glad to hear that you was all right, but was very sorry indeed to hear of poor Jim Laurence's death, it was a great pity for a fine young fellow like him to be cut off so sudden, but we never know what is going to happen to us.

I was also sorry to hear that little Gordon had been so bad, but hope that he is quite recovered by this time. It was a terrible mistake for the Doctor to make & he deserves a good showing up.

Well old chap you got onto me pretty rough in your letter for not writing

before, but I suppose I must grin & bear it & pay you off when I come back again.

I suppose that you are a bit lonely now that your girl is away in Adelaide, but you will like her all the more when she comes home again. I am glad to hear that you are not splined yet or else I will not be able to see you so much as I used to, when I come back. I note what you say about the bits of gold, I will see about it, I think I will be able to manage it for you. I am not working at the mine now. We were knocked off for a few weeks & I got a job about four miles away at the Good Hope G.M.Co. I am working at making a large dam, Pick & Shovel, & Barrow work there are eight of us at it. Another young fellow & Me are Barbers



together in a tent. It is not a very nice job cooking for ourselves, but as there is no Boarding house there we have to do it. We have some pane old fads I can tell you. I think if we were at it long we will suffer from Indigestion very likely.

There was three of us had rather a narrow squeak the other day. On Sunday we made up our minds to go to a Black's camp about 3 miles away among the Mountain for a lark. We expected there was about 20 or 30 of them there. It was just after dark when we got there & as soon as they saw us there was a terrible row. There was over 150 of them. they collared their spears & rushed out at us & we were surrounded in no time. Some of them was going to spear us

but the others stopped them. I had a revolver in my belt and so did one of the others & I can tell you that there was very near bloodshed. We whipped out our revolvers & as soon as they saw them they cooled down a bit & I expected to get one into me every minute, only for our being armed I believe we would have been all speared, as some of them was awful wild, the Black Troopers had been shooting some of them & they were very treacherous, one of the chaps began to cry like a child he thought it was all up with us. I began to jabber to them & found out that I had known some of them over on the Hoag Kinson, they got all right after a bit & made a lot of me they began felling me all over & said I was a budgaree Whitefellow.



I will bring you down  
a bit of gold when  
I come

The Fort Hope Camp  
August 10<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday

Dear Will

Your very welcome letter  
came to hand all right last  
Sunday & was glad to see  
by it that you was all  
right as this leaves me  
& the Dad at present.

I was glad to hear that you  
expected the girl home  
soon when you wrote, & I  
expect that you have done  
a tall bit of Spooning by  
this time "Lucky dog." I  
wish that I was near some  
nice girl just now. I  
will be getting that shy that  
I won't know how to talk

to a girl when I get back  
to Sydney, but I suppose will  
be able to pick it up again.  
I get a letter, every two or three  
weeks, from my girl, & she  
seems to be getting on all  
right, if she keeps as true as  
this chicken, she will do very well.  
You wanted to know how long  
I was going to stay away. I  
don't think it will be very long.  
I have not been working this  
last two weeks, we all got  
put off, but am going to start  
again to morrow night, I would  
have come home when I got  
put off, only I had not saved  
up enough money, have been  
spending too much lately, but  
am going to save like  
now for about six weeks



Months, & then Hurrah for  
Sydney, I think that the Dad  
will be coming down in about  
3 weeks or a month & I  
may come down with him  
I am not sure yet.

My mother & I are getting on very  
well Batchelorising, but it  
is no joke, having to make your  
selves, up here where things are  
so scarce, we very seldom see  
any vegetables & then only ~~of~~  
spuds, however I will be able  
to make up for it when I  
get home. The diggers have  
been cutting up a bit rough,  
here, this last week, or two  
they speared a Chinthee  
last week, near here, & the  
before yesterday they  
ed a tent & took

a Rifle away from it, & when  
the man came home they  
fired four shots at him but  
could not hit him, he had  
a revolver in his belt & Blazed  
away at them with that  
& then they cleared, the wretches  
want wiping out altogether.  
I see by your letter that J. Pieter  
had come home again & that you  
did not think his residence in  
the country had done him much  
good, remember me to him.

I have no more news this time  
so will conclude with kind love  
to your Father Mother I've yourself  
& all the little ones I remain  
your Faithful  
Lad

Give my love to I've &  
write soon



Oh how did I & Harry  
get home the other night  
I was disappointed that  
you did not come up with  
them. anyhow don't be  
long before you do come  
up. I have no more  
news to tell you now so  
will conclude with kind  
love to all at home  
and accept the same journey

I remain your  
Omn  
Ed

Auburn  
July 29<sup>th</sup> 91

Dear Will

Just a few  
lines to see how you are getting  
on. You told me to mind  
and let you know when the  
Wattle trees were in bloom  
well they are in flower now  
& will be for the next two  
or three weeks so if you want  
to get a bunch you had  
better soon come up



Auburn

May 12 1892

Dear Will,

Just a few lines to let you know that I cannot come down to the Ball. The Girl cannot come so I don't think I will go by myself. I cannot get a mate, George Finckel has gone away up the country or else he would have come. There was a Leap Year Ball up here last Friday night, it was a grand turnout, the Girls invited the Gents. I hope yours will be a success

~~Dear Will,~~  
My word I owe it to you for the rubbing you gave me in your last letter about not answering yours & will round on you when we meet. I hope you enjoyed yourselves at the camp. I intended to answer it but clean forgot about it so please accept a apology. I will very likely be down to see you on Sunday next if not then on Sunday week. How is <sup>my</sup> getting on kindly remember me to her. We are thinking of getting up a picnic for Queen



Birthday You had  
better chime in I will  
let you know particulars  
again. I will now close  
with kind love to Mother  
& all the family also  
to yourself. I remain  
your Chum  
Ted

P.S. The two tickets you  
sent me I enclose in  
this am sorry I could  
not dispose of them  
for you old Boy. Ted