

Dorchester -  
Dec 7<sup>th</sup> - 181.

My darling Lucy,

I felt I must not let the mail leave without a line to tell you that you were lovingly remembered yesterday and earnestly did I pray that the Lord would bless you abundantly, as He sees best for you - We are but poor short-sighted creatures. we do not know what is best for us. Our heavenly Father knows & we must try and trust with all our hearts even while passing through the fire - it is only to purify, not to burn.

Give my love to every one who you think care for it - do not worry about Jack & young.

You have ere this received dear  
Father's letter written while  
at the Thames. He was so well  
all the time we were there. No  
one in the house would have  
imagined there was anything  
the matter. Of course when  
we were alone he used to come  
out with his fears & anxieties  
but before others was just as  
he used to be - conducted  
family worship when Mr.  
Lamb was too ill with a cold  
to do it himself - and now  
he is very anxious to get something  
to do and we have been making  
enquiries today - It would be  
a great help to him if we can  
hear of something - If we could  
leave unobtruded I cannot

help feeling he would improve  
quicker for the constant sight  
of the Asylum keeps him back.  
I am sure. but that must  
be as the Lord leads. He knows  
all about it and will guide  
for the best. Poor Sue has  
a bad cold in her head. you  
know what a trial her poor  
nose is generally under the  
circumstances. though I don't  
think it has been quite so bad  
this time. I fear I am in for  
it also. Father had a touch  
of it at the Thames - but except  
a slight cough is all right again.  
Fred is at Glebe Orchard  
surveying. laying out  
roads for in a new township

He gets on very well with Mr  
Hickson. I wish his salary was  
better - for he works very hard -  
and three pounds a week is not  
not much to keep a family on -  
but we are very thankful to  
have that - coming in regularly.  
We hope to have the dear boy  
home for a while again in a  
week or two - we miss him -  
We took tea with Grandpa  
last evening. Father was so happy  
with them all - it made it quite  
pleasant - We put Miss's dress  
out - to make use of all the cutting  
I ever saw it certainly was the  
worst - It was enough to make  
one groan to see a nice useful  
material made up so badly  
her bill was 18<sup>s</sup> - 11<sup>d</sup> - for making

lining & bottoms - I am going  
to take it back & pick out the  
fearful sewing - I am not given  
to complaining but - she has  
worn it twice & it is literally  
coming to pieces - I shall have  
to make it over again, I am  
going to get my Japanese silk  
turkish & made up for her for  
best - the one I wore at dear <sup>Uncle</sup>  
wedding - I think it will do  
nicely as I have my black silk  
for best - I shall not need it - only  
wish I could show Mrs M<sup>r</sup> Lyman  
the work on her dress - she would  
be horrified - everything just  
tacked together with coarse  
black cotton - you could not  
imagine it - if you did not see  
it yourself -

but enough of this - We are getting  
near Christmas are we not? I  
I cannot realize it at all - indeed  
I feel very little interest in it -  
Mrs Gilmer our kind neighbour  
gave me a dozen eggs to day - for  
my Christmas pudding - she  
gets about eight dozen eggs a week  
and more when the hens are  
laying as they do earlier in  
the season - She is always giving  
a few eggs for "Mr Nutters' tea"  
or some excuse - and they are  
very acceptable for bought eggs  
are not to be depended on at  
all - Father says he told you  
all about our visit to the Home  
We did enjoy it - every body  
was so kind - they are all

so homely & sociable. We  
were to have spent an evening  
at Mrs Smiths (sister to John  
Douglas of Oueddie) old Mrs  
D. is staying with Mrs S. We  
could not do so as we were  
returning to Auckland. The  
Lancs asked us to stay longer  
but they were nearly all so  
poorly with colds. that we felt  
it would be kinder to leave  
them. - Old Mrs Douglas tells  
me that her son is coming up  
here to live & is going into  
partnership with Mr S Kaile  
brother of Mrs Jones - & Uncle to  
Mrs Biss & Mrs Connell. I fear  
it is a mistake. Time will  
show - but I should not like

to see anyone belonging to  
me going into partnership  
with a Tailor. However I trust  
for Mr. D's sake I may be wrong  
in my opinion. - It is nearly  
years since I knew anything  
of them personally. - I hope  
you will excuse this rambling  
scrawl - but I write just what  
I think of as it comes into my  
head & I hope you will never  
forget to give my love to dear Miss  
Brenton for I always mean it.  
She has a warm corner in my old  
heart. - Now darling good bye.  
I wish I could see you instead  
of writing but we must wait &  
hope on. Give my very best  
love to dear old Arthur & Emma  
& a goodly share for your  
dear old self - from your  
Loving Mother.