
Community voices – transcript – D 5363 L

William Charles Belt.

Extract of a letter from Adelaide dated 16 February 1852 to his sister Elizabeth Ponsford in England describing the summer conditions and the beautiful sunsets he experienced in the colony.

To Mrs. H. Ponsford.
Minehead, Somersetshire.

North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia. 16th. Feb. 1852

My dear Sister,

...

The present month of February I hear represented as one of the most disagreeable, it is intensely hot during the day but the evenings are cooler than those of December and January. We have eight summer months and four of winter, just the reverse of our English seasons, with winter beginning in May and ending with August and our trees grow greener during the hot weather they are however far inferior to your English trees for beauty and luxuriant foliage and I do not think that as yet I have seen any views equal to those I enjoyed at Minehead

but at sunset the clean transparent skies and delicate tints are extremely lovely and cannot be comprehended by persons who have not witnessed the tropical evenings and our moonlight and starry nights are three times as clear and bright as those of England without the least damp or chilliness.

We are now getting into the habit of sleeping with our window open. We did not like it at first being afraid of the dust storms and insects. The latter do certainly annoy us and notwithstanding mosquito curtains we and Penelope especially get stung severely for their bites raise perfect blisters and the pain and inflammation will continue for several days. The best plan is to bear with the pain without rubbing or scratching the wound which only makes matters worse...

Ever your affectionate Brother
WC Belt