

Chambers Station Moolooloo

8th Feby. 1860.

My dear Brother,

I am down as you see again at this place after an absence of six months from Adelaide & over 4 months from here. The causes that have led to my coming down this far are to obtain fresh assistance & material to prosecute our further explorations in the N.W. all our men have left as you will learn from Mr. Stuart's journal which will I believe be published as soon as it arrives in Adelaide. We go out this time for 6 months, first to solve the mystery of the lake or inland sea. Secondly to fix the Centre & plant a union jack there. Then if possible wait for rain to carry us to the N. W. Coast.

As my time is very short now expecting the horses to be brought in every minute I shall not be able to copy my journal as I intended. But Mr. Stuart's will well supply the place. We have seen hard times especially towards the last having for the last fortnight or so only 3½ lbs. of flour a week with 8 oz. meat and a very small quantity of sugar. We arrived at Stuart's Creek on the 20th Jany. very much reduced. After a week's spell there I was again in the saddle for this place which I reached last Sunday and on this day (Wednesday) start on my return back again. We have discovered many new springs and plenty of good grass land, have surveyed & laid off in runs nearly 8000 sqr. miles of country, fixed the position of scores of hills, creeks & springs, & it has fallen to my lot to find the best permanent reach of water & country for feed we have as yet seen. - Better than Stuart's Creek. But I am forgetting. Allow me to congratulate you and your dear Carry on the birth of a son as I see by the newspapers. I suppose Emily has long ere this been a happy wife but can find no notice of the event in the odd papers I have been able to collect.

So tolmer's affair turned out an unfortunate failure after he promised so much and after he had been forewarned by competent bushmen not to try that route but to follow Stuart's track where he would be sure of water (for nearly 700 miles) for his horses at least twice a day. But no he would not take advice but follow his own opinion & hence his miserable failure. I have succeeded in collecting a small but select collection of seeds which will be forwarded to mr. James chambers, several new & interesting specimens among them. My own private collection I have not time to arrange but will endeavour to do so on the road back to the creek. They have all got mixed together. I will try and send them to you by Barker's dray which will be coming down shortly. I hope to obtain a better & larger store this time as we shall be out in the wet season when the principal shrubs & flowers bloom. In the heat of the summer the seeds ripen & fall before you have a chance to collect them.

Have you heard anything of a package of fish we got from the lake & planted at the Emerald Sp. with a letter directed to "Any person" - Some person has been there & taken the letter & parcel & we can find no more traces [of] it. It will be a great shame of the party not to forward it to Adelaide as we are the first I believe to prove the fact.

The horses are in and I am sorry my time is so limited that I must bring this letter to so abrupt a conclusion but there is no feed for them at the station and they have a long journey to go. So I must get them on the grass this afternoon. Please give my very dear love to all especially our dear Father who I sincerely hope is in health & strength. and not forgetting yourself, Carry & the little ones. Allow me to subscribe myself

Your very affect^{ate} Brother

W.D. Kekwick

P.S. Any letters or newspapers directed to me at Barker's Stations, Stuart's Crk. in about 4 or 5 months will reach me no doubt on my return as there is now a monthly mail by the police who patrol that far.
W.D.K.