Portsmouth June 5th 1843.

My dear Wife

I am very glad to see by your last letter that you are all well, which leaves me at present, and I am very sorry that I have to tell you that I am not coming home to day as I intended to do last week, but that I could not help it, as I expected to receive a letter, from the Secretary of the Admiralty, before this, but I have not received one yet, therefore I shall start by the first train on Wednesday morning, so that you may expect me home on Wednesday evening, by the 7 o'clock train, I am very sorry that I cannot come home to day, but I hope you will excuse me, for I could not help it, I have been very busy all the week, examining the boys at the different schools in the town, and I have got through about half of them, I have had two days at the Grammar School, and one day at the Model School, and one day at the Infant School, and I have to go to the Model School again to day, and to morrow, and then I have done with them, I have been very busy all the week, and I have had a great deal of writing to do, and I have been very busy all the week, and I have had a great deal of writing to do, and I have been very busy all the week, and I have had a great deal of writing to do, and

of God will attend the erection of that Church, & that before long it may be completed & a Clergyman settled in the Neighbourhood to officiate there regularly. I shall feel anxious to know who the Clergyman will be. Papa is to hold an Examination next Sunday. Mr Cameron & Mr Liste are candidates for Priest's Orders, & Mr Allan & Mr Robinson for Deacon's. I feel sure you will be anxious to know how Emily is, & will be glad to hear that she is much better. After She did not go to the Ball, she accompanied us to the Falls, to Burwood & Concord, & spent Thursday with us at the Parsonage. We enjoyed ourselves very much, we went for a walk in the afternoon down to the Bay, with Sir Maurice & Mrs Darnell, & Miss Baldock & Agnes Baldock, who are staying at the Falls. They are two very nice girls. Next Sunday week the Diocesan Meeting takes place, & I believe Mr Cameron is to preach the following day. Papa [illegible] going to Hunters

Well, to hold a Confirmation, he will sleep at Mrs Baldock's. Fanny had a very kind note from her, to invite us all to go, but we could not conveniently at present, as Papa goes from thence to Parramatta, & will have to hurry back, in order to leave by the Steamer for Hunter's River, the End of the week. You ask me for an account of the Ball, wh I enjoyed more than any Ball I have been to for some time, as I danced principally with old friends & very partners there - Mr G. Campbell, Mr J. Dowling, Mr F. Therewether, Henry Lumsden, Mr Ramsay, Mr Crawley, & Mr Sheilds - Tho, by the bye, I did not dance a quadrille with Mr Crawley, but beat into Supper with him instead. The new rooms were well lighted, & looked exceedingly well. I hardly think any lady there, deserved the title of a Belle, but there were a good many who looked very nice. My old friend, Mary Jones, was my Belle, for, without being pretty, she is such a nice figure, & is so ladylike in her

appearance & manner, & she was dressed very becomingly - all I have to tell you about my dress. is, that it was the same I wore two years ago, for I have been so little the last two weeks, that it looked almost as good as new, & I was very glad to escape the expense of a new one - Dear Aunt Papa did say, when Aunt first told him that Emily would not go to the Ball, that he hoped she would, & he would give us each a new dress - however I did not be persuaded to go, & Papa