

Charles Albert La Trobe – Letters and sundry papers, 1874-1876

1. Letters of James Graham to Charles Joseph La Trobe (and Rose La Trobe): extracts re Charles Albert La Trobe, 1874-1876
2. Sundry papers - account of C. A. La Trobe, 1874-1875

1. Letters of James Graham to Charles Joseph La Trobe (and Rose La Trobe): extracts re Charles Albert La Trobe, 1874-1876

Source: University of Melbourne Archives, Graham Bros collection 1961.0014, unit 56, Private letter book 8.

Letters are addressed to My Dear Mr La Trobe

Melbourne Victoria

20 April 1874

We were much disappointed in finding no Charlie in the Mail Steamer, nor, not a line from him. We must hope better luck next time, but in the meantime, his non appearance is most provoking, as we fully expected him to be present at Minnie's wedding which we had fixed for the 23rd. I am afraid neither Bride nor Bridegroom would consent to a further postponement. Hope next mail to have the pleasure of advising you of the successful & happy accomplishment. Hope to gather about 100 old friends at the Wedding breakfast, and as they are nearly all, also, old friends of yours, it would have been very agreeable to me to have been able to introduce your son to them. However, I hope to find some other opportunity.

19th May 1874

I had great pleasure in receiving your letter of 17th of March on the 11th inst, and also in welcoming Charlie back to his Native Country. His is looking exceedingly well and seems much pleased with the Country, and the way in which his Father's old friends have received him— One thing is certain every one is pleased with him and he is already a great favourite on all sides—

26th June 1874

Charlie is at present up at Mitchell's [*Barfold* station, near Kyneton], but I expect him back today.

8th September 1874

Last mail brought me your letter from Neuchatel, dated 7th July, and one from Agnes from Clapham House, dated 9th of same month. –You may be sure [how] I was deeply grieved to hear of the cause of your sudden and hurried departure from England but was glad to learn from Agnes' letter that your dear little girl was improving— God grant that we may hear still better news by next mail —

Here, we are, I am thankful to say, all well and jolly – Charlie still here, and as great a favourite as ever – No doubt he [keeps you well] posted up as to all his doings and business projects—

10th November 1874

... the distressing and sad news of your dear [Isabelle, who died 26 August] ...
Charlie has been staying for some days past with Minnie and her husband at Heidelberg [Banyule homestead]. We expect him back this afternoon – He came into South Yarra with them on Sunday last, to spend the day with us, but returned with them in the evening. He has felt his sister's death most acutely.

2nd December 1874

Charlie is still here, but talks of leaving by the Mail Steamer of the 31st— I find however that he does not always ride when he puts his spurs on— He is at present staying for a few days with Minnie, and her husband at Heidelberg— He was in, and spent the day before yesterday with us at South Yarra— Charlie, if he goes on the 31st, will have our Governor [Sir George Bowen] and staff as fellow passengers. We hear that Sir William Stawell [Acting Governor] may be expected by the January steamer.

28th January 1875

You are quite right – Charlie does not always stick to his plans— He has not left us yet, and really at this moment, I cannot... say, whether he will go by today's Mail Steamer or not. He is staying with us down at Brighton, and I left too early this morning to know what his very latest plans are— He takes things very coolly, and is an excellent health and spirits.

24th February 1875

I think Charlie is finally booked to go by this Mail— At any rate he has paid his passage to Bombay— He is in excellent health and spirits, and no doubt will write to you at some length, on board ship.

20th March 1875

Charlie finally got away by last month's Mail Steamer [the *Nubia* on 20 February].— We heard from him, from the Heads, and also from Adelaide— all well and jolly— You will hear from him, from Bombay, before we shall.

My Dear Mrs La Trobe

29 November 1876

... I must confess to being very much surprised to hear of Charlie's marriage. Not so much at the fact of the marriage itself, as that, most probably, would naturally happen some day, or other. But with the profession of the lady [actor], and the fact that it had been kept so secretly from the knowledge of his old friends here. The first intimation of the marriage was received by me from Mr Groves [one of La Trobe's executors]... and all he said on the subject was, —'You will have heard of Charlie's intended marriage on the 12th inst.' [i.e. September]. From his saying nothing further on the matter, and also the reticence of yourself, and his sisters, the only conclusion I could then form was that it was a marriage that none of you very much approved of. The news received by the following mail of course cleared up all doubt. —I most sincerely hope that it is a marriage that may prove a good and happy one for him.

2. Sundry papers - account of C. A. La Trobe, 1874-1875

Source: University of Melbourne Archives, Graham Bros collection 1961.0014, unit 108

- Memoranda of Seeds etc. To J. Graham Esq. (*on outside fold*)
Memo, with coat of arms of C. A. La Trobe, 'Tutto si fa', (no date):
Cuttings to be waxed with grafting wax at ends. Bulbs to be put in sand. Seeds to be kept from damp. The whole to be soldered up.
The box to be sent to the American Consul for his certificate as to [...?] dutiability of contents & shipped via San Francisco to N.Y
– to be addressed as follows....
per Australian etc etc. To be delivered to Adams Express Co: in San Francisco – for immediate carriage to N.Y COD'
W. W. Evans Esq^{re} [...?] 63 Pine St. New York.
- Plants etc fr, WW.E [?]. (In C. A. La Trobe's hand, accompanying the memo above.)
Mr McArthur Esq^{re}:
Ixias (bulbs) (Cape) viz Rose, Sulphur, [Green ??] Mauve [?] Variated
Pig Face Australian plants White, Sulphur, Mauve [?] Orange [?] Lilac (small)
Mrs Graham:
Set of New Zealand seeds, Giant [Cluster ?] cuttings & seeds, other cuttings, Australian seeds.
- List (no date, torn off at bottom, accompanying the memo above)
To be shipped via San Francisco & Sydney, Mail Steamer to care of Hon. J. Graham, Melbourne
~~The office of the steamer is somewhere in South William Street, N.Y~~ *crossed through*
Seeds: 2 lbs Sweet sugar corn (2 varieties)
2 lbs Lima beans
3 oz Best variety of Tomato
3 oz “ “ of Egg Plant
3 oz “ “ [Orange ?] Watermelon
3 oz “ “ Musk Melon
3 oz “ “ Cantilope “
or somewhere about those quantities.
- Account 11 Nov^r 1874 from Australasian Steam, Navigation Company, per W. P White, Agents, to Graham Bros, Collins St,:
Latrobe, 1 Case Freight ex Sydney, delivered 1/10/74 3/-
Gent. — We beg to inform you we have the above amount outstanding on our Books and as the Case was delivered to your [Carman?] on 1 ult. an early remittance will oblige.
- Account from Henry Clarke & Co, 66 Collins Street East, January 15[?] 1875
C. A. La Trobe C/- Hon. J. Graham
Engraving – Gov La Trobe £ 1 10 –
Payment received 15/1/75.
- Other sundry accounts