Melbourne Oct 31st 1857

Dear Father

This you will recollect is my Birth Day upon which event I take you con=gratulations and good wishes without waiting their expedition from me due your hand & pen, doubting not my being heartily welcome to them, by my absent much be little. I wish some circumstance could remind you all of the fact, that at this hour appointed we might pledge our mutual health and happiness in a glass of good wine - as it is, I shall take a social glass with two or three friends and as far as the virtue of a toast is capable of carrying out the wishes of its Author, "My Family and my Home" will be the subject of my most fervent feelings — On the first page you will find a Condensed Statement of our affairs, from a per=sal of which you will find we have, during the time we have been Engaged, done a fair Amount of business and at very handsome profits nearly 350 per cent, all that owing to the many opposing Circumstances we had to Con=tend with. Such as my illness in the fall, the detention of our goods in Melb by the Ice, and the loss of Rent on the Store in Royal Street, we have had only seven Months to make the sales of twelve in order to meet a portion