



Above is the “envelope” for the letter on the following pages. Another letter written by Archibald Brown from Bedlington, England. The letter was written from Bedlington, Saturday 29 November 1845. Archibald would not have realised that William and Mary had not even received his previous letter written on 31 July 1845. According to the date stamps this letter was posted and paid for on **Dec 5 1845**. It is also date stamped **MORPETH Dec 1845**. The next date stamp indicated its arrival in New Zealand either June or July 1846 and Nelson some time after that. It is probable that this was the letter as reported as being held in the Unclaimed Letter Office as in the newspaper report on page **xxxxx**

Dear Brother & Sister Saturday Bellingham Nov. 29. 1845
papa that I sent I hope you have got the letter & news
you will know that I wish to keep up a regular cor-
respondence by writing every 3 months you will observe
I am a month behind my time because we have been
working often to 3 o'clock at night we are very busy here
at present there's more work going on here than at an-
y former time the railways ~~is the principle cause~~
they are commenced with one between Newcastle and
Berwick on that account farm servants are getting
great wages as high as $\$11.50$ for the winter half of
mechanicks wages are from $\$1.50$ to $\$2.50$ per week they
want the work faster done than they can get
hands to do it but I suppose it is against the natural
course of things for to continue any length of time
the consumption of iron must be very great I
cannot imagine the number of tons that is
manufactured here weekly but there's a
and a rolling mill on night and day and all other
places are as busy they have built an iron
house here the roof is 55 ft. span supported upon
iron arches its intended for a very large forge
it is a pattern the hammer is worked by steam
the cylinder is perpendicular above the ham-
mer the piston rod is fastened to the ham-
mer and of course moves up and down
with the piston rod the hammer will be
about 3 tons which can come with all its weight
or that lightly so it will not crack a nut
they will can make shafts as thick and
as long as the largest trees that grow in
this country man was indeed made upright but
but he has found out many inventions.

I can give you no particulars about your old acquaintance in this neighbourhood I write to let you the other week to Scotland but I have not got an answer we have had a very wet summer in consequence the potatoe crop is nearly a total failure it is said it will cause great privation in Ireland owing to there feeding so many swine and the principal food of the inhabitants too the continual wet has diseased the potatoe and caused them to rot so that had state they are selling at 50 p. lb. in the spring of the year it is thought they will be a great deal higher the turnip crop is said to be inferior the corn and the hay has turned out a good average crop the next paper will give you the price of various commodities I have sent for the Newcastle cronicle which I expect to night with the carrier I am informed that letters are shipped on the 5th of every month from London but 12000 miles is a long way making your night our day I understand its your spring now the weather at present is very mild for the season I think New Zealand must be much warmer than here and is far more favourable for the human frame and I suppose the natives are not so decrepit as in this country

We expect to have on Monday the 19th a Methodist
Missionary meeting our minister the presbi-
terian is to be a speaker in some measure
christians are so exalted & so long as
I had put off finishing this letter till
after the meeting expecting to hear some
thing of a sermon but have been com-
pletely disappointed but was much gratified
in hearing of the great good that have
been done and is likely to be
affected through the instrumentality
of the Methodists the name is now
renounced throughout the habitable
globe all friends are in good health
as far as I know I send the Newcastle
Guardian Newspaper which is both
loyal and liberal I now close by wishing
this a swift and safe passage I ought also
to tell you know that Robert is a
very good knave a very sharp unrelenting
boy for his years. I remain your
affectionate father A. Brown



Above is the “envelope” for the letter from Archibald Brown written Bedlington, September 24 1847. Address to: Mr. William Douglas, Motuaka, near Nelson, New Zealand. Archibald Brown had obviously learnt that if you endorse the envelope “near Nelson” it will get their quicker! The postmarks on this letter indicate that it was initially post-stamped Bedlington and then **MORPETH Oct 1847**. The next post stamp is **AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND MAR 28 1848**. From Auckland, the letter took over a month to get to Nelson. The next poststamp is **NELSON AP 30 1848 NEW ZEALAND**. It would appear that “someone” and it may even be William Douglas, has written received 18 May 48 on the envelope. In the bottom right hand corner there is a comment “*pre paid*”. This letter took 9 months to reach its destination. On the follow three pages are copies of the originals. On pages **xxxxx** the letter has been transcribed.

Dedington Sep. 26. 1847.

Dear Brother & Sister you have reason to think me very careless
in not fulfilling my promise but in another way I am not
neglecting it is nearly a year since you wrote the last letter
I received; but it so happened that I had sent a letter a
few days before that of it. I am glad to know that you
have been blessed with a daughter in which I wish
you great & lasting joy & rejoice to know that you are
so well in worldly affairs and that you have likewise
the means of grace and thus we trust to be a blessing
of the greatest world and most assuredly Godliness is
profitable to all things having not only the promise
of the life that now is but also of that which is to come
we have too much reason to believe that religion in this
country is becoming less & less powerful. The Sabbath
is by millions grossly & disregarded & sanctimonious a great
number of locomotives run on Sabbath than on
other days and so mispending the Lord's day are
partly for pleasure the other for profit.
The harvest in this country is most abundant & harvest
nearly all safe in consequence the market
have declined from 4s. 2d. to 2s. 2d. per stone flour and other
grain in proportion potatoes is rather a scanty
crop owing to a very dry & hot season. The manufacture
of Locomotive Engines and railway making is the
principal work work in this country and likely
to be for some time to come. The magazine of the
present month informs me of a plan of the North
free church intending to form a Colony in Sweden
called the Otago consisting 14,000 acres of land.

The tillage land of Otago and such alone are in-
cluded in the sales are divided into small properties
suitable to small capital the cost of one property
of 100 acres is £1200. all the expenses connected
with stocking cultivating & seed 200 the owner
himself being a working man without
requiring any outlay for hire thus the outlay
for one year £20. 10 which includes the passage
of a adult I suppose by this time you will be well
qualified to judge of the increase
I have no doubt that the brave sons of
Britons will be the means of civilizing
Christening and evangelizing the whole land
I can inform you how your friends are as I
have not had any word from them lately
the last I had they were all well. I know
something of the want of youth the grinders
are few and those that look out at the windows
are becoming dim I am now in my 40 year
and age brings on many infirmities we are
very busy at present working for the most part
days The old factories are getting enlarged and
new ones building larger than the old ones

I have got the Newspaper the first thing I cast
my eyes upon was New Zealand and we are very
sorry to see the lamentable account given there
of the distraction of human life by war and
all its attendant calamities which is most
ashurably ~~going on here~~ ^{going on here} than at an
any other season. To ~~bring it to~~ ^{bring it to}
and my earnest prayer is that the Almighty
disposer of all events may ~~bring it to~~ ^{bring it to}
speedy and final conclusion. I expect long
before you receive this you will have sent a
letter to me I feel far more concerned
well being now than ever I did ^{about you} ~~about you~~
without reason it may be ^{that} ~~that~~ ^{it is} ~~it is~~
is far distant from you but ^{it is} ~~it is~~
you may be engaged in it ^{if they are} ~~if they are~~
ing for I have no idea but ^{ought to} ~~ought to~~
blood must be maintained by ^{us} ~~us in this
country there's great preparation making for
war it is said that America is the ^{most} ~~most~~
very powerful country it is but she is not always
to the swift nor the battle to the strong. We are
all in good health excepting Grandmother she is
here and is ^{very} ~~very~~ poorly. What ^{is} ~~is~~
and bearing very easy he charges and not forget to
write for a day and to send it on Monday. I hope
you will be continual enquiring we all
send our kindest love to Mary and yourself
so I remain your affectionate brother John Brown~~