

HADLEY'S
ORIENT HOTEL
HOBART

Mr 20 1914 -

My dear Mrs Congdon

Your letter to me at San Francisco was read with much pleasure. We are having a grand trip of it and it is being illustrated by very fine photographs taken by Mr Alabaster - who is very expert, having the eye of an artist. I think he has sent you a rough sample of his work. Of course you enjoyed it.

Your husband - our courier - is a great travelling companion, and if there is anything about the ~~soot~~ soil and products of New Zealand which has escaped his eye I will be surprised. He is the keenest observer I have ever met. As we travel we have various names for each other. A tippy man on the Tahiti - took Mr Alabaster - 43 years old - to be my son. Hence naturally your husband is Grandpa - I am father and Mr Alabaster is son. The free use of these names gives the British people lots of trouble. Yesterday at the Custom house the inspector, with a brass-hand look on his face pulled out of Mr Congdon's bag a small box and opened it before a crowd of expectant tourists - your husband looked very much amused for a set of false teeth appeared - and a great shout arose - Mr C is in fine health & is growing fat. I thank your son for including news from Evanston in a recent telegram. With best wishes to you & your family -

Wm A Dyche

Stone is a peculiar type of a native chief in native costume = Rangatahi is the name of the chief of a Maori tribe. This is Rangatahi Congdon with the compliments of Mr Alabaster.