

11th March 1887
St. Helens

My dear William,

At last I take possession of the place which is to be the battlefield of the fight between John Morris & Fortune - I think that at the finish J.M. will prove victorious.

I take possession of the shop next Tuesday morning & all being well I will open on Saturday the 19th just.

I shall have to work hard & very probably will be compelled to work day & night to be able to manage it by Sat.

I have (during the last month) called at about every works in St. Helens & neighbourhood – I have been working proper hard.

I have managed to book between 30 and 40 £ worth of orders., I sold Aunt Jane a wringing machine yesterday (which makes the fourth I have sold)

Forty pounds is a nice little order to commence operations on.

If I had been in the shop the chances are I would not have taken all the orders I have taken - because I have picked which I could only have got by looking for.

Mother is quite well but won't have a girl – I wish you would insist upon her having one, I can't persuade her. I am afraid you won't be able to, we are all quite comfortable.

Mother won't forgive Ursula for going & leaving her.

I enclosed a proof of circular – I think it will suit, please return it per return of post as I want to put them in hand at once.

I suppose you won't be home this Easter. When you come next August I hope I shall be able to show you a nice little shop and a nice little balance to the good in my books.

I have managed to get a firstrate & well assorted stock of goods., I have been very successful in buying.

With best love for all
I remain
Your affectionate
Brother
John.