

Esperance  
April 1<sup>st</sup> 1896

“Spring Spring beautiful Spring  
With the leaf the bloom and the butterflies’ wing  
Making our earth a fairy home “

My own dear Cis

I have just been reading your dear letter over. My dearest girl, I cannot but thank and admire you for writing on the “scraps” as you call them. Cis if you were to write on the bark of a tree I don’t think I would notice it. I love to see your writing my own.

And now my darling I can plainly see that you have been disappointed. I feel awfully sorry my own but dearest my letter was rather ambiguous – it was written in a hurry – when I said “if you desire “

I really meant:- “If you thought that I should come“ However dearest I am grieved at disappointing you but as I feel that I must see you my darling my own sweet Cis. I will come as soon as possible if only for a week. I do think of you my own – I have never experienced anything like it before. During the last two years while I loved you or had a tendency that way I would say to myself that if I ever had a sweet-heart- that sweetheart would be Miss Ray. But now that I know we love each other so well, I do think of you Cis. If I only had a friend in whom I could put perfect confidence and tell him all, I think I would be relieved of a great deal of worry.

Cis I will now pledge myself to you and that as soon as I can see

see my way clear to come over without materially interfering with business, I will come to you. I trust you will not think that I might be months and months for dearest I intend coming before the end of next month but I will let you know when to expect me. It is just possible I may get away this month. I am trying to make arrangements now but my love I will write you later.

How kind of Minnie to ask if I would stay with her. She is a dear. She is too good to us Cis. I really don’t know what to do – I will leave it to my little Cis you shall decide dearest. If I should stay there I suppose you would come and see us sometimes (eh) you dear old girl- There would be no trouble about catching trams and trains then.

Now my darling I must go and have some dinner as it is half past six. After dinner my own there is a social on board “S S Flinders” to which I have an “invite”. As I have promised I suppose I must go. I do wish you were here to accompany me there. Well au revoir for the present my dear true Cis au revoir.

11.30 Well here I am back again I have been thinking of you all the evening Cis. I went to the Social- it was very enjoyable- we had some real good songs and I had one dance and then I came home to tell my dear little girl all about it before retiring but Cis I feel so sleepy. I have been drinking porter on board & think it is that that makes me sleepy. It was a lovely moonlight night Cis & I was standing aft having a quiet smoke when two of the ladies and then another one came up and told me that I was very quiet. etc. They did not know who I was thinking of therefore I bid them a goodnight.

And now I bid you the same goodnight darling but with a very different expression, Cis. I love you I can say no more XX

Good Friday How is my dear little girl spending today? Preparing for an outing on Monday (eh)!

I am sorry to hear that you had been suffering from the toothache my own you seem to suffer a lot from it. I can sympathize with you Cis. I have been a martyr to it. It is awful agony I sincerely hope you have had it for the last time.

It was a strange coincidence that your letter giving the account of the oratorio “Calvary” should arrive just as I was reading the account of the ascent to Calvary in “Barabbus”. I do not know whether you have read it yet but it gives a full account of the “Crucifixion”.

Well my little girls’

Mayoress of Esperance is a very different person to the reality who is rather a slightly built woman- her age is rather a mystery- but the casual observer would take her to be about 30 yet she has sons over 20 years of age. She is a splendid dancer rather jolly and good at repartee. Can my little girl picture her now with this vague description.

Re the photos. I have sent you two or three but now I think you would like some copies of the last one better I know I would. By the way dearest I meant to ask you long ago if you would mind me sending one to the other Cis. I would clearly like her to see you. Failing that I would like her to see your portrait. I know you will not mind me sending her one.

How I laughed when I fancied you pulling your poor bed about looking for that lost sheet of your letter. You are a dear girl.

Now Cis I am going to tell you something that I have been itching to tell you since I started and I am only telling you now because I feel pretty certain you will not be disappointed- Well it is this Arthur leaves by the Flinders on a short visit to Adelaide and Melbourne. He was not sure about going to Melbourne but this afternoon he said he had made up his mind to go on. Now Cis he has told me that he might go to Sydney.

In case he is undecided I want you to bring all your persuasive powers to bear on him and insist on him going over then you can hear from him what the other Siss is like. etc. etc.

Once more I must say “au revoir” to my dear sweet little girl, but before doing so must ask you to give my best regards to Mother, Mr and Mrs and the little Biggs, Ruth Miss Bucknill and not forgetting Kittie also to kindly thank Mrs B for her dear suggestion that I should stay with them during my next sojourn in Melbourne. Of Course you will decide that question my own.

I hope you will have a little consideration for me my pet. Think of the unmerciful chaff I would receive at the hands of Romeo especially to say nothing about Hattie and the others.

Au revoir my sweet au revoir with love and lots of kisses  
from Your only Ray

