

Esperance Bay April 20th 1894

Dear Miss Ray

I received your very welcome epistle of the 22nd ult. and I thank you most heartily for your very kind wishes re the future of our new venture and sincerely hope they will be realised.

Arthur has received letters from you and Mrs Ray -he wishes me to tell you he will answer same by next mail, being too busy at present with the firms correspondence We were the people but now we are :- the Dundas and Coolgardie Trading Co - What do you think of that for a name?

Well I suppose you would like to know all our doings since we left your fair city? As the mail has already closed time is limited I will begin at our arrival here (Esperance bay) which we reached in the best of health and spirits, we at once set to work like trojans rigged up a camp where we stored some three tons of goods ,the first night under canvas we received a very hearty welcome from the armies of insects of Western Australia I feel confident :- they journeyed from all parts of the colony to give us a right royal reception there name was legion, I would have given two years of my life to have been at "Maida" listening to a selection from the "Gondoliers" as it was I had nearly half an hours sleep.

We have been doing a little house building having built the store that I am now writing in ,It was great fun we would be carpenters one day plumbers the next painters another & so on as soon as complete I will take a photo of it and send you over a copy . I am sending per favor of the Captain S.S "Meeinderry" the photos I took at "Maida" they are very disappointing the light having spoilt them on the way to Adelaide as it was both the puppy and pussy moved, the one of yourself I will touch up and send a copy later on.

Arthur and I get on famously together in fact I like him better every day I don't think I ever became so much attached to a friend before and I am sorry we will be parting company shortly having agreed that Kilminster & I should proceed to the goldfields while Arthur manages the business.

Kindly thank Mrs Ray for her kind wishes & remember me to all the members of your family I had the pleasure of meeting during my short though very pleasant sojourn at "Maida"

I am pleased to hear that you are pleased with the trifle I sent you which I consider very little compensation for the homely and pleasant reception you gave me at "Maida" and should we have any success on the goldfields I would like to supplement it.

How is the puppy sagaciating? no doubt he has learnt to behave himself when sitting for a photograph? I am sure you will not recognise the picture (?) and I think I'll have to be thankful for being so far out of reach when you look at the poor apology for a photo.

Trusting you will xcuse haste

Yours very sincerely
Raymond J. Sharkey

P.S. I note by your letter that you had a very good programme at Sorrento where I hope you thoroughly enjoyed yourself. R.J.S.