

Norseman

Dundas W.A.

May 23rd 1895

Dear Miss Ray

Your very interesting epistle of April 30th I received only yesterday with agreeable surprise as I was just about thinking that my "Melbourne correspondent" had forsaken me after waiting and watching for so many weeks only to be disappointed. Strange to relate however by the same mail I received a letter from Sydney which coupled with your query re Mr Brodie convinced me that it was my (remissions)? In addressing the letters (one I intended for you & the other for Sydney) as I have not received my last ~~yet~~ in which I answered your ~~letters~~ questions of an earlier date. Well to be brief I

wrote among others a letter for you some six or eight weeks ago but as the cyclist left Dundas some hours before his usual time I in my haste to address the envelopes forgot to put Sydney or N.S.W. on the one and I presume Victoria on the other. After traversing the best parts of South Australia, Tasmania & Victoria the Sydney letter eventually reached its destination, yours is apparently having a more extensive tour which I sincerely regret and I apologise for my neglect.

I certainly sympathize with you in the loss of "Larry" and I do hope ere this that you have found him. I will be greatly disappointed if I do not see a fine noble looking mastiff in your company next time

I visit "Maida" (which I hope will be before the present year is out). I can imagine what a fine fellow he must be now that he is 18 months old & I would not worry over the loss which is very great but "bide a wee" if I am not greatly mistaken he will come back to "Maida" and his mistress the first time he is loose (I am sorry to say that I agree with you that he has been stolen) as dogs as well as human beings can appreciate kindness and I am sure that Larry will discover as many people have that "there's no place like home" and will come bounding up to you someday when you are little dreaming of him.

I hope you will not think that I have merely written the above to humor (sic) you as I have not. But I am treating the matter as if it were my own dog. I know a gentleman who lost a valuable scotch terrier for the discovery of which he offered large rewards, but he never got it till twelve months afterwards while walking on his lawn he observed a dog at the gate which he at once recognised as his long lost but faithful "Snap".

Were I in your place I would become an ardent disciple of "Mr Micawber" & "complacently wait till Larry turns up", which I trust has happened ere this.

You never told me that you could whistle before. I would so like to hear you (don't be cross)

In reference to your question re Mr Brodie (who arrived at Coolgardie some time back) I might say that as Coolgardie is one hundred and forty miles from here I do not meet many of the visitors.

No doubt Arthur has arrived home by this and has told you all the news to date but it is left for me to tell you a little which if not interesting to you will be to him if you will kindly convey it: - well I have sold the "Cachuaca" (our gold mine) for nearly three thousand pounds, 2,900. 290 pounds to be paid on Saturday and the balance in three months time after which date the "Cachuaca" will be a thing of the past. I regret to say that we will have no interest in it whatsoever.

This will be pleasant news for Arthur as well as Kilminster & myself.

The three of us held a discussion on the subject before I left Esperance last time & some time before Arthur left for Victoria, when we decided to sell "right out" for 2,500 pounds. Of course I made up my mind to get more and if possible to retain an interest but the latter being impossible I did what I considered best for all of us. Signing the documents brought back old memories including the eventful night we tracked the prospector's horses by the light of the moon

right within a quarter of a mile of what is now known as the "Cachuaca". The name also reminds me of Hawthorn and the pleasant sojourn I had there.

Mining has been an expensive item for our little firm and has greatly retarded our financial progress. Now however I fancy the above sale will have its different effects on the individuals comprising the Dundas and Coolgardie Trading Company, which I might mention is now a house on rent hold, namely everybody on the field knows what D&C.T.C. represents. Whether we remain together or not remains to be seen and I will be really sorry if Arthur and I part company.

I fancy that you are beginning to think that I am a bore giving you all this business news but the fact is I am just writing it for Arthur's benefit should he be in Melbourne. Unfortunately I have received only one letter from Esperance since I left and I do not know whether he has left Esperance or not, but I have wired full particulars to the boy so that he and Kilminster will be posted with the latest news.

In the event of our sale being concluded as per contract I will then take a trip home & see my people calling

calling at Melbourne en route. I am awfully thankful to you for the little bouquet of sweet violets. I thought them delicious with all their perfume, being so long away from cultivated gardens I had almost forgotten their name.

Not having any tame flowers over here I am sending you two wild ones pressed, they are very pretty in the spring – but unfortunately have no scent.

9.30 pm. I have just returned from a search for a man who was bushed. While writing a man came in and asked me if I would make one of a party of three to search for a man who had not turned up since noon today! Well I consented and after a couple of hours walking, occasionally stopping to fire off a rifle shot, cooees, or light a fire, we found him, he had been travelling away from his camp thinking he was going to it. In our travels I as well as the others discovered that we possessed some dormant qualities, to wit acrobatic. It was a fearfully dark night and the timber and scrub were very thick, the only light we had was a small lantern which made the night appear darker. The search was by no means monotonous as one or the other of us would

turn a somersault every now & then over a log or else fall head over heels into a hole, conversation between the three was impossible as the speaker would emphasise the wrong word or sentence as he jumped over a log. It really was funny I assure you & had you been an eye witness you would

have thought it funnier than I did. Well now we are all back again the lost man found, and the finders more or less scratched about the face or arms.

I must congratulate you on attaining your twentieth year and wish you twenty times twenty happy returns (if possible). I am rather late with my congratulations but then you know it is not my fault.

So your debut was a great success? And because you are successful you think you must be vain? I think that it is a very unfair conclusion to arrive at. I wish you every success but if you will allow me I will offer a little advice;- Let your debut be the precursor of much greater successes or in other words do not neglect practise.

Dear Miss Ray I have been interrupted so often during the penning of this note that I am afraid it must be a mere mixture of rubbish. I feel ashamed to send it as it is covered with blots and blotches but I know you will excuse them and all errors when you consider that my table is a box and my chair a bush one

one. I must now conclude with best regards for Mrs Ray and to your family not forgetting yourself that you have your old companion back home again is the wish of

Yours sincerely

Raymond Sharkey