

Norseman Dundas
July 21st 1895

My Dear Miss Ray

It was with great pleasure that I received your very welcome epistle of the first inst.

I regret very much to hear that my previous letter has gone astray but I have nothing to blame but my own carelessness.

I am sorry to hear that you have not yet recovered "Larry" as I felt so confident of his returning before my last letter. However if you try and forget all about him I have no doubt he will surprise you one of these days.

I must thank you for your congratulations re the "Cachuaca". The farewell, which I expect will be in a month from tomorrow, reminds me of the music that you play so beautifully. I hope you have not been so enraptured in "Classic " music as to have forgotten how to play the Cachuaca as should I ever have the pleasure of visiting "Maida" I will expect you to do me a favor once more, I have almost forgotten the thing myself.

In regard to Arthur's movements from the time he left the bay till his return I had not the slightest idea as to how or where he was and further I have not seen him since

his return. I have been out in the wilderness all the time. However I am starting tomorrow morning for Esperance just on a flying visit where I hope to have the pleasure of giving him a hearty welcome, I had a letter from him a few days ago and from what I could gather he was in the best of health and looking well.

So you have been in contact with Law (eh)? Well I am very sorry to hear it, I have had a little of it and to say the least I detest it what it must be for you I can imagine and I must sympathise with you and Mrs Ray. It seems a pity that she should take it to heart so much I would just take it as it comes but then everybody says I take life too easy. So I suppose it would not do for everybody to be of the same disposition, I sincerely hope it is all over now and trust you are satisfied with the result.

There was quite an exciting crowd down at Dundas at the first sale of Norseman town Land (people from Coolgardie Perth Albany and even Adelaide was represented) Unfortunately the blocks were sold at Dundas 18 miles from here – I intended to ride in but my horses which were seen every day until the day I required them when they were not to be found anywhere. I was greatly annoyed but

but when I saw that unreliable young lady Miss Fortune pouring on me I made up my mind to annoy her so waiting till the last minute to see if the horses would turn up, I started at five o'clock on the morning of the sale and walked in before breakfast it was beautiful weather and I arrived at my destination just as they were serving breakfast at the hotel (about 9.30am) of which I partook heartily I received a terrible chaffing from some of the Speculators who had asked me to drive in with them the day before. However I was in time for the sale which was very exciting the prices realised being very high and what I call absurd. I secured one block for our firm and was satisfied.

I did not refuse the offer to drive back that afternoon and therefore received edition no. 2 of chaff. We had a very jolly time coming home as you may guess the first few miles it (the

conversation) was nothing but the Land Sale one chaffing the other about the price he paid and so on. Then our attention was turned to the driver whom we considered did not understand the art of driving he at once resigned in my favor but I did not reign long as they considered I was worse than my predecessor so I moved an adjournment for tea which

was seconded and carried unanimously so we pulled up and while two attended to the horses and buggy the other two made a fire and put the "billy" on we had a most enjoyable meal of damper tongues and coffee after which we lighted our pipes harnessed up and after reinstating our former driver we made a fresh start we were yet nine miles from our destination and the sun was sinking fast.

We proceeded along merrily for a time telling stories and cracking jokes until darkness overtook us shortly after which the horses stopped short, alighting from the buggy we found a tree had fallen right across the track so we had to drive round. After which we again mounted the buggy and proceeded on our journey when one of the gentleman told us a very good story about a buggy being "stuck up" by a black fellow at night time. This story was the precursor of many more some rather exciting and exaggerated. While enjoying ourselves in this way we were suddenly brought to our senses by one of the horses trotting off without the buggy. The night was fearfully dark and we had no lantern however we pulled up and found one of the swingle bars was broken after adjusting same we continued arriving at our destination without further mishap.

I was very near completing this letter without mentioning anything about your brother Herbert.

While walking in front of the store one day I espied an horseman in the distance curiosity tempted me to wait and see who he was and where he was frae. As he neared our humble domicile I observed he was a stranger so I waited a bit longer when he came up and asked for yours truly. I at once recognised him from his voice and likeness to Arthur although I had not the remotest idea that he was over here. Well he remained here for a few days when I received some authentic

information in reference to a new find between here and Esperance I heard that they were picking up nuggets of alluvial gold down there so I at once put Herbert in possession of my information and he in company with a Mr Murray started for the place about a week ago, two days after they left the news came here from various sources and no less than fifty men besides camel teams pack horses left here for the scene. I have heard nothing since from any of them but I sincerely hope Herbert arrived there first and secured a share of the spoil.

With kind regards to Mrs Ray and all yours from
Yours Sincerely
Raymond Sharkey