

United Service Hotel
King William St
Adelaide
12.1.96

My Darling Cis

I really do not know how I am going to live without you I have been thinking of nothing else since I left "Maida". I am anxious to get to Esperance where I hope to have my time and mind fully occupied with an object in view.

Dearest Cis I would have given anything to have seen you at the Station but I could not trust myself. It was hard enough for me to speak to Minnie who gave me an awful surprise – but whatever did she think of me? I could not speak to her

her hardly and when she told me you were outside I really did not know what to do another minute in her company and I should have postponed my journey just to have a glance at my Cis. You know I think a lot of 'Minnie' she has been a dear friend to us so you can understand the ordeal I went thro when I saw her.

I will never forget the expression on your sweet face when I glanced back and saw you leaning on the gate – the bicycle only prevented me from rushing back for one more embrace.

I have been reading your diary and I think it lovely when I find that the one passion was ruling our hearts unknown to each other – may my dearest never have cause to regret giving her heart to me.

I intended writing to you a little note from Melbourne before I left but unfortunately I lost too much time with Dr Iredell so that I barely had time to catch the train. What do you think that scamp told me? He said that "I had been drinking too much whisky & must give it up then my throat would be alright and my hearing improve" – It is the first and only time that I have been censured for drinking but as one glass (which I had just before seeing the Dr) may affect my throat I have decided to give it up as I value the sense of hearing a lot higher than whisky or any other stimulant –

Herbert & Murray are here and have discovered that the “Flinders” does not leave till Saturday next so they will leave by “Helen Nicoll” on Friday in company with yours truly. I asked Murray about the books and he says he sent them out he is a nice old fellow I had a talk with him about you, I felt I must speak to somebody he gave me consolation by saying “our next meeting would be happier” The weather here has been fearfully hot since our arrival yesterday Herbert Murray Ousby (my friend) and myself went to Glenelg (7 miles) and had a delicious bathe after which we felt much cooler.

Adelaide is full of Norsemanites every few yards I meet one or another and of course we must have a few words – I started from here for the Railway Station (about 200 yds) to see about my “bike” yesterday morning and it took me forty eight minutes to get there – I met so many –

On my arrival here I only received five letters including one from Arthur one Herbert has sent from Melbourne to Sydney one from dad and two business letters I made sure I would have received one from Sis but I can excuse her as I have known her a long time dont you know? I felt sorry when I found I could not send one to my pet before Monday so I sent you a Telegram which is rather a cold medium of communication.

Before I left Melbourne I sent you a pin for the watch chain as I had very little time for selecting I just picked one with a strong pin which I hope will serve the purpose.

Well Cis I am writing a little letter to the mater just to let her know the Drs opinion of me – However I think she will differ with him – the fact is there was nothing whatever the matter with my throat and as regards my hearing he was perfectly correct as he

he told me exactly what my own Dr told me eg: - that the drum of the ear was perforated and he gave a prescription similar.

Tell me if you would like your diary back darling although I prize it more than anything I ever had in my life still I see there is memoranda in it that may be useful to you for reference I am continually reading it, and will soon know it by heart. I would like to ask you a few questions in reference to it dear – but no – I will give in to you (don't smile) You are a dear for preventing me from reading it before I left “Maida”. Had I done so – I could never have parted with you as I little dreamt you had loved me so long while I (who love you dearly)

was trying to turn you against me in many little ways because I thought and still think you are too good for me However Cis I will do my best for you because I love you.

In conclusion dear I will ask a few. Promise me that you will enjoy yourself do not neglect swimming (an accomplishment I admire in your sex) Apologies to Minnie for me if I was abrupt to her as I really could not help it and remember me kindly to Ruth, Amy, Minnie Mrs's Biggs, Browning and all the others, with a big X

Yours for Ever

Ray

The 'Helen Nicol' is advertised to leave on Friday at 10.30am. So you must catch Wednesday's mail when replying.

Ray

Cis. Will you believe me when I tell you that your photo is nearly worn out? you might guess what with.

Ray