

U.S.C Hotel

Adelaide

16-1-96

My Dearest Love

I can never forgive myself for neglecting you yesterday I was so busy all the morning that to write to you would have had to leave some business transactions (that I have now been over 3 months trying to complete) unfinished. Yesterday I saw the opportunity of completing them satisfactorily and final. so I consoled myself by thinking what I was doing was as much for your interest as mine and thought you would overlook my negligence. Not till the

evening did I look at the matter in another light: – placing myself in your position I began to think how terribly disappointed I should feel if I did not receive yours when I expected it and to make things worse on going home there I found your loving letter and started brooding over my carelessness. I could not sleep – at 2am I went and had a bath but even that did not have the desired effect. Darling do not answer me as I have taken the alternative and wired you today not to expect a letter till Saturday. I was awfully pleased with myself yesterday for obtaining

the documents without going to law as I thought would be necessary but what I left undone has outweighed my pleasures with grief.

Well dearest I was so pleased to receive your letter. How we do love one another. When I read your letter I think that they are my own thoughts in writing. I think almost exactly of you as you do of me. You speak of waiting 6 months my sweetest. I have not had courage enough to give that a thought yet. It is bad enough that after tomorrow I will have to wait fourteen days before I hear from

my cherub. Cis dearest if I cannot return in six months I will try and arrange for a little trip over if only for a week with you. It would be expensive but look at the joy I do wish I could have one more embrace before leaving here but I must content myself with knowing that our next meeting will be the happiest of any so far. You ask what chance the original of your photo would have? Well if you were here I would not hesitate one moment but give you a practical illustration. I would not give red riding hood

a chance to think about running away. You speak about the heart being tired with pain, don't think about it darling.

The other evening I in company with Ousby and Murray had an evening with La Cyale Society. Herbert and Bartlett having gone to the continentals well one gentleman sand "Au revoir" beautifully but I could not listen to it. I had to leave the room as my heart seemed full. I dread that song now because it reminds me of what I might have done with the copy I gave you. I could never have done it but still the thought of it

it is painful now. Cis I do wish I could see you once more. I think love is grand. I could never believe it possible to become attached to one another as we are – I could not live without you.

I knew it dearie that you would not credit Dr Iredell's statement however you do not know but I think Arthur will satisfy you about my habits. Since I left Melbourne I have not touched whisky and yesterday Herbert congratulated me on the improvement in my hearing but dearest I think it was only his imagination altho I hear much better some days than others especially when

when the atmosphere is moist. I would give everything I possess in the world (with the exception of your love) if I could obtain good hearing and then I could start anew. As there is a gentleman in the next room waiting to see me Au revoir till I have seen him my dear little angel. I want to write you a long letter this time.

Here I am again pet. I have just dismissed the caller a person from the Norseman who wishes to buy my licence. I told him I would write him when I return from the field.

I will take your advice dearie re speculating by which

I presume you refer to mining transaction of course you know I must do a little speculating in land and goods otherwise when would I be able to claim my own. As for mining shares I will not touch them although I have a few now which I was compelled to take but which I will clear a substantial profit out of. Should you wish me to leave land etc. alone I will do it as I have made up my mind to do everything to please you so don't be afraid to ask anything dearie I will give into you.

Your idea re the diary I think splendid and give you credit for it. I will make the copy when I

I return to the bay. Cis you do not know how I value that book. I think it lovely I read parts of it every night and then get the poor substitute for the original and - you know I think it so kind and sacrificing of you to give it to me. I only wish I would have given mine in return that miserable little book of mine was written about 7 years ago and was never intended for your sex to see but just to amuse the boys at the club where we would compose notes of our various trips. In the copy I send you I will put ? and numbers of course dearest. You will reserve the right of refusing to answer any of them as I do not

think it right that I should pry into your private affairs of the past. I must hurry my dear Any of the questions that I have not answered I will do later as I intend to write one long answer to all your letters I received here when I got to Esperance. Here I cannot write as there are so many to disturb me. My birthday is 29th September. The plans here show my mine as the "Clarendon" on the "Day Dawn" line of reef 20 miles from Norseman.

I am glad to hear that the mater is well and I sincerely trust

trust she will enjoy good health and have nothing but joy and pleasure for the future. So now my love I will give you one more kiss (if I could ah) never mind pet enjoy yourself and you will please me. I do not forget what you said about my hearing you are a good girl to pray for me like that and I do trust you will be rewarded once more Darling and good bye Au revoir and give my love to all from

Your ever loving

Ray

PS I feel as if I have told you nothing .I have such a lot to tell you but I must not miss this mail.

I received my photos (with beard on). They are not nice ones or rather everyone says they are not. I think you said you did not want to see them so much the better. I will try to get one taken at Esperance as I am

Another x Love

Ray