

Esperance

9.4.1896

My dear little Sweetheart

I hope you have been favoured with better weather than we have had here lately – It has been miserably cold and blowing but Cis it brings me nearer to you as I bring that dear little cap into requisition more than ever – it is so nice and warm.

Well my dearie I must tell you where I have been tonight. I have been to a ventriloquial entertainment given by a M. Davies from Adelaide he is a splendid ventriloquist and played his parts very

very well – The first part of the entertainment took the form of a concert the greater number of the songs being rendered by the local talent. But owing to mismanagement the particular Artists did not appear, causing a delay – while vocalists were being selected from the Audience - some of the singing was simply horrible – Davies apparently saw that the public were dissatisfied & came to the rescue with a very good comic story of the olden days in California. Then followed his exhibition during which – by medium of his dummies he made

several local hits at the identities here causing roars of laughter & applause.

After his exhibition the room was cleared for a dance but I did not wait I do not know whether it was successful or not.

Now my own I must say goodnight X as I am shivering with cold while my rugs alongside look very tempting. I hope my dear will not think that I am having too much gaiety & forgetting all about her. Because I am always thinking of my own – I have Foy's camera here now. But must wait for a nice day before I can copy that lovely portrait It is so like you Cis. "Au revoir" X Goodnight X X Goodnight Beloved X Mizpah (2). Love to all from

Yours only

Ray

Friday

My dearest Love

Here I am once more. I have had a busy day today and as the mail closes at seven I must hurry up as I wish to say a few words on my little Sweethearts coming birthday. Unfortunately I think I will be late as Rob Roy is two days behind

Behind time otherwise this would have arrived just on your birthday.

Being I consider the most important and momentous period of my little girls life & before offering my most sincere congratulations upon attaining your majority – Just fancy only a little girl today yet before you receive this you will be a woman in every sense of the word – I feel sure you will pardon if I, being your own dear Ray and well wisher of your future welfare, offer, to you from my mature experience (don't smile) a few suggestions that may be applicable to any young lady entering upon such an interesting

epoch of her existence – Life my own dear Cis is paved with pleasurable anticipations, too infrequently realised.

Yet I sincerely trust that all your most ardent hopes and expectations will sink into insignificance when compared with your actual realizations – Cis I would say a lot more but I am afraid I would fail in conveying my meaning in words but as you know dearest I wish you all that is good I will wait till I come over to tell you more – Tendering you once more my most hearty congratulations – with a big alloy of Love – Kindly

Kindly accept the accompanying little present with many many Happy returns of the day.

As My little girl decided to wait for the doggie till I came over and it being impossible to secure anything suitable here I wrote to the other Sis and asked her to send you something nice from Sydney which I hope you have received ere this.

I do sincerely hope you will have a happy happy day dearest No doubt you will get plenty of advice not too much I hope as I would not like to think my little pet had the blues through thinking too much on such an auspicious occasion. I only wish I were with you my own but it will not be long pet for you to wait.

I have another large job here eg – To build a two storey hotel. I have been all day nearly taking a survey and measuring up in connection with same.

Now with kind regard to Mr. & Mrs. & the little Biggs Mother Arthur, Ruth, Mrs Bucknill + all

With fondest Love  
Yours  
Ray

Foot note

- (1) Au revoir- French “Until we meet again”
- (2) Mizpah- Hebrew “May God watch over you”