

Esperance

April 24th, 1896

My own dear Cis

As there is another mail tonight I will just send you a few lines. I have been as happy and as busy as a lark lately. Yesterday I was in the office from 7 a.m. till midnight with the exception of an hour for meals and to go and inspect a building in the course of erection. Feeling rather sleepy I did not write last night my own.

Cis there are two parts of your last letter that keep continually coming into my mind – no mater what I am doing. The first is “all will be well Ray do not worry”.

My own I do love to hear you say that I look at your photo and fancy I can hear you say it. I am so glad that you look at my affairs in the proper light dearest and have decided not to bind me to my promise. You know there is nobody who wishes you to have more of my society than I do and as soon as I see the opportunity you shall have it. Is it not awful, being separated I feel very annoyed sometimes and think that fate is dealing very severely with us. However “every thing comes to those that wait” so we must bide a wee

And now pet the other part is one that does not give me a great deal of pleasure viz. your little talk about deception. I do not like it Cis and yet I am not sorry you wrote it. Because it shows me that you are subject to the same strange feelings as myself. I hope you will not misunderstand me dearie but I will offer a little explanation:- I always class deception under two headings – harmless deception and injurious ditto – by the first I mean – well I can explain better by giving an illustration:- supposing a person were away from home say in Africa or America and he were to take ill, or find himself in straightened circumstances and in writing home said nothing whatever about it but from the tone of his letter implies being in a prosperous condition – By doing this he would save his people a lot of worry and anxiety and practically do no harm.

By the second I refer to misleading people with intent to injure either by word or deed. This I detest and once I prove a man guilty of it despise him.

The former I may often have been guilty of the latter well I have not been accused of it as far as my memory serves me. Now dearie I

I have tried to explain myself; I want you to tell me if you had any doubts about me. Do tell me all your thoughts and feelings Cis. Remember dearest that I am yours and yours only and with heaven’s help will never give you cause to doubt me. Oh Cis if I could only tell or express and impress how I love you I would feel easier. It is such a peculiar passion my own. Should I ever change ever so little I will let you know at once and as I feel as tho I could love you for ever I don’t think I will ever have that painful duty to perform.

Perhaps dearest I have made too much of what you said. You may have only referred to Willy and the photo. In those matters Cis I can only say that I put explicit faith and confidence in you dearie. I feel as tho I could trust you anywhere and with anyone hence I have no feeling of jealousy but would like all your friends to be mine also.

Enough said I will now change the subject my little “grown up”. I hope you will write ad tell me that you have been to the ball and thoroughly enjoyed yourself – how nice those little dears must have looked in their fancy costumes “Federated Australia” must have looked

looked exceedingly charming and pretty. This is getting an awfully gay place of late. Just fancy three balls this week (one tonight). Then one on Monday next another the following Thursday. I think I have been averaging about one a week. I do not stay long as a rule in fact it is generally near eleven o’clock before I put in an appearance. I find them very essential to business as I can go up and meet all the business people there and do more in one hour than I could do in a whole day in town.

I forgot to thank you for those dear violets Cis. They do smell delicious when I open the letter.

I was rather previous about your birthday Cis and as you told me you would probably be lonely I thought a telegram congratulating you might cheer you up a little so I sent one. And what do you think Cis? There was a large banquet here the same afternoon to celebrate the occasion of the Premier stating publicly that should they build a railway to the Norseman it would start from Esperance. It was given by a local publican and was the finest I have seen here. I went but thinking more of you than the railway.

I silently wished you all prosperity and happiness as I drank to the toast of the Premier. I am afraid I am late so au revoir Cis my own

Ray.

(Inverted from front page)

P.S. Give my love to all Cis. I expect Arthur is on his way back now or has he gone to Sydney? I am sorry to hear that your mother is bad again but hope she is well ere this.

Yours Ray

(Inverted at top of second page)

Cis Tell me my own dear little girl if you were burnt at all that night. I have been thinking quite seriously about it lately and will feel anxious till I hear from you. Tell me all.