

Esperance
May 13th 1986

Dear Mrs Biggs

This is the second attempt to reply to your very welcome and interesting epistle of the 25th ult. the first I made on Sunday last but owing to the ink becoming rather too affectionate I was obliged to consign it to the waste paper basket. (-----) I trust I will be (---) fortunate (-----)

(----) letter I must thank you. The agreeable surprise I received I leave to your imagination. Seeing the strange writing (it being a lady's) on the envelope caused me no little curiosity but I little dreamt that you were the authoress. Do you know that next to her own I love letters containing references to Cis.

How you must have enjoyed watching those dear little children in their fancy costumes at the ball – they are children to be proud of.

I note with much pleasure the (-----) success with (-----) efforts (---) produce some (-----) as well as (-----) here crowned. Of course I do not forget that our little artist is entitled to some praise when I offer my hearty congratulations.

Now if you will allow me I will

Now if you will allow me I will venture a few remarks on the costumes and their wearers :-

“Federated Australia” is the one with which I am most conversant having received two such descriptive accounts of it. Hattie in such an elaborate costume alone must have made a most bewitching little “Queen of the South” add to this such works of art as I know the shield (-----)?

Though (-----) that Cinderella and the gay Troubador (who discovered the slipper) were quite capable of fascinating any audience. Yet I cannot picture Auntie at home in her character. Of course I have neither seen nor heard it and may therefore be picturing a very different costume. “Night” I think would have been more suitable for one of “Aunties” disposition. (Better too late than never you know with suggestions)

You do not mention whether Cis accompanied you to the ball. Altho profuse in her description of the costumes she carefully forgets to tell me (----) did not go. I have -(-----) function and enjoy them (-----) and feel convinced that (----) would have enjoyed herself thoroughly watching the little dears enjoying themselves, as only children can.

I thank you most sincerely for your kind invitation to stay with

you during my next visit to Melbourne but with your permission I will answer it thro Cis.

(----) conditions are rather (-----) feel very (-----) I could not pluck enough courage to “Face the music” as you so nicely put it.

This reminds me of the time my dear little girl gets and had I known the Dutch language I would have given my opinion in the matter which to say the least would not be a very favourable one for your family circle.

In future I would ask you to have a little more consideration (-----) feelings and I would also like to remind you that she tells me all.

I am seriously thinking about writing to Cis and telling her “not to play (----- yard any more (---)

And now I must conclude by trusting that you will read this epistle as intended and overlook all errors. With kind regards to Mr Biggs “Romeo” as well as love to the little ones and yourself from

Yours sincerely
Raymond Sharkey