

Esperance

May 15<sup>th</sup> 1896

My Dearest Love

The old "Lubra" is leaving tomorrow and I am going to send you a few lines by her. Dearest I was rather disappointed on receiving no letter by her, but I expect one tomorrow by the "Yaralla" in which I hope to have your opinion on my short letters to you (-----) Cis it is utterly impossible (-----) to write every night no (-----) would clearly like to do so. I might have spent an hour or two with you this evening as I neglected my work to go to a Banquet from which I have just returned. I felt obliged to

to go dearest as it was in honor of a visit to us by our member (Mr Hassell) who is an old friend of mine.

Well Cis we had a very good night - plenty of speechifying and songs galore - If you could believe all that was said of Esperance tonight? Why in twelve months we would rival Melbourne for trade and commerce.

However it is very gratifying to (-----) speaking so well of (-----) aspects of our little town & I am sure there is nobody wishes to see them realised more than I do.

So much for the Banquet now for mine alone. How are you enjoying yourself since you attained your majority? Do you feel any older my pet?

I was talking to Arthur yesterday & I was awfully disappointed when he told me that the horrid Law business was not finally settled. Cis don't you think it would be much better if you could make some sacrifice if necessary to terminate the affair. I feel aw(fully) sorry for your mother (-----) know these worries must tell on her.

I wrote to Minnie by last mail & I have been wondering ever since what she will think of my letter. I happened to be in a bit of a rambling humour when I wrote and I sincerely trust she will accept it in the same spirit as which it was written.

I thought an awful lot of her letter dearest and principally because she mentioned you. She is a sister to be proud of.

And now Cis as I have nothing to write about unless I bore you with "s(-----) I will conclude (-----) (b)est regards to Moth(er), (Min)nie and the little ones Alder, Hal, Ruth, Amy & Love and a big kiss for my dearest.

Love from

hers alone

Ray XXXX

P.S. I am longing for a letter from you dearest & I feel sure I will get one tomorrow.

Goodnight my own goodnight.

Yours Ray.