

Esperance
May 17th 1896

My dear dear Love

However am I going to thank you for these beautiful letters I received today by the "Yaralla" although I looked forward to the steamers arrival so anxiously I never expected such a lovely long letter as this one is, besides such a dear letter from your mother. After reading her letter dearest I almost envied you such a treasure as she is. Cis I read her letter over again and again (and) although short it expresses a lot it is full of affectionate feeling for my own dear little "girlie". How nice and consoling it must be for you to have such as one to advise you. If I could only believe she is as happy as I am today I would feel satisfied.

Now you little dear you must not be jealous because I am now going to say something about your letter.

Well after reading it over I come to the conclusion that you must experience the same feelings as myself I will not dilate on this subject however but I think it so horrid that we should be kept so far apart. Never mind my own I sincerely hope the day is not far distant when I will be steaming over the Great Australian Bight once (more-----) with a very different object in view to those of my previous journeys across that expanse of blue water.

Do you know Cis that instead of being pleased I feel just the reverse when I hear of more work because it seems to keep us so

much longer apart. But I cannot refuse it very well as there are two other architects here and I wish to establish myself. I have three plans in hand now and as soon as I get the buildings started I have arranged with a supervisor for them if necessary. The buildings I have in course of erection will all be completed within three weeks so that with the assistance of the above I think I will manage to (get away) by the time the latter are completed. Cis I think it very unfair for me to tell you this but I hope you will not regard it as a promise. Cis I would dearly love to tell you everything that occurs in connection with my office but it is against my grain to write it but tonight I started as have thus told you how matters are with me at present.

Ah if you were only here I could talk to you of an evening and tell you of the little "barneys" I have with some of the contractors of course you must know that I have a mixed lot to deal with – all sorts of tradesmen etc.

No doubt ere this you have (seen Ruth) and heard the contents of my epistle to her. Well Cis I hope she will write again as apart from your dear letters, nothing gives me greater pleasure than reading accounts of my dear sweetheart by others so you can imagine how I did enjoy the letters from

"Muddy" as you call her. I do hope she is her dear old self again ere this reaches you and I heartily sympathise with her in her trouble, it does really seem hard and cruel that she should have so much trouble at her time of life.

But I feel sure that it is all over now and hope she will in future have nothing to mar the happiness which she deserves.

I would have liked to assist you with the shields my own I think I could have managed the colouring for you, you must keep them till I come over when I will give you my opinion of them, which you can take for what it is worth. Cis I think we have a lot to do and say when we meet and I am afraid we shall forget half. What do you think? I know when I returned from Sydney I thought I had a lot to tell you but I forgot half of it till I reached Adelaide.

Well Cis I have had rather a change in the usual routine today. I have been in the witness box at the local court, having been called to give an opinion on a building in course of erection here, over which there is litigation between the proprietor and builder. Well I lost nearly the whole day over it and will consequently have to make it up tomorrow. Now dearest one nice big kiss and I am off to bed good X good X night good night beloved, my own sweet Cis goodnight
From Ray xxx