

Esperance
May 19th

My Darling

Just a little word before I turn in you dear old Love how every day “makes” you seem dearer to me. I am so anxious to see you pet. Cis I am in a quandary I really do not know whether I am doing right in neglecting you dearest for the sake of business. Tell (me) my own dear love, (tell me) what you really think. Here I am thinking every plan I do is the last for a little while, “but still they come”

Today I have been offered two pounds two shillings a day and everything found (including two men horses etc) if I will make a survey about 50 mile from here - It will occupy from two to three weeks and I have been thinking seriously of accepting it, as by the time I complete it my building will be also nearing completion, then Ah then – the first steamer would carry at least one passenger for dear old ‘Maida’

Now Cis my own I must say (good) x night as I feel (awfully) sleepy. I must thank you first though for the Melbourne “Punch” which I greatly appreciate, from it and the Sydney papers I conclude that the people of

of those places are greatly affected with “Trilby” which makes me more anxious to read it - you know I have the book here & have read very little of it so far but intended to do so tonight – now I have put it off till tomorrow.

Good night my Love good x good x night with love to all from
Yours as ever
Ray

Thursday My Dear dear (-----)

(-----) just been scribbling a few lines to dear old “muddy” as you call her – she is a mother to be proud of my own.

The weather here now is getting very cold it is simply lovely in the morning – nice and bracing but towards evening it is rather too cold for this individual.

I always wear your dear little cap of an evening – that keeps my head so nice and warm to say nothing of the thoughts it thrills me with.

I don’t think I have told my little girl about a dance last Monday night. Well Cis half a dozen of us were talking together on board the McGregor last (-----) week when the topic cha(-----) the previous dance and the proposal was made to have another dance in the near future.

This was agreed on by all present promising to take part.

Well I heard no more about it till last Wednesday week, while walking down from breakfast I met Dr Black the Resident Magistrate who thanked me very profusely for the kind invitation his wife and he had received and so on. Thro the day I had similar incidents with different parties Of course I was thunderstruck and did not know what they were alluding to thinking they had an advantage of me, I told (----) so and you can imagine my surprise when they informed me that I as secretary had issued invitations for a dance.

Having an idea who had written the invitations and signed my name to them I looked up Mr Balding at his office and demanded an explanation which he gave me by saying that I had agreed to act as secretary for the affair – which is an untruth however I have decided, after speaking rather warmly to Mr Balding, to wait the return of the Macgregor and ask the Captain if it was understood that I was to take the office.

As you might imagine I took no more notice the (of) dance consequently (-----) go to it, and now it is (aw)fully running – one half of the town scowl at me as I pass for not being at the dance while the other half do the same because they were not asked – Poor things.

Good night my love good x night from Ray

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My dear old love you must excuse brevity & this paper. Remember that I am yours as ever
Ray