

Esperance

May 23rd, 1896

My Dearest Love

I have just discovered that I will have to wait till Thursday next before I can send a letter to my own and what is worse I will not receive one till then as the "Lubra" which is the next steamer due cannot reach here before Wednesday evg as she only left Adelaide this morning.

While talking about steamers (-----) that the Mac Gregor arrived yesterday and brought another member of Parliament Mr S L Haynes the people here are giving or rather have given him a banquet tonight. Yours truly did not go this time as I had something more important to do. Well Cis I have written eighteen sheets of foolscap tonight. I wish I could write you a nice letter that many sheets (Eh dear) instead of a dry specification.

Well Dearie my hand is rather cramped so I will say by bye for the present I will "turn in" and think about my little girl. I would so love to see (-----) that photo of yours (----) Cis I often look at it when I feel a little bit gloomy and how it does make me think of you my own.

I have not looked at "Trilby" for a long time so I think I will try and do a little reading and a

a lot of thinking tonight dearest. Good night X My own good X good X night.

With love to all from Yours as ever X Ray

Sunday

Well here I am again love. We have been having perfect weather here lately. Today as I have been putting my office in order. Of late papers plans etc have been most unmercifully treated in fact they had reached such a state of (-----) that I could never (---) required without first going thru the whole conglomeration.

Now I have them all arranged nicely in their pigeon holes, racks files etc. If I could only keep them so? Ah if I think you know how particularly tidy (?) I am and I leave the picture of the interior of my office, after a week's work to your imagination.

However some day somebody's influence may serve as a great auxiliary to alter my habits.

I wonder what my little girl is doing tomorrow (Queens Birthday)? Have you a nice little picnic on my sweet? Well I do hope you will enjoy yourself.

By the way I did not tell you what I did last night. Well after (-----) I said good night to a dear portrait, turned in and started “Trilby” where I had left off after reading about two pages I closed the book as I could not read for thinking: I did think of you dearest and while absorbed in

in thought I fell asleep and slept soundly til 7 a.m. After breakfast while tidying up I had a visit from three gentlemen. They stayed about an hour and a half discussing the principal topics of the day.

After dinner I in company with Tolley and Dickson went for a stroll along the beach – about three miles – coming home at about 4 p.m. I finished putting my papers away strolled up to town had tea and here I am. Cis the weather (-----) and a beautiful moon by which I did not forget to remit, you know what, to a little girl in Hawthorn.

While working of an evening I often wear your little cap which reminds me that although there is a beautiful beach I have not had a ride on the bike for a long long time now.

Now dearest I am just in the humour for writing and would like to write you a nice long letter but I really do not know what to write about. I feel sure what I have been saying must be awfully dry for you.

So I think I will take a ramble by myself and then go to bye bye so “au revoir” my own “Au revoir”

() a delightful walk dearest with only my pipe to divert my attention but not my thoughts from you. How I do long for you Cis. I am now going to bed where I will reread a few of your letters so good night my own. Good night Cis you Darling xx
Monday What do you think Cis? I received instructions for another little job today. I think it is simply horrible just when I want to get away.

Now dearest I must ask you to tell me what you really think on the matter. Cis I do not like refusing work not yet do I relish the idea of disappointing you.

Do not fear dearest: my love for you is stronger than ever, but I want you to put your (-----) your dear little head for five minutes and then tell me what I am to do. I will give in to you this time pet.

Cis a message has just come down to say the Town Clerk wishes to see me so I will say “Saionara” for a few minutes au revoir pet.

Well dearie I am back once more but I have been much longer than I expected. After seeing the Town Clerk and while on my way home I met Balding and he told me there was a telegram at the hotel for me In company with him I returned and after getting the wire we went into – I forgot to tell you that there was a Ball tonight. In fact I have been neglecting the (-----) simply because I have not been taking part in it. However we went in and after having a waltz and set of lancers I left. There is another dance on Friday which I am going to if possible -a 21st birthday party. Sweet Sweetheart good night, au revoir from Yours alone
xxxxx Ray

I

wonder if you can read this bit.