

Esperance
Tuesday

Here I am again my own. Having got my men away and given them instructions that will keep them going for a few days I have decided not to follow till Saturday hence I have a little spare time and as I have read your lovely letter I think it is only fair that I should answer the questions. In the first place Cis I am so please to hear that you have written to the other Siss and no doubt one ere this you have had a reply – I have been awfully selfish lately Cis just fancy I have not written to her for a long time. Talking about writing to her reminds me of the letter I wrote to Minnie. You have not mentioned whether she received it or not. Do you know dearest that I have been thinking since I wrote that letter that I was rather foolish in making myself rather familiar. However it does not worry me much when I think the whole matter over as I know Minnie will read it in the same spirit as it was written. You might just let me know what she thought of it just to satisfy my curiosity?

I feel sorry for your dear Aunt. I know she will be happy and contented at “Maida” while she has such companions as your mother & self tending to her. – You will make her happy won’t you Dearest.

Now do not be annoyed Cis you know we have to be frank with each other? Well dearest I have been thinking a lot of you dearest I can just imagine you trying to make life pleasant and happy for the poor old soul yet I keep thinking that she will be inclined to make you melancholy at times. I do hope you will understand me my own – I do not object to you doing all in your power for her Cis but I must ask you not to think of her (-----) pet – sad as they may be (-----) it is rather a difficult task I am asking you but then I know you could not think of them without feeling both unpleasant and uncomfortable. I note your dear little mind is worrying over my comfort you sweet considerate little girl I have a stove (although I have been too lazy to use it yet) a nice clean warm little stove it is too. Also three pairs of slippers etc. etc. In fact all that I desire with one exception and you know what that is.

Lately we have been having glorious summer weather, the mornings and evenings being a little chilly while at midday it is as warm

warm as one could wish for.

And so you think ‘Trilby’ (Miss Crane) your rival eh? Don’t you fear, dearest I have seen splendid pictures of her in the illustrated papers but they vanish into insignificance when held alongside the portrait of a certain young lady in Hawthorn.

Taking it for granted that I would prefer Trilby you are falling in love with “Taffy” Ah well I can see that I must come over and look after my own interests.

Cis I detest talking about coming over now.

It makes me feel miserable and selfish to think that I have not gone long ere this. However I must not talk of it again till I am actually ready.

How awfully unfortunate your family have been of late dearest I feel awfully sorry for Mr Biggs and do sincerely sympathise with him in his trouble with the Broken Hill Company. Some more of that horrid "sharp practice" I presume.

I admired the way he worked and slaved for that Co. and now to think that it was all for nothing is awful. Poor Minnie must feel it too. But Cis it is the experience we have to pay for sometimes.

I am glad to hear that your dear "girlie" Ruth is back again It is so pleasant for me to think that you are together again and do you know Cis I notice that my little girl is quite herself again I feel happy to think so at all events.

As I do not expect there will be a mail from here for the colonies till Friday I will now say au revoir my dearest "au revoir" I am just wondering if there is another dear letter for me on the Rob. Roy which left Adelaide yesterday However I will hope so, as it will be the last I will receive before I start out.

Now my own I must ask you to remember me kindly to dear mother, Minnie, Ruth and all the others and sincerely trusting that your dear Aunt's health will make rapid progress

With love from
Yours alone
Ray

P.S.

As you do not believe in the pen and ink substitutes and I quite agree with you I have put the genuine article on here although it is visible now I doubt whether you will see it.

Tra La
Saionara
My pal
My own

Inverted at bottom of page

Thursday

My own I have received your letter and have just written an explanation of Mrs Biggs – I cannot write to you till tomorrow.

Yours
Ray
