

Esperance

July 11th 96

Dear Mrs Biggs

I have just received (-----) letter, from Cis, (-----) she informs me that you have accepted my explanation of that miserable letter – that which I would give anything to unwrite, the contents of which were unfortunately misconstrued. Speaking frankly, Cissie's letter affords but little consolation as I gather from it (may be I am wrong) that tho you accept the explanation you are not convinced as to the real spirit in which it was written.

With

With your permission I will defer further explanation until I can do so verbally which I trust will be at no too distant date – then I will endeavour to (-----) the contents to your (-----) satisfaction.

As Cis has quoted one or two passages I would just like to mention that referring to the "dutch language" especially where children are concerned, is a very common practice in Sydney.

By your family circle I referred to the children only.

When I asked you to have a little consideration for Cis's feelings I

I really expected that you would have "chaffed" Cis a little and then told her "to write and tell me".

"Cis tells me all" yes but of course I know it is (-----) and take it as such (-----) fact instead of replying to your kind letter. I have unwittingly replied to the messages I have received from time to time from you and the children through Cis's letters most of which I took in fun and consequently replied in a similar strain.

I have been carried away from my intention, when starting this note, by my anxiety to convince you of the true meaning of that letter- which, more than any other, I regret ever having penned.

In conclusion I must thank you for your kind messages and ask you to remember me (-----) Biggs and the children and Capt. Browning.

Yours Sincerely

Raymond J Sharkey