

Esperance W.A

March 16th 1899

My dearest Cis,

I received your very welcome letter but was very sorry to think I had hurt your feelings or rather caused you to reproach yourself for not writing, I know you said you would not write often but then I am so selfish pet I do look forward to your letters, and I am always thinking that you are ailing. Well love I will not expect any more from you and I trust this will be the last from me before we meet again.

I have arranged to take my third degree tomorrow night and I propose leaving by the next steamer which will be on the 25th so if I have any luck in catching a steamer at Albany I should be with you about the third of April but I will wire you and let you know the exact date to expect me. Needless to say I have not completed my business It would take me fully three months to complete, but I am determined to allow nothing to interfere with the promise I made to my little girl.

I have not seen Mr Mc privately yet I have been around to see him often enough but I am always unfortunate enough to find someone else with him and tho' we may start yarning the third party to my disappointment never thinks of leaving . As you know I wish to bring the matter up casually I therefore do not ask for a private interview.

On Monday I went up to see him but as usual I was disappointed. I returned to the office and while I was thinking which was the best course to pursue my eyes glanced on the date block which is a Shakespearian one & the enclosed was the quotation thereon

Love I feel that I were near you I could talk for hours. I do think of you Cis no matter where I am or what I may be doing my little girl is with me.

I am sending one of the invitations I received from the Lodge. I thought I had several but on second thoughts I think I must have destroyed them before leaving on my last visit to Perth. This one I kept on account of it being on the night on which my second degree was conferred.

I received by last mail some very nice letters from the children also one from Minnie and I very much regret that I am unable to answer them this time. However I will try. Should I fail, will you kindly tell them I received them safely and was very pleased with them.

Now Love I am going to say "Au revour" as I have no end of writing to do for the mail. I thought I was going to tell you all about my bike trip but you will leave that till I come over. Beside ordinary business I have this M.M biz to read up etc. etc.

With Love to your dear Mother Minnie Ruth Hal Alder and all the rest from Your Loving Ray