

Esperance W.A.

June 28<sup>th</sup> 1899

My little Darling

I was delighted with your letter today but my love I thought it was never coming the old "Flinders" seemed to be ages coming back tho she has only been a week

I wish you had been here to see the reception we (Conolly & myself) got from the townspeople. Of course all the festivity was on Conolly's account but whenever he went I had to go also it was very funny Conolly saying in Albany that he was going to take me home but when he arrived the Esperance people said that I brought him down some of them really believed that I was instrumental in getting him to visit Esperance- merely because I when last in Perth on behalf of the Esperance people obtained a promise from Conolly to visit his constituents during the recess. Well I arrived in Albany just two days before the recess expired & there I met Conolly on his way down. But they consider I persuaded him to come 'Tis a funny world (Eh?) Well I must give you an account of my doings we arrived Thursday & Friday I was to start business in earnest but no - I had to go at 11 O'clock The Mayor & Councillors had a little surprise picnic for us and drove us out in buggies to Bandy Creek & thence to Barney's Hill where we had lunch then to Lake Warden and home by the Pink Lake road at night we dined with B.P. & Co manager Saturday I would not go out as I was very busy but in the evening went

to hear Conolly address his constituents in the Bijou Theatre after which Dickson Sims C & self spent a pleasant evening at the Pier Hotel. Sunday had a quiet day I getting some letters off we had tea in evening with Dicksons Monday a dance and social very enjoyable I only danced three dances Oh my love I did miss you that night I don't know why I did not enjoy dancing - everyone was so nice - but all I wanted was you And then first one lady & then another would say: I don't see you dancing Mr. S" "How is it you are not dancing" and so on. But I enjoyed it all the same I would sit and talk with one or other of the elderly ladies and watch the dancing imagining which one you would resemble & so on.

Tuesday we dined at Dempster's after dinner several guests arrived and we had a very jolly musical evening. Wednesday(today) The Local Fire Brigade turned out and gave an Exhibition for Conolly's benefit & tonight Conolly has

been down in this little office & we have had a long chat over Esperance Present Past & future. Oh I forgot to tell you that on Monday & Tuesday I was on the bench at the local court and I thought I was booked for the week as one case was full of technicalities but after the first day the Solicitor for Plaintiff handed in a letter to say that the parties had settled the case out of Court. I was jolly glad to hear it. Strange to say Cis with all that gaiety you were always foremost in my mind especially at the dinners did I fancy in Mrs Dempster's or Dickson's place

place – You know Love they are both newly married- but my own I never pictured you with a bad face It is only when I am alone that I sometimes picture you suffering Oh my darling I am so glad you are well again I know you are well because you said so at the end of your letter but my Love you must not suffer without letting your own Love know So you will always tell me will you not? My Pet.

How sad about poor dear little Hattie I am so sorry Cis I do feel for poor old Min Will she never have fortune's smile? Surely she has suffered enough. I trust Hattie is quite well again now & that none of the others have caught it.

Well my love it is nearly one O'clock so I must "turn in" to my little bed say my little prayer & have my long long think Oh my Darling

I do want you I have a lot to say yet Cis but I will write it tomorrow and I think this will be the last long letter as now Conolly is off by the coach at daylight I must settle down to work so if you get shorter letters old girlie you just think that I am getting tired of you and not that I have business to do, now don't forget "You don't love me one bit" You ought to have been a sailor "You are very fickle" Ah my pet never mind but that little scene in the ti tree is always flashing thro my mind I like looking back to that meeting now but I cannot think of that but what another pops up & that is our trip up the River. Cis I am going to seal my letters in future as I have not too much confidence in the Post Office here – so you must let me know if they are tampered with Good night my Dear Dear Love

Good night.....

have just torn off today's date as to reveal tomorrows and here is the verse accompanying it It seems so appropriate Love that I am sending it over to you It is so strange how Everything I look or anything I do there is always something to remind me of my little Pearl once more & night x

(Inverted on front page)

P.S.

In sending you the five pounds last mail I forgot to tell you to take 2/- out for the "Sons of the Sea" sorry. Also to thank you for that wire and the copy of Punch) Ray

xx