

Albany

December 24th 1894

Dear Miss Ray

Your very welcome letter safely to hand.

You will note by the above address that I have left Dundas. Well I am just taking advantage of the Christmas Xmption and having a look at civilization. Unfortunately the time was not sufficient to have a trip to the colonies in, so I thought a trip to Perth would be better than remaining in the desert. I am leaving here in a day or two for Perth and expect to be back in Dundas about the middle of January. I can hardly realize that this is Xmas eve but they tell it is so it must be so. I have been disturbed about a dozen times since I started this epistle. Therefore I will make it brief in order that you will not was[te] too much of your time in deciphering the hieroglyphics which I am afraid I couldn't read myself.

Dear Miss Ray I must ask you

to accept this scribble merely as an acknowledgement of your kind letter an answer to come I will send later on when I can manage to secure a quiet corner.

Wishing you and all the members of your family a merry Xmas and a very Happy New Year and hoping you will thoroughly enjoy the holidays.

Sincerely Yours

Raymond J Sharkey

P.S. Arthur will probably pay you a visit shortly after my return.

RJS