

United Service Hotel
Adelaide
15.1.96

My dearest Cis

Words cannot express my feelings as they were when I received your lovely letter yesterday. It was awfully kind and considerate of you to write so soon. Well dearest I have just discovered that our boat the "Helen Nicoll" has been unavoidably delayed till Saturday this will give me another day here and I do not regret it as I have not quite completed my arrangements. Will you write me a nice letter on Friday so that I will receive it on Saturday just before my departure?

I

I was so sorry to hear that the mater was unwell and have no doubt the excessive heat had a lot to do with it – I sincerely hope she is herself again now.

You very kindly enquire about my comfort coming over. Well with the best of weather and comfort I never enjoy long rail journeys so with the exception of the heat my last was a usual.

Had I been left to my own resources I should not have obtained a seat as it was however my friend (Mr Ousby) had made all arrangements he having made a favourable impression on the guard of the train coming over to Melbourne he managed to secure a first class carriage with

with only two other occupants both of whom being Norsemanites we were acquainted with. Of course on leaving Melbourne the carriage was crowded but the guard had so arranged that the other passengers would leave us between Melbourne and Ballarat which they did. After that we had a nice comfortable corner each being very sociable we had a rather pleasant trip – divesting ourselves of our coats and vests and donning light flannelette coats to minimise the heat. We did not have sleeping berths altho we could have secured them from Ballarat we thought we were better without them. It was a strange sight at the various stations we stopped for refreshments to see what appeared to be gangs of havvies emerging from the first class carriages – I don't think there was a man aboard the train who wore a coat (excepting light). On every side complaints were rife about the heat and thirsty men predominant.

I am pleased to hear that you have written to Arthur dearest. Until now I did not think how mean I had been in telling you of that little incident which caused me so much pain but which Arthur uttered evidently without thinking. The only reason I can give for telling you is that after winning your Love and Affection I could not bear the idea of losing them.

Them. So I must ask you my darling to forget all about it and not be prejudiced by it – I am not afraid of anything Arthur or anyone else can say about me. But as I can never be the

same to Arthur as I was before socially, of course I will always treat him with civility and respect and do what I can for him unknown to him – Arthur is a person I could never fathom and today I know him no better than I did two years ago yet I flatter myself that I know both Wally and you thoroughly.

Of course Cis this may be all imagination on my part about Arthur and I am just beginning to think that I have made another error in writing such rubbish.

However

I will be pleased if you will try & forget all about it.

Herbert & Murray are enjoying splendid health likewise myself. I told them that you had not heard from them and they told me that they both wrote on Monday so have received them ere this.

In my last I told you Iredell's diagnosis of my ears and throat. Tell me sweetest what you think of him.

I was so pleased to hear that Ruth was in good spirits. I think we were rather harsh on poor H. when we thought he had engaged himself to the two of them.

It is just possible that I may go into partnership with

with Mr Ousby (who is an Ex bank manager of NSW) who is starting business on the field as a stock and share broker and commission agent. I think there is money in the broking business and I think we can manage without interfering with my business, he has made a proposition to me but I have not decided yet when I do you shall know love.

I have a lot more to write but as I have an appointment in ten minutes I must conclude with love to all not forgetting the Mater, Minnie, Ruth et all and mine only from

Ever yours

Ray

P.S. Every time I read your diary I learn more so I will “ bide a wee” before I ask you any questions as I may fathom it out myself Mizpah

(From start of letter). P.S. I left the Vendetta with Alder. Ray