

Thursday

My dearest Sweetheart,

You will notice that I have not been writing the last two nights, but you must not think it was because I would not. I wanted to write to you but really I did not know what to write about.

Not feeling too well this morning – or rather not being in the humour for working. I went out in the “Macgregor”, at the invitation of Mr Thompson, (manager of the Co. owning the steamer) (-----) expedition to the Islands with a party of gentlemen. We had a glorious time. Leaving here at about 10 am we arrived at our destination (Figure of eight Island) about noon. The weather was

simply perfect, plenty of game and a splendid luncheon and dinner on board, left nothing to be desired. Tho while steaming out of the bay, I heartily wished that our destination was Melbourne instead of the Island. Reaching our destination we adjourned to the saloon, partook of a very nice lunch then going ashore we rambled all over the Island committing slaughter among the feathered inhabitants securing no less than twenty two wild (-----) some very nice mutton shells which I will bring over to you. At 4 o'clock the boats were ready to take us back to the steamer. After reaching which, the anchor was weighed and a start made for home at about..... (missing page)

Having a delightful bathe and brush up in the Captain's cabin, we then armed with very keen appetites sat down to dinner that would compare favourably with any public dinner in Melbourne. After satisfying our appetites we then went on deck and to our surprise saw the lights of Esperance. The water was beautifully calm while above was a clear blue sky and a full moon casting its radiance on the tranquil waters giving a most brilliant effect. Steaming (-----) noticed the “Lubra” lying peacefully at anchor this gave me a thrill of joy as I felt sure that there would be some letters waiting for me. However you may judge of my disappointment when after

hurrying ashore I discovered that I would be unable to get them till tomorrow morning. Dearest I am dying to hear from you again it seems such a long time since there was a steamer in but of course you cannot help that.

Now pet I will go to bye bye and sleep till morning then Ah then I will have something to cheer me and likewise something to write about.

Good night you dear old Love good x night and give my love (-----) the others.

From Yours with XXX

(Upside down)

FRIDAY

My Darling,

I have received your lovely long letter & will try and answer it tonight and send it by the (Prinser?)

Ray