

Esperance

May 9th 1896

My Dearest Love

Here I am again on my own but I regret to say only for a very short time. I thought I would have had time to reply to Minnie's letter today but unfortunately could not. I have had a fearfully busy day today and even now there is a gentleman in the office, (-----) ask him to wait (-----) a few times for the mail. I saw Arthur twice today and altho I lent him a couple of horses I did not have time for a chat with him – tomorrow I hope to be able to write up my private correspondence which has accumulated to quite a stack the look of which almost frightens me.

Well dearest I do hope you are enjoying health and happiness, are you my Love altho I hardly deserve it. I am looking forward to another dear letter by the "Lubra".

I am now writing in my dear little room with your lovely (portrait?) looking at me. Ah, what (what would?) I give (to have?) the original so near?

Cis I have had "Trilby" for over a week now and have only read a few pages although I am dying to finish it. I cannot, as when

When I turn in I go off to sleep immediately.

Yesterday I had the Captains of the "Rob Roy" and McGregor over to see me they are an awfully jolly couple but I can tell you I blessed them. Being very busy at the time I gave them some photographs to look at and left them in my bed room with a rejoinder to amuse themselves. This they did with a vengeance as I found out in (the morning?):- my pyjamas (- ----) up all ways and patterns the rugs were doubled up. After adjusting these and ultimately turning in I discovered that they had put a coating of flour over my pillow so you can imagine what one side of my face and hair was like. In the morning I discovered that my shaving brush had been dipped in the gum bottle and was consequently as hard as iron – they are terrors – But I will know what to do in future. Now my dear lovey I know you will understand why this letter is so short but tomorrow I will write you a nice dear long one. As I must catch the mail I must now (-----) with love to mother (-----) Ruth (-----) and all the others, not forgetting a nice big kiss for my little Cis.

"Good night" my own good good X night. Au X Revoir

From yours as ever

Ray

P.S. Have you seen or heard any more of "Larry" Cis. I would like you to have him back again if possible. I must ask you to excuse this dirty paper as I did not notice it until I had written one side.

Yours Ray