

Esperance July 14th 96

My dearest Love

You could hardly imagine how busy I have been since my return.

Although the contract times are up there are two of my buildings not yet complete owing to the difficulty in obtaining materials from the other colonies, however they will be finished in about ten days. In the meantime it is just possible I may have to take a run up to the Norseman but of course you shall know by my next if I do go.

Well, my darling I was rather pleased to get back to my snug little room after camp life. I did enjoy reading your letters my own.

I thought I would have been able to write you a nice long letter this time my pet but somehow or other I really do not like writing and if I did I don't know what to write about. One would naturally think I would have a fine stock of anecdotes after a month in the bush - but no - I think my last trip was the quietest one I have ever had, not even a little duck shooting to break the monotony of our little camp. The men I had with me were

were splendid fellows who took an interest in their work and would do anything I suggested without a murmur.

I hope my little girl has been enjoying herself lately. How is the clerk of the weather treating you now Cis? We have had delightful weather for the last two days although before that we had a fair share of wind and rain.

I have just been reading your dear letters over again - You dear old Lovey to let me use my own discretion re coming to see you. Oh how I do think of that trip my darling but I am not going to make any promise yet but before many days are over I hope to tell you definitely when to expect me. I do love you Cis, you have been so kind to me re this matter. However we will talk it all over will we not my own.

Of course I said I wished to 'establish' myself here but I said it for the want of a better word at the time - what I should have said was:- That I wished to get a few of the early buildings of Esperance so that in years to come I may be able to say that I built the oldest house here - you did not know that I was conceited did you lovey. I am also greedy & want all the work but as for staying in Esperance permanently my thoughts are far from it.

I think it so kind of Minnie to send me her love Do you know that I am as anxious to see her as I am you.

Although I would dearly like to see you all again I used to think of you alone when thinking of that visit to Melbourne, but since that little contretemps I think of you and Minnie and really Cis I have been wondering for weeks who I will see first Now I have decided that my darling is the one that I must see first How could I have been thinking so much about it?

I think after a quarter of an hours conversation with Minnie all will be well. The only thing I am afraid of is that I will be addressing her by her Christian name then of course I will blame you won't I my love. I will not keep you long pet.

Now I must ask you to remember me kindly to Mother & the little Biggs – (the latter I hope have recovered from their coughs) Ruth, Hal, and all the other nice people with whom I am acquainted accept a nice big kiss for yourself only from

Yours for ever
Ray

“Au revoir” Mizpah “Saionara”

{Front page top left}

“How do you like the scent of Baronia enclosed”