

St Martins  
Beckenham  
May 17th

My very dear Frank,

It is 3 long weeks since we heard from you, and we are beginning to wonder where your letter can have got to. We wonder if your shirt is satisfactory, also the sword & pistol. A telegram came from Victoria St to say you & the E.E. had gone to Bloemfontein but nothing else.

The war news has been very cheering lately, we are delighted at what Lord Roberts has done, and are daily looking for more good news. I am sending you today's Times with an account of the Queen at Ketly?, & also about the trial of an Armoured Train. We see that the R.E.s have been doing splendid work building bridges & mending railways at night, perhaps by the light of your search lights.

Dolly Brethendon? stayed here for a few days, she sent very kind remembrances to you. She was very ? as usual. On Monday she & Dad went to the House & heard Mr Chamberlains great speech on the Australian Federation. They dined with Dad & had a real good time. Some of their ? are coming out beautifully. I have a lovely buds?, pink ones, by me while I write.

The fowls are doing well 16 eggs daily, 7 orpington buff chick, 1 bantam sitting & one of your little black hens I think sitting too.

Wigs? & Maggie start for Switzerland on Saturday for 3 weeks & then they will be getting into their new house.

Rowlie has begun cricket & is breaking his bats wholesale with his rigorous strokes. He plays for the Wanderers against Beckenham, here, on Whit Monday, he has no time during the week & can only give a few Saturdays, he has his time a good deal filled up with work with Gaver?, for his exam is near? and he has to go so often into Court & seems to be getting on well at last.

Dodo is much better for her stay in Cornwall. Ethel is as eager as ever for tennis, tonight she had a splendid game with 2 Miss Greco's & Mr Carper. Until day? the weather has been so cold, we were quite perished as we sat & ? her last evening.

Our dear love to you

Your affectionate

Mother