

St. Martin's  
May 10<sup>th</sup> 1900

My dearest Friar

Dad had a p.c. from the Elect. Eng. Offices in Victoria Street today, giving a copy of a telegram which ran – “Elect. Engineers started for Bloemfontein all well”. As there is no date we don't know when you went or where you have got to, but I hope they will send this after you. I don't know whether Mother told you that I have been to Looe? I stayed with the Whites for five weeks, and managed to have one or two sails with ? in the old Dewdrop. He was looking tremendously well, & I think fatter than he was in the summer. I don't fancy he has been out with the boats this winter and so he has managed to keep well. His is just as slack as ever, & I did all the work in the boat! He would do nothing but talk of you, & he sent you his love & “please tell him not to go too far up to the front”. Flora promised him that she would go & tell him any news she may have of you, and that pleased him very much. Looe & its interesting inhabitants are the same as every. If anything R.A.P. is a trifle more dotty, but that I suppose is only to be expected. Mary had a dreadful cold when I was there, but a short stay in Plymouth did her good & she came home looking very well. I had tea up at ?lym once or twice, but it was not very easy to get up there.

Jim was at home for about four weeks. I believe has failed in another exam & there are rather ructions. As have? Oxford this year, & his R.A.P. won't decide what he is to do. I rather fancy the Irish Constabulary but his father makes a fuss about everything, so probably he will slack down at Looe for some months. Arthur came home for Easter. He looks well & seems to like things at Mr Claude Peter's. Affy cam home too, & I did not know him for he is as tall as Jim has a slight moustache & is dressed very much after the style of Harold Player!! He has got a rise & is now at Ilfracombe . Alby? Brown wanted to get a chaplaincy out in S. Africa, he is absolutely sick of Looe, & its quarrels. There is a row on between him & the Choir, & of course R.A.P. is delighted & does all he can to stir up mischief. I went to have tea at the Vicarage one day, it seemed quite funny to be there again. They have completely altered the drawing room, & the piano now is between the fire-place wall & the door, & it looks much better. We also took tea at St Martins. Old Y. Looks very ill & according to

Eustace has had double pneumonia, & has been at death's door!  
Another wonderful recovery! He looks pretty shaky though & sighs  
just as much as ever. Mrs. J. asked me the price of my clothes & where  
I had got them.

I had to stop for tea here, and then mother came in with Mrs  
Gundry who had much to say as we had not seen her for nearly eight  
weeks.

Last night Tommy & I went to a musical "at home" at the  
Borastons. It was très terrible & we left early. There was an awful  
female, a retired second rate actress I should think who recited "The  
Return of the Regiment" in a frantic kind of way. Afterwards she sang  
"Oh Marguerite"! in true music-hall style, a strictly edifying  
performance! Ye gods & little fishes! People are quaint.

Malvern did Mother a lot of good, & if she only would consent to  
be a little quieter & lazier she would keep well. Dad said he never  
picked up so quickly in all his life as he did in those twelve days, & he  
and Tom managed to do some walking & "clomb" many hills. Rowly  
had rather poor sport fishing at Withypool, but I believe the weather  
was much against them. He got his first brief the other day £4.4.0.  
The Dr Gover & Mr Edge were in the case & they won it, so it was very  
satisfactory. It was before Mr Justice Stirling, & at first they thought it  
would be held in Chambers but it wasn't, they took it in Court.

The first cricket match at Beckenham was last Saturday against  
Bart's hospital. Beckenham went in first & made over 300 for 5  
wickets & then they closed their innings. P.C. made 60 each of the ?  
over 40 & I forget who else. The Hospital played for a draw but  
Beckenham got the last wicket with about three minutes to spare –  
Warwickshire has been doing well against Surrey.

Friday

I shall miss the mail if I don't stop. I will send a better letter next  
week. Warwickshire v. Surrey match abandoned owing to rain.

Much love from everybody;

Always your loving sister

Dodo

Dolly comes tomorrow for a day or two.