

St Martins  
Beckenham  
July 24<sup>th</sup> 1900

My dearest Frank

We got your letter last Monday 23 July telling us, you were perhaps going to Pretoria. We may get a letter on Saturday this week, as the mail comes in tomorrow morning. July 27.

Ethel is gone to stay with Effie Smith for a fortnight. They were to dine at Wig?'s on Thursday at Vicarage Road, the new house is not ready yet, & may not be for a month, so Ethel is doubtful whether she will stay with Wig?' at all. Ethel started by the 8 o'clock train, so as not to be in the great heat in the afternoon. She says she had both windows open & her shoes off. Much to the amusement of the little girls in black who were in the carriage. Jack is gone to the manoeuvres & is on the Resolution in the B Squadron now stationed at Lough Swilly in Ireland.

Poor Banquo is no more – he was sent to the vets a week ago to try what a course of treatment would do, but had a / we had a letter to say he had been painlessly snuffed out. Poor Tommy it is hard, after all the trouble she has taken with him. Lob is very well & jolly & is nearly always in the house. Dolly has been staying with us, & yesterday came over to ask Dodo to go with her to Folkestone for 10 days on August 7. So she is going. Dad & I think of having a quiet fortnight at Malvern when the house is up.

Here is the baby on this paper helping? me to will. Since old ? went she lives with us, & is much nicer than she was.

We still have no certain news that the ? in Pekin are taken & the Europeans killed, today there is a rumour that 300 are saved. What wretches the Chinese are.

Rowlie is thinking of going a Cricket tour with a Mr C.C. Searn? to Devon, & C? he wants to get an invitation from her to hike for a few days in August, on his way to his matches, he only played in 2 matches last week Friday & Saturday got 60 final day, v?2. 14 Sat. the cricket was very poor. On Sat. there was a band, & a good crowd, in the evening a Pastoral play under the ? – “As you like it”. Rather a poor affair, because the stage was the grass, and only people in the two first rows could see anything. However they took £70 so that made up for

the poor attendance on Wednesday when there was a good band, but so few people that only £10 was taken. P.C. Baker has been playing for Kevil? in several matches got 100 once & hopes to be fast on the M.C.C. next year. Dad is doing all he can for him.

George is home, we not seen him yet, he goes away again in about a week as the Orient Line are short of steamers.

We have been short of water all though the hot weather, how we have thought of you! & the poor fever patients, she was giving is beginning by examining any invalids from Africa then the 5 Con? men are coming out to Africa.

I must stop now & go to bed. Much love my dear boy from your affectionate.

Mother