

P.S. Saturday Oct 17th Many Happy Returns of  
to'day - Such a lovely day after the rain!

Tuesday St Anne's  
CoHege  
Maritzburg  
Oct. 13th/96  
My dearest Mater,

Another week nearer! The weeks are passing quickly  
almost before we know it I shall hnd myself standing  
on your doorstep mixed up with you, Flo, & Rex.

I have got a grey hair so you must expect to hnd me  
much older. I have also many crows-feet about my  
eyes but I am still active. You have heard me talk of

the Warrens, the Skipper & his wife. Well, last Sunday  
evening, after dark, some of his cttlies came up to  
the house (his) & told him they did not know what  
work they were to do next day so would he go down  
early next morning to tell them - they repeated "very

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early very early" most emphatically as if they were  
very anxious to begin work.

Next day the Skipper went down to their huts in the early morning & saw nobody, there was nobody stirring, when suddenly he was knocked down by some one behind him, his arms pinioned, & 8 or a dozen cttlies sat on him & pummelled him & beat him with their hands; at hrst, he tried to resist but they made cries & others came & overpowered by numbers according to his custom he made himself as comfortable as he could under the circumstances. When they thought he had had

enough & there was no more breath left in him they

fled, everyone, even those who were at work in the

plantation & two who were on the sick list & considered unht for work. The Skipper recovered in

time put himself to rights that he

might not alarm his wife & went up to the house. Mr Hankey, his partner, who lives only a mile or two away was at Mollissima & only left that morning. When he got to Ashendon he & Mr Warren rode over to New Hanover to lay a charge of desertion before the magistrate & found to their intense astonishment that all the ctllies were there, they had gone to lay a charge of assault against the Skipper. However, the bruises were all on the Skipper so they were hnd 1E2 each for desertion & those who were recognised as

assaulters were given 15 lashes each.

Poor Daisy is in terror now every time her husband is

outofhermght

They say, I hope it is not true, that the ctllies won't

work unless you keep them in a

state of terror & they are cuffed & kicked  
mercilessly on nearly all the plantations.

Mr Angus, whom I thought such a nice man never  
goes into his plantations without a loaded revolver  
as a protection.

It sounds bad does it not? Of course there are two  
sides to everything & I do not see if they are badly

treated why they should not retaliate. I never

thought the Skipper went in for that sort of thing.

He is always so lazily good-tempered.

I have seen that Du Maurier & Morris are dead & I  
heard last night that the Arch-Bishop is too. I  
wonder who will be the new Arch-bishop. I should  
think Temple would make a very good one, or lady  
Warden's brother. Lady Warden is better, she was in

the study yesterday

Thursday. We thought we were going to have a big storm yesterday, great black clouds swept up with evil looks, thunder growled all around & there were two or three vivid flashes of lightning, a few large drops of rain fell slowly like precursors of a downpour

but that was all. Rain is wanted badly, there is a

drought already, at Greytown they have suffered for a

month or two, but in Maritzburg only lately have they cut off the water supply. Everything is very dry. I saw Ada Vanderplank on Saturday, she came to see me she said at Camperdown the tanks were empty & a kind of fever had broken out in the village from want of proper water.

We hope it will rain soon for many reasons, one is,

that unless it does, they must come into

town & they have asked me to go to Camperdown  
for All Saints if they are still there; so it depends on  
the rain.

Frank is much better, that is to say he is better just  
now, the doctors have given up his case because  
they can do nothing, so he is trying baths &  
vegetarian diet, but I am afraid they have not much  
hope.

Did I not tell you about Miss Simmons, who had a

fall from her horse & became paralysed in

consequence; she was to all purposes dead from  
her toes to her neck, they thought she must die but  
there was always vitality in her head, & she kept up  
her spirits. She was taken home, & a cable came the  
other day to say the operation was performed

successfully & they had every hope that in

time she would walk about again. Is it not wonderful! She had chipped her spine, or broken the bone but not the spinal cord & now it is straightened, I believe it had been bent in -

We are going to have the hrst rehearsal of "Sir

Rupert" on Saturday morning it will be little more

than reading the parts but it will make a beginning.

This afternoon Emmy, Madge & I were going to call on Mrs Noel, directly after dinner we dressed to go & as soon as we were ready it rained heavily for a minute or two, it looked very black all round so we said we would wait half an hour to see what it was going to do. We kept on our hats but before we could even go to our rooms Nance captured us to

help to look

out dresses for the acting & it has kept us till now. It is a quarter to 6. & tea is at 6.30 so there is no time to do anything much. I thought I would go on with this. It has not rained much, it promises but does not perform, it looks as if we should have a perfect downpour. I wish it would come it is so close, so dull, & rain is needed badly.

I promised to give Mrs Greene another lecture, so I am down for one on Tuesday. I have not had time to prepare it yet but, I read Trench's book on proverbs a little time since & it struck me when I read it that it

would be rather convenient to get a lecture up out

of it. So I shall try. A Mrs Harte called on Tuesday,

she is the mother of a child here



& she is a very handsome woman, who tries to be very impressive. She talked about the Guild or Association or whatever they call it, then reverted to me, said she had heard that I lectured there sometimes and had seen in the Magazine that I lectured on Tuesday. She said she would so like to be present. I told her she was much better at home. So she is.

I hope the Zanzibarese fuss will not interfere with our arrangements, it will be a nuisance if the port is being bombarded & we're not able to call there, & it will be still worse if there is war between England &

Germany & the Germans refuse to take us on board

& refuse also to return our passage-money. To be

taken

prisoners of war would be rather fun or might be,  
but to be put into quarantine would be wretched.  
Friday. It rained off & on all night but only lightly,  
still it is raining now & looks as if it would continue.  
Yesterday, when we were looking out dresses we  
sent for two of the little ones, Molly Chamberlain &  
Gracie Weber to see if they could wear some little  
white sateen & satin pages' dresses, but they were  
too big Molly nearly got into one, but was with  
great difficulty ever got out of it again. This

morning they came to me to talk about the

Breaking Up & they sighed & said they wished they

were smaller. I said "Did you eat a proper breakfast  
this morning? Did you eat as much as you

wanted?"

Molly hesitated & then said "I am trying to shrink"  
Was it not funny, she tried to eat a little that she  
might grow small, I suggested eating much so that  
she might grow to hll another part.

I had about 6ft odd of sugarcane given to me the  
other day, I chewed a little, some is very good, I  
used not to like it. I expect my nephews would, I  
wish I could bring them a stick but it would be dry &  
good for nothing before it landed.

Lady Warden is about again, she looks better for the  
rest.

Friday night It has been raining steadily all day,  
not heavily, stiII this is better at hrst for the earth is  
as hard as iron, & the gentle rain will penetrate  
whereas the heavy runs off at hrst.

To'morrow is your birthday, I hope you received my  
good wishes in time I will repeat them for  
to'morrow. Many happy returns dearest Mater!  
Won't it be odd if I am at home in time for my  
birthday - I believe I shall be. Some of the children,  
to'day, suggested that I should take the whole Form

home with me & teach them geography all the way

up the East coast. It would be very delightful for us  
all!

Good-bye dear Mater & little Chick, 6 years since this  
month I was on the sea coming here & on your  
birthday I gave a tea-party & they had the cake you  
had made. Do you remember? A little one.

With much love

Ever thy loving

Mary Moore