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next you write.

St Anne's  
Maritzburg.  
October 16th /95 Natal.

My dearest Mater

Never mind about the parcel, keep it till Nance  
can bring it to me, or else only send very little  
because it always seems such a sin to have to pay  
such a heavy postage, the stockings & gloves,  
would not weigh much but never mind about  
anything else let them wait.  
We expect Miss Dimmock almost any day now, but



have as yet heard nothing from her.

We are still longing for rain & it does not come. The country is dried up. In some places they have to kill lambs & calves to save the mothers' lives. The locusts keep passing over us looking for something to feed upon, on Monday they passed over Maritzburg twice but they do not like the smoke (little though there is) or the noises of life. The natives say they have come down from Mashonaland & Matabele



land, driven down by the settlers there.

I believe I have not told you of the farewell of Miss

Sutherland. She has said good-bye to us. She sails on

Friday for Delagoa Bay on her way to Barberton to stay

until the New Year with her sister who was married a little time since, then in January she joins her mother at the Cape & sails for England to be married.

Don't worry about the parcel there's a dear Mater, because I know it will come later, when Nance returns.

I am glad you liked the diary, I think it was rather stupid, twice told tales often are.

Next year, if we go in a large party, as they want to go, with a Fannin wagon & in addition a Mackenzie wagon & a Shaw wagon, perhaps there will be something new.

Nance is going to bring you the photos. Miss Sutherland's place has been hired by Miss Butler. She

came for the



hrst time today.

If I give you from now till Xmas to guess what I did on Saturday, I think you will not guess, therefore, I will pity your natural wish to know & tell you.

I went to Cramond!

Tom drove in because he had a wagon in town, he saw Miss Hunt & told her he would come for me in the afternoon & I could ride in with Mr Harry on Sunday or Monday. He was here at 20 to 3 & we went. I was so astonished that I hardly believed I was going till I got there. We found Mrs Mackenzie & Grace alone, about an hour later Phil Tucker & that nice boy Fyvie (met at Shawswood last Easter) rode in from town. On Sunday while we were at church the George Mackenzies, Harry & Mr Hawkey arrived so in the afternoon we were a fair

party. When we reached church, we found the little old

ladies onork discussing affairs & they greeted us with the news that they had had during the



past week, a hail-storm, a plague of locusts, & an earthquake. Verily they were not without subjects of conversation. The hail-storm had been very violent we saw traces of it in the broken boughs when we walked under the syringa-trees to reach the church. The stones were all 6 inches in circumference & many were 9 in., they had measured them! The locusts had spent the night there & then continued their flight, I believe they had eaten nothing because they could not eat.

The earthquake was felt also at Greytown & at Hilton but they had not perceived it at Cramond.

The Buccleuch babies were very bonny. Effie spent

Sunday afternoon in giving us tea out of empty cups,

Madge can walk short distances alone. Mr George was not looking well, I thought, he is thinner, & one of his hands has been troubling him, blood -poisoning or something like it.

He too has had a case in court &



is very dissatisfied with the judgement given by their German magistrate Capt Ritter. For 11 yrs he says systematic theft of wood from his Bush has been going on but he has never been able to prove it, at last about a fortnight ago he discovered a Ktnr in the act. The man was terrified & offered to pay anything Mr George liked to ask, but Mr George wanted to frighten others by making an example of the boy. Accordingly he was arrested & taken before the magistrate. He pleaded guilty: Capt Ritter said "I can fine you 15/5 or give you 3 months imprisonment but I will let you off with a warning. Don't do it again"

Mr George was very angry as he saw he could have fined the man himself if he had liked but it would have been compounding a felony - & he wanted to make an

example of the man. What's the use of a warning,

especially when the Ktnrs know that if caught they will

not be punished.

Is it not a shame!



They say that he is afraid of the kthrs & so will never punish them if he can help it.

When human bones were discovered in a witch-doctor's hut a little time since, & a woman's hand; & the bones were declared by doctors to be white peoples' - it was said the witch-doctor had murdered white people to make charms & medicines (muti) of their limbs Capt. Ritter was so afraid when the man was brought before him that he could hardly speak & had him chained to a post.

Then he said he would hne the man 1510 & Iet time go, the man cheeked him, Capt Ritter trembled, the man

said he was poor so the courageous Capt said "How much money have you""f\_3" he replied."Then pay the 153 & go away at once."

Such isjustice in Natal!

Mr Hawkey is a little brick. He had heard of the Mashona expedition from Mrs Warren so he asked me about it &

without any fishing he did



immediately what I wanted him to do, he offered to lend us his Kodak. He also offered me a suit of Karkhi but I do not think I shall accept that, though we will the Kodak. Poor Harry had a stiff back owing to a hail-storm at Hawkestone that had broken nearly all his tiles & windows, destroyed all his fruit & done much damage killed fowls etc. Mrs Trotter & Tubbie were out in it Mrs T driving back from Howick & Tubbie riding, they were beaten black & blue, big bumps raised on them as big as hsts Mrs Trotter said.

Oct:17th Many happy returns of the day! I hope you have got a nice day, here at 7am. it is very hot so what will it be at noon - Every day is a little worse than the last

& the outlook more serious. There will be a famine they

say, no rains yet & no crops sown. Almost impossible to

plough. The locusts have been at Ashendon & Mollissima, Ashendon is the Warrens & Mollissima where

Jack Fannin lives. The cloud was



7 miles long at Ashendon they settled on the wattles & at Mollisima by their weight broke down the largest trees & in their hunger ate all the younger ones. They have come from the coast, having eaten all the sugar-cane, to seek food. There is a man appointed to superintend their destruction he is called the "Minister of Locusts" or "Chief Officer of Locusts" or something like that, it sounds funny. The natives are paid 1/ a sack for them. I never told you how I returned from Cramond. Tom had said I could ride back with Harry so I took my riding gear but Harry was not coming in on Monday, he was still busy shearing & so had to come in when that was finished to sell his wool, later in the week. I rode in with Phil Tucker & Mr Fyvie. We got up at

5 am. & left Cramond at 18 min. to 6. Tom lent me the redoubtable Pony & sent a kthr into town to fetch him out again - Pony is one of the ponies he had with him in Zululand - it was



bitten by tsetse fly & not expected to recover he did & is therefore "salted" but last holidays he was dying again at the same time of year, now he is all right again. He jibbed once at the Bridge over the Umgeni & had it not been for Fyvie we might have been there now - after a little night he came on & behaved well the rest of the way. I was in my room at St Anne's at 20 to 9.

I was not tired, I had a little bit of tiredness just above my

waist in my back but that was all. I was however very

sleepy as the morning went on & a hot wind & swarm of

locusts obliged us to shut our class-room windows. Want of air made me so. Both Tucker & Fyvie owned next day that they had a rest - I had none that day - In the afternoon I had an appointment with Gerty Pascoe which I kept & we had to walk about the town looking for what we never found. There was an awful storm while we were out, not much thunder but the lightning was awful - no

rain



at all, at which we were disappointed in common with the rest of Natal. On Tuesday, I went to a bachelor party. Phil Tucker had invited me, it was a sort of farewell entertainment for he is going to leave Natal perhaps at the end of the month - & Canon Todd had given him permission to have a party, old Miss Tucker, his aunt came in to chaperone him, Gerty & Elsie were there. When I was asked I asked if I might take somebody with me & he said "yes"- both Sheila & Olive declared they were old friends so I could not choose between them & took both. Fyvie came - they played tennis, Mr Todd was out at another party. Phil regaled us most sumptuously, we had ice-creams! -

Grace has asked me to go to Cramond for Christmas & for all the holidays. I do not like quartering myself on them for so long. So I have suggested that if I do, she shall take advantage of my presence to make a tour among her friends &



relatives while I take care of Mrs Mackenzie. You see the Vans with whom I have always spent Xmas are not to be in town or at Camperdown they are going visiting themselves.

There is a Missionary Conference to be held in Natal, it begins either to'day or tomorrow. The Metropolitan from Cape Town, the bishops of Bloemfontein, Grahamstown, Pretoria etc etc are all coming for it. Friday 18th. We are expecting Miss Dimmock to'day the paper yesterday, said that her boat was expected to'day, but probably she will not arrive till tomorrow. Looking over your letters again I believe I have made a mistake, & I hnd that the parcel that missed Miss

Dimmock was the stocking one only, I thought for a

few days that it was the larger parcel - this will explain

the hrst part of my letter, written just after your letter said you had received the diary - the parcel is not one

returned from Miss Dimmock



too late but simply the little parcel from me. All my  
moanings & sighs were thrown away.

While I was at Cramond I had such a funny dream, the

nation was in danger & could only be saved by the Three

Joes the names of the three I kept repeating lest they

should be forgotten & the nation ruined. They were: -

Joe Chamberlain, Johannesburg, & the third I could not

remember but they said it must be Joe Shaw as we had

been talking of him the night before. Miss Morton

wrote, to ask me to spend the All Saints' holiday at the

Start the other day, & yesterday Miss Heaton horrihed us

with the suggestion that we might not have any, but All

Saints might be like Michaelmas. Too bad! Because I do

not believe that they have measles at all, it is merely a

heat rash & is all over the town.

With much love dear Mater to you & the Chick,

P.S.

Cheque

enclosed for 15.13 -

Your loving daughter,

Mary Moore