Monday
28th Jan. 1898

My dear Mr. Bleeh.

Accept my sincere congratulations upon your daughter Mary's engagement. I am so glad you like what you have seen of your intended son in law. I know how many anxieties and thoughts it will bring to you. You feel you must have some one who is equally interested, to talk matters over with. Having to begin life on modest means, I think is an advantage, they have to be careful, and so are kind to each other, society life is not all happiness. Please give my heartiest congratulations to dear Mary, and tell her I wish her every happiness, and prosperity.

Well is it a long engagement? I read the printed announcement of the engagement two days after I got your letter I had no idea so much formality had to be gone through. It makes an engagement almost as binding as a marriage. I should

the girls are delighted, most young people like the idea of a wedding, they don't think of the responsibilities, I mean I dare say.

Mr Scott looks impressed rather formally, (she is not so gentle, or sensitive as poor Edith I could see) I like her, she has a face full of determination, and steadfastness, she does not make a fuss over the children, but does her duty to them, it must have been hard for her before me - The children leave me in April I think then Hattie is coming for them, I shall miss them both, but no one believes that I feel about Edie going, she is very taly and pretty - for them it is best, they should go while they are young - Mr Scott is very fond of them, and I think will see they are looked after.. Harry felt Mr Scott marrying again very much, he can't bear the thought of the children leaving -

I shall be curious to know what the girls think of their intended brother in law.

Ethel tells me they are having such hot dry weather, when she wrote they had only a few days water supply, but since then I see they have had rain at Johannesburg I hope it has extended to Kingston.

Guy tells me they have had splendid rain in Pretoria, which has cooled the air, before the rain the heat was almost too.
- Feardle - Mr Muggs Ella & the children were in on Saturday, I thought Ella looking pale and then, the children look well Alfred is such a manly little fellow -
I am hoping to see George his wife & child at Mr Mears, Bill Bennett tells them families are allowed to travel double journey for single fare, once a year - George gets about £250 a year. From it appears Guy has written to ask them to come down in March, as she intends taking a house at Inanda for that month, and thinks the change to the sea would do them good.
Dear Mr Bleek, I am enclosing you draft in this letter, it should have been sent last week, but I did not think of it until it was too late - I am half afraid Guy's bills will be sold, then I shall have the rooms I have there, some of my boarders will be very sorry to go I fear -

You will have seen from the papers that Mr. Long has passed away. I feel very sorry for her daughters, they now live at Headquarters. Pm. Rd Mr. Schneider is ill, I think he has 87 his last birth. day I made enquiries and find they are comfortably off - so he has every comfort.

We are having terrible South Easters, and no end of dust, when we do get a quiet day, the heat is almost unbearable. I only like winter.

This I am afraid is rather a stupidly written letter, but I have had a busy week or less for more than a week.

Hawey Rebels engagements taking place on my birth day. All Saints day

A Good Omen -

Best fond love

Believe me Always Yours

H. B. Keeffe.

I am afraid I shall not be able to write Keeffe Mebs, so invite you, and yours a peaceful and happy Xmas, & every prosperous New Year when it comes - H.B.K.