Mentone
23rd Jan 1900

and the Quels & the Quelt
Opuncle Lee
Pelerin
Bren Tuenel Gran
Wiffs Pesiff

My dear Mr. Blake,

I am writing today to enclose the draft for last months - After this I shall keep the rent to pay Insurance & taxes - I would much rather send it to you -

Please thank Helen for her post card I received the today - What an imposing building your flat is in. I suppose your small garden is at the back -

This year there were very few berries on the trees, and I thought they were not ripe enough to pick, but on Friday night some one cleared the trees, I felt so sold, after watching

them, and thinking how sure they would be. Fruit is not plentiful this season consequently rather expensive, it is bought up and sent to the Germans, and I am only too glad for them to have it.

Glenn Cleaston Home he send something every month for the Wounded. Amongst other things he are sending them six hundred Cigarettes & a Gross of Knatchers from Jellinos, they are having a hard time and a smoke seems to comfort them.

Each day we are hoping to hear of the relief of "Ladysmith", they must be short of provisions, so many soldiers seem to be dying of enteric fever. The last news from Pretoria is not cheering, so many deaths of children, no suitable food for them, no milk, they now have a ¼ lb horse flesh a day. Women & children must eat it.

my poor little pets, I wonder how they fare. Did Mew could stand heat, I am sure every one will be kind to them. Mrs G. Bright's Mother has a nice large garden with plenty of fruit, I hope she will be - mindful of them -

This is a terrible war, so many we know have lost relations, and I am sure the Colonial troops will suffer in this fight that is going on. One friend of mine in East London (a Mrs Campbell, daughter in law of the late Magistrate of Cape Town,) has seven sons and they have all gone to the front, the youngest must be about fifteen. I do think it was not fair we ought to have remained with him. Then Mr Collins (Miss Barrow) has only son found the Imperial Lighthouse he is in Natal. I am glad my sons had appointments

they could not leave.—

Henry & his son are flourishing, he really is a fine little fellow, so healthy and strong, fine weather he is always in the garden. Mr. Darwin fears will not return to England until the war is over. I wonder when it will be safe to return to the Continent.—

Yesterday I had a note from Miss J. Floyd telling me she had been in Pendelmet for a week, and was coming to see me this week, as she is going to Malvern for a month. So I have written to tell her I am going out to Ellis on Thursday to stay for a week, Ethel will keep house for me.

How are you all? I shall often think of Mary and Yourself every minute. I know it will be an anxious time for you.

Please give my love to your sisters