Rec'd Aug 20 1900
Answered Aug 21
W. Bleek.

Rockaway
14th August 1900

My dear Mr. Bleek,

I know I have a very long letter of yours to answer. I have mislaid the letter, and it is now nearly nine-o'clock, so I must not spend more time in looking for it.

I did not send your draft last month as I knew you were from home, so I enclose draft for two months in this letter which I hope you will duly receive.

I was obliged to have the roof looked at as there were several leakages, we have had such high winds, it loosens the slates, the Quarryman put in 20 new slates, and he tells me there are more than 100 cracked ones, though I can't see any leakage, used a certain amount of putty stuff into

the roads on which the stages are fastened, and in time, it will become useless. From the Winter is nearly over but I think about next April (with your permission) it might be attended to — You can notice nothing more —

I do trust you are all feeling well and strong after your nice holiday — and that Miss Lucy is really much improved in health and that you have satisfactory accounts of Mary and baby.

We have had very stormy, rainy weather, very cold, the mountains all capped with snow — today it is as warm as summer —

Hays boy has had whooping cough and Bronchitis combined, but he is nearly well again, his cough is almost gone, he has four teeth, and others nearly through.

Excuse

We hear from Mr Dawson every week he is working at a new railway, which is to run along the reef, in opposition to the Netherlands, they have given him the bridges and culverts just what he likes, he complains that he seldom gets a letter, and never sees a paper. Mr Dobie is still down here, I don't think Mr Guy or Ethel will return till after Xmas. I do wish this war would come to an end, so many valuable lives have been lost, and for what? Our Parliament is simply a disgrace, it is disgusting the way the Bond members go on. What the end will be, I don't know.

The news from China is terrible, so many cruelly murdered. There seems to be trouble on every side.

Our poor Queen, how sad losing

her son, and all these crowd here just when her reign must be drawing to a close —

I had a letter from Edie, in her own writing, she is at Bognor with her Aunt & Cousin, to recruit after Deptford. she says the sea is lovely, and they have blue pails and spades, evidently she is very happy — Hum Dick I have not heard just lately —

Mrs Seth after all is not going to the Continent. Lady D'Arcy Osborne & the Duchess of Leeds, are interesting themselves in her, and are trying to get her into the "Royal Academy of Music", for a year I think I told you she has a powerful voice. She has been staying with Lady Osborne for the last month — And other influential friends are trying to get her a pension and compensation — You know they lost everything. Lately I seem to have been so busy, no time to myself, not even to read the papers —