Monday
18th Sept 1900

My dear Mr. Bleeker

How time passes here! It is nearly the end of the month, and time for me to send a draft. Which I trust you will duly receive. Sept. month I understand the Diocesan Council rate is payable.

How are you feeling after your change, I sincerely hope much stronger. Rest and change, often work wonders. Our summer seems to have come and gone, so early, we have had very many south easters, so early in the Spring. The Palm tree on the grass plot looks lovely, I do wish you could see it. Some the flower garden still looks lovely.

Hugh has got now the Whooping Cough and is growing freely, he can say several words, but does not attempt to walk. Pet Dawson is in Johannesburg, takes his Mother, and has plenty of it, but says food is scarce, and Prices enormous. A friend of Pet's Dotie who came from Pretoria last Thursday said he put up at the "Grand Hotel" £1 a day and for breakfast they had Sweet Meal porridge without milk, he was not sorry to leave & come South.

This has been a terrible war, so many valuable lives lost, and what misery it will bring upon thousands of women & children. I should not be surprised any day to hear that peace has been proclaimed. There seems a very bitter feeling between Dutch & English.

So the some of the speeches in Parliament this session have been disgraceful, I understand it has allmost I have a very fine young gentleman staying here a Mr Sainsbury, sometimes I feel so vexed when he holds forth at table. Mr Dilke gives it to them very strongly at times, then he is perfectly quiet. For a short time I had a Dutch spy, he spoke so much against the dutch, that he suspected them, and he had no peace, they were always talking about spies, one day he lost his temper (and gave the show away (to me a Bulgarian) used very bad language, so I told them no one has allowed to speak like that in my house. A day or two after he said he wished to leave so I put no difficulties in the way

Gussie Ewin Floyd I heard such
good news of Mary and her little
daughter - Baby must be a pleasure
to you. I love playing with Baby and
he always wants to dance when I
take him -

It is very late, and I must be
up early as my home work
is all in bed, got a chill - the
servant missing makes such a
difference -

Mr Rutherford has been very
ill for nearly two months, they
dont say what is the matter
her heart is very weak for anything.
Glad Ethel spoke me so favorable
remembrance to the Girls -

With much love to yourself
Mary Stanley Stone
W. H. Hurst.