Thorhaey
1st July 1901.

Dear Edith

I often wondered in my own mind, if I was doing you a letter, so was glad to get yours. I often thought of you all, with Gray and baby, what a pet she must have been amongst you all - I have a pretty little picture from Mother sent me, of the group at Dundee - in it baby looks sweet - Evidently little Hamish is going to be miserable -

Just at present I have a sick house Iona Doris & the baby & Harry have all had influenza, and are not well yet Mr Dawson brought it from Pretoria there they got it - Mr Cochrane & Gerald have also had it, and thought Dr Geldart complained of shivering and feeling very

cold, by tomorrow he will be glad to remain in bed. Nursing is very trying while the patient is ill one keeps up but it is after, when one gets tired. The Plague has brought extra work and anxiety, personally I have not felt alarmed still I take precautions.

Mr Dawson & Hay & the children left for Pretoria on the 28th and reached their destination on the night of the 23rd. Now no Pass permits for Cadets to go up are granted, the Boers are doing no end of damage again. Todays papers is fighting on every direction.

Hay has agreably surprised to find his house in such good order, and beautifully clean, after an absence of nearly two years, and strangers in it most of the time. Ethel still not get up for some time to come, her husband says not before Xmas.

Your warm weather is setting in now you will all enjoy your holiday to the Mountains. How it is winter, tonight as I sit and write it is pouring with rain, and rather cold but I do enjoy it. Summer takes all the go out of me, and with loaders you can't do your work early.
The garden is not looking very pretty just now, it is so difficult to get any Gardeners, as new a man to work the Military employ so many, and the boy I have is useless, but I can't get another. This year there were two oranges on the tree in the Paddock, they were almost ripe and bitten by bears, I thought we we would see them, one morning I went down they had been taken, the lemon tree on the front garden has a ripe lemon, and several small grown ones - and from the Apple tree we had two Apples. Plums the birds get before

they are ripe - It is the first time the trees have had Oranges & Lemons on them - Similar boys are terrible thieves, they steal the Lemons when they are little Green with Frost - At present there are no end of Robberies in Cape Town and Suburbs, and the police dont seem to be able to do anything, Report says there are about 300 men who live by what they can steal. Please give my love to Mrs & Helena I was so pleased to get their letters and hope some day to answer them but I have so little time, it is only in the evening I write, and often I feel to tired, and lie down instead - I am not growing younger -

I see Dr Rutherford has come out to see his father, it is so nice to see them come to Church together Mr Rutherford goes to Rondebosch & may to town, they dislike Mr Daintree, he dont go to hear him -

Mrs Sampson is his curate, as a boy he was a friend of Harry's and they used to call him Goosey - He reads dull, has such a good voice. And his sermons are short and to the point - Just at present they are having the Church house up and new seats with a middle aisle

Yesterday Muriel Maclean (Dr J Maclean's second daughter) launes new published she is going to marry a Mr Brayshaw from Johannesburg, they have been engaged a long time -

My dear Mrs Stutts is in England at present, she has gone home to consult a specialist about her hearing. they have sold their pretty home at Hyde and Shear are going to build another not quite so large.

I am afraid you will find this a stupid letter, but I am knowing

tought, and feel stupid
Please give my love to your Mother
and sisters, and accept the
same yourself
from sincerely yours
R. B. Stright