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16 April 03

Rockhay
23rd Feb 1903

My dear Mr. Bleek

This will be a line of a business letter, as I am enclosing an Insurance receipt, also the Stamped receipt. I send them a cheque for £58, for Jas Jones & Co's rate for June £8, as I have kept the Stamped receipts & send you the two to let you see. All the Insurance Companies have raised their rates, as there has been so many fires, and the arrangement for putting out fires very inadequate. I have still another Insurance & the Diocesan Council accounts to settle when they come in.

You will be surprised to hear Fred

I May leave for England by the "Britons" on the 18th of March. He is sent home by the Govt to see about material for the Bridges &c &c in the Transvaal. All his expenses paid. They only expect to be away three months, that will give them about six weeks in England. May has always longed to see her Aunt May so now her wish will be gratified. Ettie is taking charge of the two youngest boys, with the help of a nurse, so Vincent they leave at Boarding School. Now I hope to go up to Ettie about the 22nd of March. I much have a change. The servant difficulty is still worrying me. It seems as if I shall never be settled but Mr Bennett declares if I can manage she will be able to do so also.

How are you all! I do hope feeling better, and that May's visit has cheered you such a nice bit. When

Weather improves, you must try and get out into the sunshine, any little change is good. I should be so thankful to hear you were feeling stronger.

Now the whole we have had a cool summer, so much South Easter, but everything is looking dry & parched. It would be nice if we could have some showers of rain.

It is very difficult to get anyone to work in the Garden, just to make things look tidy. They prefer making bricks it pays better, though from a days pay a boy 4/6 to 5/. a day. Everything is becoming very expensive.

I am wondering if Mr. Darwin sees will return to England with his Son the night to go home & settle up his affairs.

Excuse this short letter, but it is late and I have to be up early to-morrow as I expect Dr & Mrs Cartwright and their room is not quite ready.

With fond love to yourself and the girls

Ever & Sincerely Yours

W. Brighi