



Mary Lee – Mary Lee to Mrs Dawes, 29 April 1897

52 Barnard St. North Adelaide
Apl 29th 19897

My Dear Mrs Dawes

You will have made up your mind by this time that I am a very bad & very unworthy correspondent- I am not about to fill this page with apologies but at once to tell you how grieved I am to learn of your sad & painful bereavement- I know you have had, with many others a very trying time owing to the unfavorable season but ah! all losses may be borne except the one which the hand of death closes upon - one consolation, however, is for those who trust & believe, our loss is the gain of our loved ones who have passed to the better land.

I expected my dear young friend (Miss Bell) to spend last Sunday with us, I thought the change wd. be good for her, but I suppose she could not get away on that day-perhaps she will favor(sic) us by a visit on Sunday next. How are you & how are the little ones? Miss B. reports well of their health & growth.

Tell me all about them-I suppose Evelyn begins to learn a little now. Is baby getting on her feet a little? What is the hair like? color (sic) I mean. We have had some good rains here & I think it has penetrated into the country districts, but I fear, not enough to be very beneficial yet; I trust it will soon come bountifully.

The flocks are suffering sadly I learn, everywhere. I suppose you know that Adelaide has had an unusual influx of visitors this season -The First Federation convention has just closed, we had the distinction of having it held here, but I presume you know all about it from the N.papers.

Our Premier & his wife left yesterday at the Imperial invite to be present with the other Colonial Premiers at Her Majesty's grand day. I should like to be in dear old London on that day - what a proud day for our dear old Queen- representative subjects from five Continents met to do her honor(sic). I hope it will all pass off well- I learn that we are to have some demonstrations of our own on that auspicious day. I hope Mr. Dawes is well & keeping hopeful and that prospects are brightening.

Mary Lee 1821 - 1909

by Elizabeth Mansutti



How is Mr. Bowman getting along? I am hoping to learn that he is behaving like a good brave young Britisher & fully appreciative of his high privilege in being associated with a chief so intellectually gifted & so morally exemplary, as well as being a denizen of a home regulated & sweetened by your dear sweet self. Kiss the darling wee ones for grannie & write soon & tell me all about them, for altho' we hear from Miss Bell we all (i.e. Self, Eva, & Lottie) want to hear direct - Now dear one, expecting to hear from you soon & with sincerest sympathy & earnest good wished, believe me always

Yours affect

Mary Lee