

Cape Town
Sept 4/08

AL/2203

Dear Alys Smith
I'm always
put off writing
to you. Because I
wanted to write
you a really long
letter.

My darling little
niece Dottie is here,
& I'm so delighted
to find that her
great proceeds are
your niece the
Cottellors. She is
always talking of
them & of you

dear beautiful mother.
It has been such a
joy to me to have
her here for these
few weeks. In ten
days I return to my
voluntary little house
across the harrow
sands & the ford
near, to Newham.

I was so glad to find
it was all quite
wrong about your
husband, & read
with much interest
about his stand for
election in the papers.
My husband is a

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member of Parliament
here, & we have come
down for the session
which will end in
two days. He has done
good work this session
in being in a minority
infranchisement measure
which was again
thrown out by the
government but
with a much smaller
majority than last
year. The minority's
infranchisement
league here has printed
his speech which I
will send you.

The great enemy of
the woman there
is Mr John X Merriman
the Prime Minister
of the South Africa
party to which my
mistaken belongs.
Were he not Prime
Minister I think we
might have got the
bill through this year.
The curious thing
in South Africa is
that the men take
a more enlightened
view of the woman's
question than many
women.

The place where we
live is hundreds of
miles from here in
the most desolate
part of Arabia
Africa, in a true
desert, which is
over four thousand
feet above the sea,
& where a few ~~straggling~~
hajjis & vast plains
of sand is all that
is to be seen. The
heat there is tremendous
110 being quite a common
temperature in summer
& for weeks together
the thermometer at Zoua

beds' head registers
89 at the coolest
part of the night.
There are no fountains
or streams, & each
person has to dig a
well in their yard
and perhaps 100
feet through solid
rock to get drinking
water. It is really
the most desolate part
of the whole of South
Africa, but by a
whirl of fate we
were landed up
there in the war, &
there we have had to

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Remains ever. Wince!
It is a large railway
junction, & the
population consists
almost the entire
of railway men &
natives living mostly
in tin shacks.

I am telling you all
this as you asked
me to tell you about
myself. I would
be so glad if you
could send me
a photograph of yourself
as you are now, &
if you could get me
one of your mother

Should value it
greatly.
If you do need them,
please address —

Box 24

De Aar

Cape Colony

South Africa

I am going to
take next week
& will send you a
photograph of my
husband & myself.

~~Yours ever~~

~~The week after next~~

~~for my husband~~

Good bye dear Alys Russell
Yours ever
Owens