

Kewstaid. nr Clacolan
Ladybrand Dist
O.R.C.

March 29 - 1901

My dear Missie.

We have been here for a week
now clearing the country of people &
food, & a very pleasant week it
has been, the column moved on on
Monday & we the V.M.I. have been left
alone, it is much more peaceful to be
by one self. The routine of work is
to go out with 100 men & 4 waggons
to farms, make the women pack up
load the waggons with any bones
there may be, destroy what we cannot

Cart away, give a receipt for it
& then bring away the woman & children
& the man also if there are any. It is
not a very pleasant job, the women cry as
a rule, & no wonder, it must be hard
to be carried off about 2 hours notice from
your home & taken off by strangers. I don't
mind a bit when they are rabid bores.

There are some very nice people near
here, the Starcourt-Vermans, he is a parson
who combines parsonic with farming. His
woman Keble is awfully nice, quite English.

I have been over there several times, it
is with a pleasant change is set down
to a table with a white table cloth
& with pleasant people. They have had
rather a rough time during the war as
they are entirely cut off from the world

& can get no supplies at all, & see
no one except one or two people who live
near enough to walk, as no one has any
horses or carts. We were over twice
yesterday afternoon playing with the children
such play children, when Boers were
reported by one of the Haffers, we had to
get off as quick by us possible. our Padre
was riding back to camp in the dark
last night, when he suddenly had a
lamp flashed on him & found himself
held by a party of Boers, fortunately
he got away all right. The column
is coming back today & we all
move this afternoon.

There are many rumours of

peace for which we are all
devoutly praying.

with love from

John.