

Linninstown.

May 23. 1895

My dear Maggie.

Thank you and Maggie Tenny  
so much for the gloves you sent me  
they are almost too beautiful to waste  
out here. The local fashions would  
I think astonish you, I should rather  
say want of fashions. At home one  
sees people wearing the same type of clothes  
flower garden hats, one studded shirts & so  
on and on. There is nothing of the kind to be

seen out here. Every one is a law unto him or her self. I am wrong; there is one fashion, the aboriginal young man at a dance wears a white made-up tie with black edge ends and a red-silk handkerchief in his shirt front, sometimes even a red tie.

I hope I shall get off to Durban next week. There is another officer coming down here this week, if I can only hand my company over to him it will be all right.

Tomorrow being the 80 some thing is it not, anniversary of Her Majesties birthday

the troops in the garrison will feel a  
feux de joie or furious joy. There will only be  
about a hundred men so it will not make  
much of a show. I must look in the book  
to see how it is done, it would not do to  
forget anything. Last year we had an awful  
day for it, the heat was dreadful.

These quarters are plagued with  
rats, horrible brutes, they are too cunning  
to be caught in traps. I do not like to  
poison them, they always score, if you do, by  
departing this life under the floor, there is  
no mistaking it when they do so.

There was a great sensation about  
three months ago over an immensely rich  
diamond mine which two men discovered.

one of the multimillionaires of this part of  
the world paid an enormous sum for a third  
share in it. When he started to look for the  
diamonds there were none to be found, it has  
come out in their trial that the two prospectors  
have been putting in the diamonds themselves.

Your affectionate brother

John Spatterwood