It was great joy for us both to make everything ready for your arrival, — but still more grateful I felt for her safe arrival at Capetown after the perils and dangers of the sea which she (as you will learn from her) had to experience actually, and in the midst of which she has behaved so bravely, as you will see and will know she would. This makes us both of course looking much more anxiously forward for your safe arrival, — but happily we have been too busy to indulge much in apprehensions — and in fact we have the trust that the Mail will convey you safely here to us. I do not know what it is that gives us the assurance of this, — and makes us look cheerfully forward to this coming happiness. As Louie has told you all about us and our dear ones in Natal, — I need not now say anything further. Trust I may see you soon at least after you have received this. We both believe that it will be pleasanter for you to stay on board till either we two or one of us are able to fetch you on shore. I only trust this will not make you feel in any way uncomfortable, as otherwise we both would much rather forego the pleasure of coming to fetch you. — Dear Louie is staying at the Roeths, and there you are expected to go. I have been staying there two and three weeks, as I could otherwise not have managed to arrange all things with Louie not strong in health as we both were. It was of course also very delightful and cheering for me to have her company and be able to talk of you and all concerning you, and more it has been a great deal of comfort to

BC151. C4:24

Sunday

Cape Town, 9 Nov. 1862

My darling,

As the steamer leaving today may arrive at Ste Hélène (night or otherwise) when it is impossible for me to go out and on board, this is to inform you that I am at present in the very best health, and that our Dear Lou, who has been here now three weeks waiting for you, is completely very good health too — and I believe (from what I can learn from others) much better and stronger than she was when last at the Cape before. How thankful we may be to have had her to help me to make all the arrangements and preparations for the house, of which I could not have done the tenth part properly without her; you will be thankful

S.A.

to me and has probably done a very great deal to keep my spirits up during this trying waiting time. To-morrow (Monday), however, I intend to remove, ~~[illegible]~~ to Parkes's hotel, as people seem to think it improper that I should stay in the same house with my brother-in-law, and it is perhaps better that we should give just a little way to their opinions. Of course with Lou, as a mere sister-to-be, it was quite another thing. — I so trust you are in perfect good health and strength after your voyage, — but, if you are not, never mind, we must try to do the best with what of health and strength you have, — and we trust with true loving hearts to care for you here, you will soon get quite well. But I long to have you with us. God bless you my darling! with all my love, most affectionately your own W. H. J. B.