

Acc. 12 11

Arrival
at Metes.

1902

long time being + shubart + eggs
interest only pays calls once a
fortnight

Little Portia.

June 7th 1902

My dearest Mother,

We have transplanted ourselves to
 Portia, & not one of us are drooping, or the worse
 for the change. We arrived here at 12.30 last
 Wednesday night after a very comfortable &
 journey. The children were so good in spite
 of the late hour they were called upon to re-
 main up. For the first half of the drive
 from the station it was very dark, so
 dark that we nearly ran into a buck-
 board of Frenchmen, who screamed as if
 they had met the loo-ga-roo. Mr. Luckey
 told us the events of the winter in his
 vocabulary of 2-tes words. Twenty-five
 deaths among the cows of the neighbourhood
 through starvation. The hay was so poor
 & so dear that few were able to buy it.
 An unusual number of sea gulls have come
 here this spring etc. By 2.30 we got to the
 house, by 3.30 had the beds made & the
 children in them. Then Conrad & I went
 out to see the garden & to watch the
 sun rise. The chirping of the birds & the
 sound of the waves was so refreshing
 after the rattle of the train. It was cold
 but we had plenty caps on. Later in
 the morning that is to say at about 9.30

we got up to see the sun fully risen in
the most perfect blue sky - all this
we were able to admire & the sea had
poppies till 11.30 when the Drunks ar-
rived. Then the remainder of the day
was spent as all days are spent
when Drunks have to be unpacked -
yesterday was a continuation of unpacking
varied by an hour on the shore &
some gardening. I transplanted some
sunflowers, putting them down the
bank at the back of the house -
How I do envy Conrad his splendidly
developed muscles which never seem
to give way in spite of hours of grass
cutting, digging, tree pruning etc. I
never knew anything like the way he
has worked with Poppie as assistant.
They have cut away all the dead
wood & undergrowth about the lilac
bushes & cherry trees, it is such an
improvement. We had slight frost
the other night & I am afraid some
of the foliage plants we brought