

Rock Ferry  
July 4<sup>th</sup> 06

Dear Mother,

We have been here a couple of days now and are leaving for Oxford in the morning. Aunt Eva need not talk about us using so much slang because the two kids here are just about as bad as we are and as for Dawson he is a little terror almost as bad as will in some things. I would not have known Silvia at all or Dawson but Grace has not changed much except she is a little more skittish than she used to be. Both the girls have great crops of hair but their feet are the sad part great big clumsy things but they say that they are all the fashion here (not for mine) & ather and I went into Liverpool yesterday & bought several things & also saw a few people among them Dr Todd the chap who has been out in South Africa for a couple of years looking up the cause of the sleeping sickness. He showed

us a lot of the flies he had got out  
there. Among them the one that causes  
the sleeping sickness, the yellow fever  
and quite a few others and he told  
us many interesting things. There was  
a man who had been in Africa  
for a while & he came to France  
after he had been in France for  
twelve years the sleeping sickness  
broke out so you see in some  
cases it takes quite a long time  
to break out and then practically  
100% of the people never recover.  
He said that it was spreading very  
rapidly & that in some villages of  
20,000 people every man, woman and  
child had it.

I do not think much of Liverpool  
except the cars & trains are rather  
peculiar and the docks are fine.  
I never saw such fine big juicy  
strawberries in my life and only  
8 cents a pound. Half a pound  
would furnish a meal. The horses  
are great & roses are so cheap  
in the streets. I find out now that  
we will not be able to go to  
Henley to see the final of the  
races which is a great disappointment  
because I have been looking  
forward to it nearly all the  
way across but I don't suppose

it can be helped now. I had the time  
of my life coming across. Played  
shuffle board and a good deal of  
whist and percolated around the  
deck with a few of the fairer sex  
although some of them were rather  
dark. Do you know the Douglass  
which go to our church. They were  
on board the mother & daughter.  
The daughter is a tall dark girl,  
fairly skinny about the face with  
a picullin look about the eyes  
which reminded me very much  
of Ruth. We also had a laugh  
on board which puts Ruth's all  
in the shade.

When Silvia & Grace get talking at  
the table you can hardly hear  
yourself think they make such  
a noise. We went over to see  
Mr. Crow last night and I now  
think that that name suits him  
very well. I guess you know the  
reason why. Peter Atkin is a  
dandy all the time making  
jokes. Grace & Silvia were very  
much disappointed to find me  
quite a grown man as they expected  
it. They seem to think that a person  
who shaves & smokes is altogether  
grown up. I would not like to  
be in Aunt Eva's place for a  
good deal. I suppose you can guess  
the reason why. We had a

fine day yesterday but I don't  
see how people can live in  
Liverpool. The air is so stuffy  
that I find great difficulty in  
breathing but out here it is pretty  
good. I hope I will be able to  
go over and see the other sitting  
crowd before I go. This next little  
piece is for Scrap and Will. The  
three kids have to go up stairs  
at a quarter to eight every night  
and have to be in bed by half  
past eight. Silvia does not think  
she is any longer young because  
she was 15 the other day. You  
should hear her talk of the little  
kid of 14 years old now. Father  
has gone in to Liverpool to see  
about the return passage and Aunt  
Eva and I are going to meet  
him at the station at half  
past ten and go on to Chester  
for the day where I hope to  
see something interesting. If you  
think fit you may read most  
of this to Mrs. Fleet and tell  
her I will try and write when  
I have something to tell them about  
Wed I will have to close now  
so so long with bunches of love  
Bernard