

quite a lot of doing up and alterations, but it is certainly a very sound building with sixteen inch outer walls which it is stated by an engineer could take another two stories.

We eventually sailed in the Edinburgh Castle and had, though very quiet, a most enjoyable voyage Lorna and I had a very nice cabin with bath and Mark and Annaliese each had their own cabin in the same corador.

Though I had been retired for some years we were still both well known to the Captain and some of the officers and a few stewards as we had often given luncheon parties to Companies friends on board. We duly arrived at Southampton on the morning of the 24th., though it was touch and go the Captain said as there was a dense fog in the Channel. However the navigating officer and the Pilot were keen to spend Christmas at home so they made it, and we docked very early. We were met as usual by an official of the Union Castle Company and in no time we had passed the Immigration and Customs. Now of course being foreigners our South African Pasports were stamped for three months which could be extended later.

We were soon settled in our reserved compartment on the Boat Train and on our way to London. Bein mid winter the trees were without leaves and the countryside, though beautiful as usual, -was looked cold and snow was fortold.

Travelling over on the ship with us was Mrs. Cartwright whose husband, who has written a few books, had been commissioned by The Corner House in Johannesburg Anglo American to write about the early mining days and had been living in England doing this work. He met us her on board and they travelled up with us in our compartment.

Service on the train had changed from the old days when a steward came round to supply tea etc. Now we had to travel down the train to the saloon and then carry back to the compartment our refreshments.

We had booked a flat with Mrs Wisdom in Barkston Gardens, but for the first few days we were to go to the we were booked in at a hotel in Leicester Square where Lorna and Mom had spent a few weeks in 1900.

and some of the staff remembered Lorna, Here we were to have our Christmas Dinner. ~~It was bitterly cold with snow on the ground~~  
 It was bitterly cold with snow on the ground and as on Christmas day there was no transport, no buses running, we decided to go for a walk We walked quite a long way and were fortunate in getting a Taxi on his way home who offered to drive us to the hotel and the driver was very pleased to get a couple of packets of cigarettes, as they were at that time very expensive. I thin about a half a crown for ten. Mary and Abe, Lorna's cousins had decided to have their Christmas dinner on the 26th, and we had been invited to spend it with them in Ipswich. We duly caught the train next morning and were met at the station by the Lintot family and drived to their home where were also Aunt Edith, and her sister, Mary's mother and a a few other relatives. Well we spent a very happy day and eventually returned to our hotel in Leicester Square. It was a wonderful dinner and Abe had to carve the turkey. Servants were of course at a premium and so the women folk had done all the cooking and preparing and then the big job of ~~wash~~ washing and cleaning up.

Yes the day we spent at Ipswich with the Lintot family was a most delightful day, Just a happy family gathering for Christmas dinner which they had postponed to have us with them as on Christmas there was no transport.

All good things come to an end and so we caught the train at five for London and on to the Imperial Hotel, a very fine old building but like many other buildings has now been demolished to make way for a more modern hotel.

The following day the 27th. we were to move to Barkston Gardens to Mrs Wisdoms flat. We had to get two taxis as we had a lot of baggage. The taxis charged us £1 each and the asked for a tip and did not even help with the baggage. We knew the flat as we had had it before.