

Charles Hodges
School Master

THE HERMITAGE,
ORANGE,
N.S.W.

June 20. 18

Dear Mrs Pockley,

I did not write to you at once
on hearing of your dear husband's death,
fearing to seem intrusive as I am
unknown to you; but I have wished to
express to you my deep sympathy in
your loss, & the mention of Jack in a letter
from Mr. Dixon - one of his old Masters, now
at the front - has given me an occasion
for writing. He tells me what I had
assumed to be the case, knowing Jack,
that he died very gallantly. You have no
doubt received some details before this.
It is simply heart-breaking to reflect on
your case & of so many similar ones, &
only the certainty that the world must

be the better for such noble heroic
conduct as his, & such sacrifice as
You have made & suffered, consider
one in this ghastly time of woe &
sorrows that still drags on.

My memories of Jack at school
are all pleasant. I don't remember
him as particularly fond of work or
extra-industrious but I am afraid
it is true that often the most likeable
boys are among the lazier ones. He
was always a boy of strict honour
& upright action & I count it a

privilege to have had him (and
his brothers) as pupils.

May God comfort you in your
loss of so dear a husband. It
must be a great comfort that
you have his son to interest you
& provide an object for living as
for indeed at first it must seem
as if your life was ended!
I am an invalid & have to write
lying down so please excuse the
scribble.

With every good wish & much
heartfelt sympathy

Believe me

Yours sincerely
Charles H. Holmes