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45, CHOWRINGHEE

9th Jan. 95

My dear Pippa

You might suppose, from the long interval that has elapsed since my last ^{wrote} letter, and the vivacious style of my correspondence, that this letter will be full of long and interesting accounts of the Christmas festivities in Calcutta. If this is your expectation I fear you are destined to be disappointed and you must prepare yourself

.....having once started writing
in the above painful mode &
find it very difficult to get
out of it so will proceed in
diary form leaving out the
dates having forgotten them.

Xmas day. An elegant tie
arrived from Dorothy which
is much admired. Dined at
Belvidere. A large crowd of
distinguished members of Council
who spent the time after
dinner in humical chairs and
hunt the slipper.

26th Viceroy's Cup day. Large

and fashionable gathering dined
in their newest frocks except
the noble sportsman who gave
the prize who looked as much
like a yokel endeavouring to
hide his discomfiture at finding
himself planted amidst so
distinguishé a crowd as usual -
Levee Got through it safely
without losing my wig or my
purse. The crowd trying to
get first through the barrier
was just like the crowd at
the pit door of a theatre though
after the 1st B. it wasn't so bad.

His Ex. as per usual.

Dance at Belvidere. Great crowd but great fun - not much dancing. Showed all my partners the portrait of my Grandfather on the landing.

Fancy Ball at the townhall in aid of the Womens Friendly Society commonly called the friendly women. Very bad supper.

State Ball. A great sight. Belvidere only more so. Bruce as per top of page only more so.

That is all the gaieties.

They have been too much for Mr Highet who is in bed

with a bad cough but otherwise cheerful. Arthur Strachey & Kelly were here for a few days at Xmas - she was looking very well and blooming.

Trevor Plowden is in Calcutta for a short time & I have been to pay my respects to him - I believe he is going home in March. Robertson is off ^{home} to-night for ten months and Stone will now reign in his place - It is a cheering thought to think that I shall have 3 months due this

year though nearly at the
end of it i.e. 28th August to
28th November - may the months
till then pass swiftly is the
prayer of your loving brother

Ralph.

Jan Feb Mar Apr May June July Aug

September October

November