

4570

Allahabad

29<sup>th</sup> Oct. 96

My dear Pippa,

You were within  
an ace of viewing my honest  
face instead of this letter, but  
luck was against us this time.

On going to the station on  
Monday I saw Robertson in the  
train hastening down to Calcutta  
to pack up for his voyage. He  
is going by this mail having  
been telegraphed for. He said  
to me 'Why don't you come  
along of me?' I said to him

"I shall be delighted". He  
said to me "I will see if  
it can be done" - But there  
was a fortune in the time being  
too short. It is rather a  
pity because the ship is the  
India, the newest and biggest  
P & O ship. They are going to  
Marseilles which is much the  
best way and will probably  
make a record voyage. However.

I am thinking of going  
from Karachi to Marseilles in  
one of the Hall liners. The  
advantage of going to Marseilles  
is that the journey across France

only takes 24 hours instead of  
58 from Brindisi or 48 in the  
train of luxury at huge expense.  
There is no ship from Bombay  
to Marseilles which would suit  
me and the Hall liner sails  
from Karachi on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.  
taking about 18 days to London.  
So I should arrive probably the  
same day as I should going  
by P & O and do it a good  
deal cheaper. I believe the  
Hall line boats are very good  
ones but am making enquiries.

I got a mysterious tele-  
gram yesterday from Herbert

to say that the wedding was  
to be on the 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. and I  
was to be best man. Whose  
wedding it is is not known  
but I suppose it must be  
Dick's. I am much flattered

at being chosen by him for  
his best man but would beg  
to remark that I have no  
wedding garment and doubt  
if I should be able to procure  
one in time.

I think one of your  
letters has gone astray. The

last one was from ~~the~~  
White Staunton & which you  
said you had forgotten to  
write the week before, but I  
had no letter for this week,  
so I hope no important news  
has been lost.

I got an elegant wedding  
present for Mizzred. consisting  
of a silver mustard piper  
& salt pot but did not send  
it or getting you warning  
that the wedding must not  
come off. By this time I  
suppose the poor lady is on



her way to Shanghai and  
it is uncertain if the W.P.  
will ever get to her.

I am now going to  
the station to meet Robertson  
on his way through. If  
he has anything interesting  
to say I will give him  
a chit to post when he  
gets to England

Yr loving brother  
Ralph

P.S. no return of fever's pangs.