

Ans  
Jan. 3)

4703

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY HOUSE  
CALCUTTA.

12<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1912  
or  
12. 12. 12

My dearest Pippa.

Maggie tells me that you have nobly undertaken the management of financial matters while she is away. I gather that she has left you a few cheques to go on with and I have today told King Hamilton & Co to send you £40 a month of which you will get the first instalment about the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup>. It will be sent as a draft on Henry S. King & Co and I think what you do is to endorse it and post it to your bank when they will credit your a/c with it. If you find you are running short or likely to, let me know and more will be despatched. It was a great surprise to hear that Maggie was coming out after all as I had quite given up hope - I am going to Bombay next week

to meet her, and have got rooms for the cold weather in a boarding house kept by one Mrs Lord and accordingly known as the House of Lord's. I had engaged rooms in this place in November as it was much the best boarding house I could find after a long search, and fully expected to have to pay a vast sum for giving them up. However I was treated with the greatest magnanimity then, and when I returned in December in fear and trembling, to beg for some dog-hole to live in, I was welcomed with joy and offered the best rooms in the house (although it is packed) at a greatly reduced rent! The reason I have now discovered to be that Mrs Lord was housekeeper at Belvedere when Jack was Private Secretary and she has consequently

got an enormous admiration for the name of Sturtevant, which a good one it is.

Of course you heard of the tragic death of Dering by falling out of his carriage on the way here from Bombay. There has been a lot of silly talk about it but there is no doubt that it was a pure accident. The magistrate's enquiry is not yet finished and we hope to get this fully established in a few days. We got a telegram from the Board today to say that Hight was to be Agent, which is a great relief as there were strong rumours that an outsider was to be put in, the favourite being Major Gardiner, son of Col. Gardiner. Everybody is very glad for Hight's sake, and although the Board have said nothing about the Chief Engineer I think I am pretty sure of getting it. I have got on fairly well so far as Acting CE. Of course it has been a great help to have Hight to consult in case of

difficulties. The amount of work is awful and shows every prospect of becoming worse in the future, the Board having given orders for an extra expenditure of 5 million pounds in the next 3 years, about 2 million of which is Engineering department works. My only hope is that the Government of India will refuse to sanction it.

It is a mercy that Maggie was able to come out, as if they make me 'jucca' I certainly shant be able to go home next summer as I was thinking of doing.

I have got a special message from Macdonald for you with regard to a picture in Punch called 'Pipps passes', that he is sorry to see that you have joined the Pankes!

Fondest love to everybody

Ever your loving brother

Ralph

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67 Belgrave Park Gardens  
London

N.W.

England

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27 Bedford Street  
London S.W.1.

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