

DEHRI BRIDGE,  
SHAHABAD DISTRICT,  
BENGAL.

39

4615

28<sup>th</sup> Mar. 99

My dear Pippa

I have recovered  
from the influenza which  
was not inf. really I think  
but only fever of which  
there has been quite an  
epidemic here in the last  
week or so Palmer Nicholl  
& Green having been laid  
more or less low and  
half the office baboos  
horses of combat.

I calculate this will  
about catch you on  
the threshold of a new  
anniversary so wish you  
many h. rs of the d and  
send you a somewhat  
elegant though perfectly  
useless object for a  
birthday present. I  
also enclose a ticket  
for a box of Xmas  
presents (last Xmas wt  
next) for the family.  
Many thanks for the  
Spectators which are giving

great satisfaction. I always  
thought Addison was a  
dry old sermonizer instead  
of which it appears that  
he is full of wit & non-  
sense. Perhaps if I live  
long enough I shall some  
day be somewhat less  
appallingly ignorant than  
I am at present.

Col. Gardiner, Dyson con  
Sutley Esq., Stone & Douglas  
were here last week. They  
travelled through in their  
ry. Carriages from Gya  
to Hoophalsarai in the first

train that has made the complete journey. They also went from Lucknow to Gaya over the South Behar Ry which will be opened in the indefinite future - Stone with his usual idiocy had told them it would be ready by the 1<sup>st</sup> of April so they were somewhat shocked to find no roofs on station buildings no signals & many other wants so the opening feast has been indefinitely postponed -

Stone is playing the same idiotic game on the Wgh Ry

and has put us down for  
opening (except Sone Bridge)  
on 30<sup>th</sup> May, and Sone Bridge  
on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan. In case to  
avoid disappointment I  
may tell you that this  
programme will not be  
carried out and you need  
not expect to be able to  
take a ticket for Delhi  
before 1<sup>st</sup> Jan if you are  
coming via Mughalsarai, or  
1<sup>st</sup> May. ~~It~~ via Gya. This  
is entre nous.

It is getting beastly hot  
in the daytime though it

is still fairly cool at night - Dickson & I have moved out of our house into a small empty one next door while our roof is being renewed - It leaked like a sieve last rains and has now started cracking most alarmingly especially just over my bed so we thought it was about time to have it done up.

Green is retiring from India and going home in June. If you would like

to hear some curious pronunciation I will tell him to go around to 69.

Yesterday was the Holi festival and was  $\therefore$  a holiday. The method of observing this solemn feast is to get Hoodman and go about flinging magenta paint over yourself and friends -

Farewell

yr loving brother  
Ralph Hathey