

4665

Allahabad.

E. I. Ry.

India.

20-10-03.



you all & hoping
you are all well &
flourishing.
I remain
y^r. affec^ted
Daughter
Mary Jane W. Shackley

My dearest Mama,

Baby & I arrived ~~of~~ the
3rd of this month, & the first thing
we proceeded to do was to open
the parcel from you! Everything
is just lovely, thank you ever so
much. Baby loves the toys they
are so charming & so different
to the things we get out here.

It was really rather wonder-
ful, but the moment Baby saw
Ralph he simply loved him, &
held out his arms to go to him! Of
course he is at that age now when he knows
strangers, & as a rule won't go to them,
& as he was only just 7 months when
he went away he couldn't possibly

have remembered him. The two are
the greatest friends, the moment
Ralph comes in from Office baby
insists on his having a romp with
him & a glorious noise they make

Baby is enormous & seems to
grow hourly! He isn't very steady
on his feet yet, & won't start off
by himself, but holds on to things
& gets along splendidly that way.
He can walk quite a long way
independently by himself, & does it if one
of us walks close beside him!

I have neither an Ayah & a nurse
just at present as my own dear little
Ayah left me when I came here, she
wouldn't live so far from her home &
the nurse I've engaged doesn't come
until December. However I have a
high caste bearer in charge of baby
& he plays with him, & wheels him
about the garden etc. & we get

along very comfortably, though I
find it rather a tax & can never
get to the Club, we all go out
together in the carriage every-
morning & then drop Ralph at
the Club, & baby & I come home.
I only expect to be here for another
3 weeks, when Mr. Doyle is expected
out, he comes on the 10th of November I
think. We had been told that
Singapore was to have been our destina-
tion, & we had been looking forward
to spending the next five years of
our life quite peacefully there, but
within the last week we hear there
is a rumour that we may go to
Delhi! It really is shameful the
way Ralph gets sent from pillar
to post & has to finish off other
people's work, for which he gets no
credit, & has double the work to do.
Besides all he has to do now, he is
working up for his examination! But
I must admit he is looking very
fit & well in spite of it all.
Still we both hope very much

that when we make our next move it
will be to settle for some time to
come. For the last 4 months all our
furniture has been packed away
in Terandals & places getting ruined
while Ralph has been living here in
the Deyts house, & we have such
nice things not a bit like ordinary
Indian furniture & I wouldn't mind
so much. I suppose by now you
all back in Town again. We are
so glad to hear how well Papa
has been keeping in spite of the
awful weather you've been having
this summer & what grand news
of Jimbeau, I feel convinced he'll
be Prime Minister one of these
days, please tell him so with
love. What about the play? ^{my} Haven't
there been one this year? ^{but} no
news & feel distracted as baby is
playing all round me & repeatedly
tries to walk up me to see what I'm
doing! With our ^{London S. W. 1} fondest love to
931