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Rawal Pindi

7<sup>th</sup> Feb 1900

My dear Pippa

I was very glad to get your letter at Port Said saying that the invalids were considerably better, and hope there have been no relapses since.

We had a very pleasant two days at Monte Carlo where neither of us broke the bank, though Grace was fortunate enough to win a few francs & I to lose only a few. We stopped at the Metropole, which is a most gorgeous hotel & where everyone is treated as if they were royalties. In the hall stand a gorgeous porter & six small page boys, all richly laced with gold, & whenever one goes in or out the doors are flung wide open & all the gold laced ones stand in rows with bowed heads and caps in hands. When we arrived from the station in our hired



fiacre, one of the pages sprang forward and raised his brided arm for us to lean on as we descended from the conveyance, his hat held in the other hand! Considering everything I thought the bill was the least regal part of the show, which was satisfactory. — We made no attempt to find Pernel, as we really hadn't time.

Just as we were leaving Mount Charles it began to rain & blow a mistral, turning very cold, & this cold we carried with us all the way up here. Till the second day in the Red Sea I continued to wear the clothes in which I had left London, & even Bombay was cool, which I have never known it to be before. It was fairly smooth all the way, but most of our time was spent in our cabin trying to keep warm. Grace got another throat on the way out, & thought she was going to get measles, as a young man in the black watch, with whom she used to sit & talk a good deal, was one day

found to be raging with them! On the whole I can't say she is very flourishing yet, but her appetite has improved & I am feeding her as much as possible on Berger, Burgundy Port & Iron, & keeping her as quiet as I can. At present we are at a hotel, but next week are going to stop with some people called Marlouze, who have a nice comfortable house & do things decently; Mrs M. is a friend who looked after your namesake during our absence & will look after Grace now with equal ardour I'm sure.

I consider it horribly cold here still & am not at all pleased with the room they have given me as an office, which has no fireplace so that a smelly oil stove is a necessity. Work is happily rather slack at present, as I found on my return that I had lost all interest in any such thing; however I dare say I shall get into it again soon.

We had about 30 Royal Navy Petty Officers on board our ship, coming out to the E. Indian Station; they were a nice lot of creatures, but rather filled up our small smoking room. One night on board we had a fancy dress ball, which a few lunatics joined in; that evening one of the Petty Officers came into the smoking room in a straw hat. "What have you done with your cap, Jack" said one of his mates. "Sent it to a lady. — She wouldn't have the trousers," he answered.

Love to all

Your affects brother

Dick