

Delhi Bridge

15th Dec. 97

4577

My dear Pippa

I heard from Dick the other day from Umballa having safely got quit of the Tochi valley. As per his instructions I have asked Col. Gardiner to telegraph that Dick "doesn't feel either in purse ~~or~~ or wisdom quite up to Atheneum form at present".

The weather here now is delightful, cold and fresh, and the sun no hotter than

The District Engineer
M. G. Railway
Dehri

Sir,

is pleasant in fact the climate is as perfect as possible, the only drawback being the short days as it is dark at five. Talking about the sun, we are only about 20 miles from the centre line of the ecliptic, which crosses the M. G. Ry near the Mophalwari end, so we shall all probably troop off to see the show on the 22nd Jan^y.

The following quaint epistle was received this morning. An ekeka is a one horse shay and a khalamie is a porter.

There to be carried cash to somewhere else ekeka is allowed from your office. The system is to close the money in a box and place it on carriage when the cash is to be sent to some place. As the cash from Parwaya is sent to Patnaing sometimes Rs 2000/- sometimes Rs 1500/- and so on, no arrangement of carriage on account of the little sum can be made not; in consequence of the same ekeka is allowed so that the cash might reach safely and the work be done speedily. Here at Dakhnain also some days before ekeka was always allowed the cash to be carried. But now the Head clerk who has been transferred to Dakhnain from

your office instead of allowing
ekka orders the cash to be sent
on the head of Kharari, in purse,
to Jakhim and Rafiqunj. The
Resident Engineer does not un-
derstand the Hindi discourse. I
inform the matter to "Sahib" through
the head clerk the method of sending
cash as prevails to Dehri &c: but
what the Head clerk says him, he
gets angry with me. When your
honor had been to Parwana I was
ready to submit the fact to your
honor: but the Resident Engineer
and the Head clerk prohibited me
not to do so, and assured me to
allow the ekka as was before. I
remained silent then. After
your departure two times or three
ekka was allowed for the cash to
be conveyed to Jakhim & Rafiqunj,

now it is again stopped. The cart
is sent on the head of Khalarni.
Thus the cart to be sent on the
head of Khalarni to such long
distance as 15, 16 miles can not
be exempted from the dread of
any occurrence: because the
neighbour is dangerous. Theft and
dacoity is always done here.

Therefore I beg to pray that as
from your office and Jehanabad
ekka is allowed to be conveyed
the cart the same orders may
kindly be communicated to Par-
wara. Because I know too well
that in your office & Jehanabad
ekka is allowed the cart to be
carried: but rather I myself
had lived to Jehanabad three
months. I always obtained
ekka there the cart to be conveyed.

Delhi also gets ekka and also other office.

Under these circumstances I hope that your honor will pass the order the ekka to be allowed the cart to be carried from Dakhnair Parwaya to Tokhim Rafiqunj.

I have the honor to be
sir

Parwaya
13-12-97

Your most obedt servt
Mehd Raza
Head Constable
Railway Guard.

Kidwell and I gave a dinner party the other night to the Barrys and Asletts. Unluckily Barry got fever at the last moment so only the

turtle doves put in an appearance. They are rather quaint - Mr. A is the daughter of the Mayor of Kings Lynn. Her name is Birdie. Mr. A's uncle is continually being mistaken for General Boulanger. His name is Alfred. Their house is beautifully furnished with silver plated wedding presents with cards attached giving names of kind donors. They call it 'The Snuggery'.

Awa wi em!

and
y^r loving brother
Ralph.

I have ordered Bumpus to
send me the Temple edition
of Walter Scott as issued
& told me might apply to
you for certificate of my
solvency, so dont give me
away by mentioning coal
mines only containing shale.

At.

What result from L. & N.W.R.
Pneumatic & field glass received.
Rayors not received.

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