

4698

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY HOUSE

CALCUTTA.

3rd Febr /10

My dearest Pippa

Datemi la vostra mano.

I have got my leave and
we sail from Bombay on
15th April by Rubattino line to
Naples arriving there 2nd May.
We then wend across to
Venice and home via the
Italian lakes. Any advice
as to what to look out for
will be gratefully accepted.
We want to see Naples Pompeii
Vesuvius &c, Rome, Florence
Venice and Lakes, but I fear

we shall have neither time
nor money to do it all.
Naples is settled as we shall
land there, and Venice and
the lakes are de rigueur. If
we have to miss out Rome
or Florence I suppose it had
better be Florence, as everybody
says Rome is glorious. I
suppose Naples will be pretty
warm in May but we hope
we shall notice it coming
from these sultry climes. I
believe you have some little
friends in Venice with whom
you stayed the last time you
were there. If they would be

likely to take us in for a few
days (I don't think we shall
be able to stop for more than
4 or 5) please send their
address. I am sure we shall
be thoroughly dazed by the
time we have finished with
Venice and that a short time
at Bellagio &c will be neces-
sary to restore us to our
senses. Please give a list of
things which it would be criminal
not to see. Of course we shall
have Baedeker in our hands all
the time but we are quite likely
to miss lots of the most important
things unless we have strict in-
structions. I have begun the
study of the Italian language
but have not got to the Prep.

eratic mood yet, so please
excuse errors, in fact I have
only got to la seconda lezione
and chi sono i figli dello zio e
della zia? Sono il nipote e la
nipote. very confusing, she ought to
be la nipota.

We have been in the most
terrific whirl of gaiety all the
cold weather and I am thankful
that Lent is at hand. We have
at last dined at Fort House
and eaten off silver plates. Sat
next him Smith (Dunlop) sister
of the Private Secy and she told
me the story of Poor Elizabeth
which she said was the favorite
anecdote of her family. While
we are fiddling, Rome is
burning - I am told, and I
believe it to be true, that

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things are very bad indeed. The Government know a great deal of what is going on, and there are rumours, the truth of which I am not quite so sure about, that they are shortly going to execute a coup-d'état and arrest a large number of important people with a big display of military force. It is certainly about time they did something. The Volunteer Corps have got the word to hold themselves in readiness and we have been told that we are not to be afraid to shoot if we

am called upon to keep
order.

We have met the King Salters
who are very friendly, and
I have been made an Hon.^{re}
member of the Rifle Brigade
mess, which I may tell you
is a very great honour.

Miss Brumpas has become
so frivolous that you won't
know her when you see her
and will have to give her a
severe course of office work
to bring her back to a proper
sense of her duty - dancing,
race going, wearing the most
chic of costumes, and carrying

on like anything!

Cosa fa il famiglia?

A rivederla

Your loving fratello

Ralph.

looked it up in the book and
see the wretched thing is fern.
Tutta! tutta!

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