

months in one place
 yet! But I do hope
 we are going to be
 left in peace now
 for a long time to
 come. We both dis-
 like staying 'change'
 about so much. I don't
 love to dear Papa & you
 self, & to the whole
 family
 ever you
 affection
 daughter
 Mary Ann

4680

Hotel
 Mussoorie. U. P.
 India

12-10-04

You will probably have heard
 officially that Ralph has had
 his 3 weeks leave cancelled? Isn't
 it hard lines, we've never yet had
 a holiday anywhere together, & we
 had both been looking forward to
 it so much. But poor old Mr.
 Beyts has been so ill, that he has
 been ordered home immediately &
 Ralph was obliged to go & relieve
 him. Of course directly I heard
 this I wired down saying I was

coming down, & was on the point
of starting when I got two violent
wires from Ralph begging me not to
on account of the terrible heat!

Doesn't it seem extraordinary that
this sort of heat wave should be
going all over India just now
after they have had such a wonder-
fully cool hot weather? It is sup-
posed to be on account of the very
short rains, here of course it is just
lovely & the atmosphere so clear
we see the snows all day long!

It was a very good thing I didn't
go down, as it appears Ralph is
chumming with another man in regular
camp fashion, as the Bex's don't
leave until next Thursday & their house
is one wild bustle & confusion, & our

furniture not yet arrived on the scene.
However Ralph thinks he will be
able to get things ship-shape by next
Sunday, & I have arranged to go
down on that day unless Ralph still
thinks it too hot for Baby. There
isn't a soul up here now, or by one
all my friends have gone, & it's
horribly dull & dreary, & Baby
seems to be getting naughtier & more
disobedient every day! I'm so
afraid he will become a regular
Indian child, utterly spoilt & spoiled
whom nobody will like, & who will
have a terrible time to go through
when he goes to school, I cannot im-
agine where he gets his temper
from. Of course native servants
are dreadfully bad for children
they spoil them so, & if one does
punish the child they at once
pet him! For instance, I was

fasting Babir's mill the other day to see if it was too hot for him, & he turned round & saw me doing it, & got in a great rage, & threw a cup (a small doll's tea set one) full in my face, so I took his little hand & gave him 3 fairly hard slaps, he rushed to "Ayah" shouting "gow" at me (which means go away) & yelling to "Ayah" to beat me, & very nearly screamed ^{himself} into a fit with rage. 'Ayah' at once began to pat him etc., & it's really very difficult to know what to do for the best, I never punish him unless I'm obliged to, but he has got into a dreadful habit of throwing things at people when he is angry, & hurls buckets & stones & anything that comes to hand, at other children when he is playing with them, & they annoy him in any way! And I feel obliged to "pat" his hands then because it is so dangerous. Today he was worse than ever because I tied a piece of lint & Hazelton in a bad cut he has on his leg, & he

never stopped yelling & kicking & screaming with rage until he had torn it off & made the cut much worse! It worries me frightfully because Li is so afraid of dirt getting into it & his getting blood poisoning, still he won't have it on. And he won't come near me, or kiss me & make friends again, because I put it on!!! It's so impossible to make a strong-willed child like Baby obedient, when he has nothing but native servants with him always. They never correct a child or make a child do what they know he ought to do, they go on a system of petty coaxing, & "Sabit shoung lai" which ruins a child naturally.

I admit L' is far too weak, & cannot manage L., & my only hopes are that Ralph will be able to do more with L. than I can. He is a very difficult child to manage, being so fearfully determined & strong-willed, people are always astonished when I tell them L. is only 2 years old. Of course they are excellent qualities in a man, but in a child very difficult to cope with. I often wish I had nurse back, L. never dared to be naughty with her, though I can't help thinking it was her harsh & strict treatment that is making ^{him} behave like this, now her influence has gone.

I shall soon be able to write & tell you all about our new home.

Isn't it strange, years ago a Palmist told me that after I was married, I should always be travelling about, & I have never yet been more than six