

Allahabad. June 1st

My dear Mamma

5549

We are leaving our cot
weather with a vengeance now, to meet up
for its not leaving begun so early as usual
this year. In John's room today with the
punctah going, it is 92. in mine with the
thermometer sitting right and day,
pouring a stream of cold air through
the bars here it is 88. Of course it makes
us feel very limp and good for nothing,
and patience is more needed than
anything else. I hope the rains will be here
in a fortnight and they will give us relief.
I am very thankful that John has not
had to go to the Court today, as he expected.
The heat would have been tremendous.
The trial is put off until Monday, and
Mr. Ashington, the judge, has very kindly
promised to let him kiss an hour
before it comes on in order that he may
not have to stay longer than necessary
in the Court. Your letter came this evening
with one from Abetha, saying that they had
decided to go to Nottingham. I am exceed-
ingly sorry, as Barnes seemed to want the
children's health very well, but however
I hope that before many years we may be
able to come home and take care of them
ourselves, in a house of our own choosing.
Poor Mrs. Linsdon she must be in a very
feeble state now. It would be more con-
ortable for her, I should think, if they were
to stay where they are. The thought of another

removal must be a worry to her. I did not remember that Miss Koby had yet Annie's sister. It does Miss Hill at one and two is Mr. Young. What a mercy that that poor man, the father of Aunt Barbara's servants, is dead, no wonder that the poor woman has broken down after such a long strain upon her. I hope Lida is all right again - Robert will be very glad to have her safely through his examination. Now I suppose he has nothing to do but to ^{or} and prosper with his studies. I am very glad to hear of Philippa's safe arrival at home, that a great deal she would have to tell and hear, and what a treat for them all for her to be back again. I am very much surprised about Mrs. Long's arrangement, though I did not think that after such a home as Broad Green and its pleasant out door life, she would be able to content herself in the close quarters of an hotel, with no quiet garden to turn into, and no love creatures to take care of. However things may perhaps turn themselves round again by and by. I hope Julie will be able to settle down comfortably ⁱⁿ adventure. I am sure she will feel the giving up of Broad Green very much. You do not say how Philippa thought her looking. I think if you were to see both of us now, you would not be very proud of our appearance, this heat makes us look very - here I was interrupted by the Karsanne coming to have his monthly account paid and just as I had done with him, then

came on the wildest heat storm I have ever seen, we were already entirely shut up, to keep out the glare of the sun so the servants did not have to run about to look after doors and windows as usual. In a quarter of an hour the house was so dark that we could not just probe our way about and the wind roared as if it would burst the doors in. This only lasted about ten minutes and then came a tremendous fall of rain lasting about an hour. In a very few minutes the paved space round the house was like a lake and so was the tennis ground. I never saw rain come down so, and as it was the first we had had for three months you may be sure we welcomed it eagerly. It was such a relief to throw open all the doors and sit out in the wonderful breathing the fresh clean air. We got a quantity of nice soft water too, which is a great blessing. About an hour after it ceased we went out to make some calls, and the freshness of the air was indescribable. The road was quite dry again, though here and there where the land lay low there were little lakes of half an acre, and at night what a croaking the frogs made, to be sure. The bamboo verandah at the side of John's sleeping room, was taken off and carried about a hundred yards away by the storm. Some trees and numbers of great branches have been blown down, but I have not heard of any harm being done. My Karsanne's account, to go back to the first interruption, came to

53 rupees, or £5. 6 for the month. This includes meat, poultry, fish bread, butter, eggs, soup, lard and potatoes. All the other things come in separate accounts. I find it a great saving to make preserves at home. We pay so dearly for all English stores. Beer is considered cheap at 3/ a gallon, the same kind that you would give 11^d for. Beer too, in pints is 10/- a dozen. Sunday. We had another heavy shower yesterday, and this makes us think the regular rains must have come. Yes, they are full six weeks earlier than last year. I hope they will last on well, because if they begin to dry up in August, we shall have a very unhealthy time. Mr. Nathan, the Railway Chaplain and his wife are going to the hills for a month in August; the Garrison Chaplain is leaving his town now, at Simla. I hope John will get his in October, for two or three weeks, when he promises that he shall go to Bellin and Agra. I am sure we shall both of us be quite ready for a change by that time. I have entirely given over getting up early in a morning now, except once a fortnight, when I go to the women's class. I find it always knocks me up completely, so it is no use trying it. We are going to give the women a dinner in the church compound some time in August and Mr. Knox, who speaks the language very well, is to give them a little address. They have made quantities of bottles for themselves since last May, and now they are beginning with dyes.

Wednesday. We had quite a small ex-
citement this morning on account
of a snake being killed in John's
study. The beaver found it when he opened
the room in the morning. All the sur-
vivors said it was a Krait, a very veno-
mous kind, but Mr Harrison who
happened to come in and see it, said
he thought it was not. It was about
18 inches long, a dusty brown colour, with
regular yellow marks all down the back.
It is the first snake we have seen in
the house. John has begun a letter to
you, and it would have been ready
for this email, but today he has been
summoned as witness in the trial
of this soldier for murder, and it
is breaking up his time sadly. I don't
know when the trial will end, and
he is sent for to the Court at every
time. All the business of the man is
from visiting him in prison.

There has been a small run of dinner
parties again, the last week, the this
I think John is going to pub house
on Friday night. I am writing to
Aunt Susan instead of Mr Green.

What a pity Mr St. Clair is overworking himself
20. Has he a "colleague", if not, it is no wonder ⁵⁵⁴⁹
his strength is failing. So anything ever
heard of Mr Knapton Mrs. West Sunday
Captain Hanna is to dine with us. He is one
of the best men here, and they say is better
acquainted with the "art of war" than al-
most any other officer in the country.
He is a very thoughtful, intelligent man,
with no sort of nonsense about him.
Mr Eddy, the Garrison chaplain who is coming
too, is quite a gentleman, but he puts me
sadly out of patience with his churchy
talk. He never seems as if he could get
out of the groove. He is very "High". We
have been having pleasant moonlight
drives lately, starting about nine or ten.
This is really our only pleasant part of
the 24 hours, unless we get up at five in the
morning, which I cannot manage. The
Indian moonlight is very beautiful, and
just now the blooming trees are in per-
fection. If one could only do away with
night hours in the middle of the day, this
place would be good enough; but so far
I must say we have not suffered from
the heat nearly so much as we did last year.
I am glad the photographs reached safely. Did
I ever send you this photograph of the
Kusrows Bush, if I did please take care of
the duplicate, as I have not another.