

4658 Lillooal

23<sup>rd</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1900

my dear Pippa

Your last letter  
was most cheering and  
comforting - You are the  
only person who saves my  
life and if I wasn't  
abominably greedy I should  
never want anybody else.  
I am very glad Mamma  
told you as I wanted you  
to know, but I really  
couldnt write any more

about the beastly thing.  
The state of affairs has  
not advanced much - It  
has been agreed that we  
are to be friends! and  
it has been promised that  
letters will be answered,  
though this promise has  
not been as beautifully  
kept as could be wished,  
and that's about all there  
is to say about it so we  
will pass along to another  
subject viz your coming

out here for the cold  
weather - This is quite  
the best idea that has  
ever been broached - it will  
be simply splendid if it  
comes off - I have got  
a most elegant house  
as per sketch attached  
which is nearly finished  
and will be ready for  
occupation in November.  
It will be finished before  
that but time has to be  
allowed for the walls to

get dry before it can be  
lived in. There is heaps  
of room in it and it  
might be possible to get  
Dick a Grace and Oliver  
down for Christmas and  
have a family gathering.

Calcutta is a most de-  
lightful place in the cold  
weather and we could  
always go in for the  
gaities such as dances  
the Drawing room, the Viceroy's  
Cup which is the great  
horse race for which every  
body turns up in their

Smartest procks and the  
Viceroy drives up dressed  
in a grey top hat and  
prock coat de rigneur, &c  
&c. With Hugh Barnes  
at Govt House and Jack  
at Belvidere you would  
be well looked after.  
You must come so you  
had better take your  
passage ~~before~~ at once  
before all the berths are  
engaged. It would be  
better still if Dorothy  
came too and then you  
would have somebody to

go around with in  
the daytime when I am  
engaged on my arduous  
duties.

Did I tell you that  
George Huddleston has  
been very ill? You  
know he was laid up  
with a bad leg - this  
was on account of a  
clot of blood which  
one day suddenly went  
off and stuck in his  
lungs giving him great  
pain for a day or two -

He had to be kept per-  
fectly quiet and not  
allowed to talk or do any-  
thing - He is much better  
now and has gone with  
Aggie for a river trip  
of 10 days to Goalundo -  
It is hoped the clot of  
blood will now dissolve  
away - It is a beastly  
thing to have - If it had  
stuck in his heart instead  
of passing through it on  
the way to his lungs he  
would have instantly died.  
They are going home in

October, which is a very  
good thing as he has  
been greatly pulled down  
by these illnesses.

I hope Papa is getting  
about again now and  
that Lytton is better.

Please thank Mamma  
for her letter and say  
I will write to her next  
mail.

Goodbye

Yr loving brother

Ralph