

No 5  
4583

Delhi Bridge  
Bengal

26<sup>th</sup> Jan 98

My dear Pippa

The Dumas arrived yesterday - it is a most exquisite sight and far too noble a gift, for unluckily the bill was enclosed and I saw the immense sum that had been expended in binding. I at once began the 3 hussketeers and have got half way through the first volume.

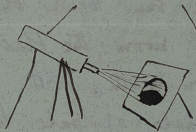
The eclipse came off on

Saturday and was a most splendid sight. We started off on Friday, Aslett Nicholl and I to Sarveram by train 12 miles. We then drove from Sarveram to Jehanabad 16 miles, Aslett in one tumtum and Nicholl & I behind in another but we had hardly gone 100 yards before the pony (mice) began kicking violently and refused to be comforted. We tried several ingenious arrangements of kicking straps and ropes but in vain and when he had kicked a large plank off the tumtum which

was luckily Nicholl's we saw that the only thing to do was to chucker the brute very. take him out of the trap, tie a rope about 10 feet long to his head, hold the other end in one hand and a whip in the other and then working him round and round at full speed for about half an hour. This completely tamed his fiery spirit and we arrived safely at Jehanabad to find the rest of the party calmly finishing their tiffin and when we related the harrowing tale all they said was "We thought

you must have come to  
grief." After spending a  
pleasant day at Thomas's  
who lives at Jehanabad  
we started off next morning  
for Mehania where the  
elipm camp was pitched.  
I bicycled (14 miles) along  
the Grand Trunk Road and  
was sorry for it on account  
of the wind which was  
blowing hard in my face  
all the way - However I  
arrived before the other  
people from Jbd. and found  
the rest of the party there  
viz the Kirkmans Mr. Aslett  
Palmer Garland and Green.

An observation tent was pitched through which the telescope, specially made for the occasion in the Delhi Observatory, protruded which threw an image of the sun on a sheet of paper in the tent of about 15 inches diameter



The tent being dark this gave an excellent view of the eclipse

as it was coming on and going off though we also had smoked glasses to view it direct.

As the sun got more and more covered up it got darker and darker, a horrid pale

sort of gloom but you could easily see to read at any time. It got much cooler and the wind suddenly dropped and the birds began to go to roost. Suddenly a star appeared and the sun went out. You saw the moon, the blackest thing on earth, with a gorgeous halo of pale livid light streaming around it. I couldn't see any of the red protuberances around the edge of the sun though some of the others said they did. This lasted about a minute

and a half and then the sun appeared again a very thin crescent of brilliant light. The streamers vanished at once and the shadows of the trees appeared like a conjuring trick and in another second the sun was so bright that you couldn't look at it.

I was rather disappointed about the shadow of the moon which you are supposed to see coming down on you at the rate of 60 miles a minute, but this wasn't to be seen this time, but the whole thing was a most mag.

nificent show. The weather  
was perfect and all the astro-  
nomers are highly delighted.

The rest of the picnic will  
be related in our next at  
present I will merely state  
that we returned to Delhi  
safe and sound and indeed  
bottle of eye lotion was  
not used.

Yr. loving brother  
Ralph Abernethy

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27 Wilfred Street  
London S.W.1.

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