

4544

Calcutta

18th Dec. 95

My dear Pippa.

Things have been going on about the same as usual lately, the greatest excitement having been the levee which I attended as in duty bound. It is a tedious operation, you go zigzagging about through the rooms and up and down stairs for about an hour and a half, you then dash past the viceroy bobbing your head hurriedly at one of the aides de camp

instead of H.E. and all is over.

The drawing room is tomorrow & I think I shall go if I can get any young woman to escort me.

The Elliotts went off today. I am very sorry they have gone. No more shuffling at W in the Poojahs for me - Lady Elliott has been very seedy but is a little better now. I think they are going to stay some time in Italy before they go home.

This day next week is Christmas Day! I am going

for the holidays to stay with the Highets who are now at Asansol.

There is no more to say except that I hope you won't be infected by this nearly letter - You had better fumigate it before you open it -

Yr loving brother

Ralph