

DEHRI BRIDGE,
SHAHABAD DISTRICT,
BENGAL.

12th April -/99

no. 40

4616

My dear Pippa

No events of importance have occurred since my last letter, which was not a letter I believe but a post card. There is not much advantage in sending postcards nowadays because they still cost an anna. I suppose they forgot about

them when they reduced the postage on letters - I consider it a scandal and shall get up an agitation in Truth about it.

The weather has been very decent up to date and for the last two or three days has been quite cool on account of clouds & a little rain - It hasn't got really hot yet & it is still possible to sleep without a punkah. We

have just started ice, which is brought from Mughalsarai twice a week by the "ice express". I heard from Dick the other day - He seems to be having a good deal about going home - I enclose a cutting from the Pioneer regarding the performances of "the couple" - very flattering but somewhat discounted by the remarks about the wife of Heber the Kenite - Palmer bought a circulating library the other day & among the books

813(a)

I discovered I talks at a
Country House & II Ham de Ham
I am stricken with aphasia -
the man with a nose, which
I at once bagged knowing the
language - I read it through
~~at~~ a sitting and though not
understanding half the wierd
Gascony words consider it the
best poem yet written - I should
have liked to see old Cocqui
vaxxy acting it -

The post-horn blows -

yr loving brother
Ralph the boy

P.S. Ah ha mine little friend
I ave caught you is it not? A
l'envoi je vous touche Cyrano de Bergerac

scription dance aforesaid. On Monday and Tuesday, I think it was, of last week there were theatricals at the Queen's Theatre, for the treble purpose of, firstly, giving some of our gifted amateurs a chance of showing us all how well they could act; secondly, gathering in the shekels for one of those various purposes for which such entertainments are always got up; and, thirdly, providing some harmless amusement for a community which had long languished for such. Which of these three purposes was best fulfilled it would ill become me to say. I will content myself with observing that the pieces in question were *In Honour Bound* and *The Duchess of Bayswater and Co.* It is the immemorial right of all actors, amateur and professional, to be served with that dish which was first brought into prominence by the wife of Heber the Kenite, and I certainly should be sorry to depart from so time-honoured a tradition. I will content myself, therefore, with the remark that in the former piece Captain and Mrs. Strachey exhibited once more that quiet and refined, but polished and artistic acting which has of times charmed all beholders on the Simla and other boards. Nothing, indeed, could well have been better than the manner in which this couple performed their parts, and I would with pleasure spend an hour or two again in a hot and ill-ventilated house for the intellectual treat afforded by their display. Miss Carew not only looked the incarnation of daintiness but revealed a budding histrionic talent which promises great things later on. Of the fourth character, Mr. Luard, I may say that he surprised his friends by the manner in which he got through his part. In the second piece Mrs. Collins was the duchess to the manner born, Mrs. Whitehead looked and acted charmingly, while the broad humour of Dr. Corker, always a favourite with the "gods," fairly convulsed the house. And so we came away well pleased, and hoping that the charity, whatever it may be, had materially benefited.