

10.5.97

For Sale - "The Hatch", a commodious and convenient gentleman's country residence, situated at Thobba, near Murree, in the Western Himalayas.

This well known and desirable mansion, is most beautifully situated in an upland country, in its own grounds, beautifully timbered, with a rare prospect and bracing air, at an elevation of some 7000 feet above sea-level.

The house itself consists of two reception rooms, bed-room, dressing room, two bath-rooms, butler's pantry, and spacious verandah. The outhouses include kitchen, servants quarters, an old tent for lumber-room, stables &c, &c.

"The Hatch" is approached by a gravelled sweep! A well laid out flower garden is in front, and a kitchen garden, replete with radishes and lettuces, is now in course of construction in the southern demesne. From the drive we enter the Verandah, a most picturesque and delightful "avant-salle",

carpeted with matting, hung with baskets of maiden-hair fern, a lavishly furnished with two deck chairs and some hat-pegs.

We now enter the drawing-room, a handsome apartment, 14 feet square; to beautify this spacious chamber, all that the artistic geniuses of the West and East can produce have been lavishly expended. Dhurries, Bokhara rugs and Antipodan furs carpet the floor; the walls are hung with choice muslins, stamped cottons and silk subvoileded cloths; the mantle-board covered with an artistic costume & crowned with clocks, photographs, china figures and what-nots, will not fail to strike the eye of the connoisseur. The room is harmoniously furnished with a piano besides chairs of various dates & patterns, some handsome tables and a magnificent escritoire, useful alike in camp & in quarters. The fender-stool also calls for notice, constructed by an oriental wood-wright and covered (and stuffed) by artistic hands fresh from a more advanced English school of civilization.

From the drawing room we pass through a

handsome ~~parlor~~<sup>arch</sup>, curtained with rich stuffs, into the dining room, or banqueting hall. This charming chamber, though in a more severe style than the other reception room, is equally effective to the genuinely artistic eye; the pine wood walls, pierced by two casements, the gabled ceiling, the rich carpet, the shelves laid out with tasteful silver, china & glass, & the rows of bottled gooseberry's & tinned salmon, make a picture of combined baronial splendour & home-like peace, not easily to be forgotten. From this apartment leads the pantry, replete with several modern conveniences.

The bed & dressing rooms of this delightful mansion are well in keeping with the reception rooms, & the present owner is willing to add any pegs (in the shape of nails) that an incoming tenant may deem requisite.

For any one desiring fresh air, combined with mountain scenery & cheerful companionship, this house may be confidently recommended. A naturalist (especially one in the reptile or lepidoptera department) would find it a delightful home.

Water is laid on at a short distance from the main building, and (occasionally - especially during the rainy season) is turned on inside the house itself.

Further particulars, and cards to visit "The Hatch" may be obtained on application to the present occupant. A personal visit is strongly recommended.

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My dear Pippa

Perhaps you can do something for me in the way of "pushing" the sale of our country house. We absolutely must part with it at any sacrifice by next April.

The weather now is glorious & all would be well save for our cook, who is rather a pig and lives on charcoal and rupses; but he cooks very well - I'm afraid too well for a modest establishment like ours.

Grace spends all her evenings thinking out menus and calculating our cost of living per day; the cook hates her because she won't give him eggs to make boiled potatoes out of & butter for the morning tea; she dislikes him for asking for these things, & because he will stand on one leg when she is ordering dinner. I think he will have to leave us as soon as we can hear of another man.

Best love to all

P.S. Grace says the spelling *Waver* affects the brother of the advertisement is not altogether correct, but I had no time to correct it as I went along, so please excuse!

Dick.

Thosba  
10/5/97