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Calcutta

27th March 95

My dear Pippa

I hope you are out of the clutches of the demon influenza by this time. I suppose nearly everybody in London had it. There seems to be no doubt that the climate of England is rapidly changing (probably on account of the ^{pre?} ~~pro~~cession of the equinoxes) and in another year or so the north pole will have arrived

within the 5 mile radius.

It is still pretty cool here one or two nor-westers having occurred lately & I haven't yet started night punkahs. All the same people are ^{beginning} to clear out to the hills - the Vice roy goes this week and the Elliots in a fortnight I think. I was paying a call on Lady Elliott the other day and saw there a lady called Mrs. Risley who is well known to the family. She told me she heard a great deal

about my sisters especially Dorothy from a young cousin of hers who continually writes beams to her full of your praises! I went to see the orchids at the Botanical gardens on Sunday with the Elliots in their launch and had the painful act of going for a row with H.H. the aide de camp having shamefully evaded his duties. After rowing for miles he said 'now we'll row 100 strokes hard' and began rowing in Oxford and Cambridge style which I valiantly

771 (b)

succeeded in keeping up for
98 strokes without catching
a crab.

Lewis Paul is going home in
heavy and I very likely isn't
coming out again having had a
row with his company as they
wouldn't increase his pay.

Arthur & Kelly went home
by last mail in the Caledonia.

Have you seen them yet?

They will tell you the latest
news of me -

Goodbye

yr. loving

Ralph.