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Calcutta

10th May 1900

My dear Pippa

You will be glad to hear that Aslett and his plot have been foiled again and I am now Resident Engineer Class II Rs 800/- per month with effect from 11th April - I also while I am P.A get 200/- extra so I am once again fairly rich - (I dont think I told you that from 1st March when the M.G.R. was opened for traffic I was reduced by 310/- construction

allowances.)

The weather this year has been extraordinary - every few days there comes a nor wester with wind and rain which cools the place down as soon as it begins to get hot. So far there has been nothing to complain of -

In the way of entertainments the most amusing thing I have seen here was an al fresco performance of As you like it played under the trees at Tollygunge about 3 or 4 miles out of Calcutta

We drove out after dinner in great style with four horses.

The scene was very pretty ~~neatly~~ lighted up by acetylene lamps neatly hidden behind branches and looked far more like the forest of Arden than any stage scenery - I regret to say the performers were not quite so lifelike -

Rosalind Orlando & Celia though 18th class actors were at least professionals and had rudimentary ideas of how to behave but the others were mostly awful particularly the banished Duke who was simply shocking - he stood stock still and reeled off his

as there is supposed to be a tradition that it is necessary
for the honor of the club that 1 black ball should be put
in at every election - no other news your loving Ralph.

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speeches as if he was trying
to repeat Peter Piper and
completely mired the part.
Jacques wasn't so bad and
on the whole it was tho-
roughly enjoyable - I want
to know if I have any
justification for supposing
that Touchstone is hopelessly
in love with Rosalind - When
I said that that was my
conception of the part I was
hooted at by all.

I have joined the Bengal
Club and was elected on
Monday. one black ball having
been put ~~it~~ in the box. This
is not to be taken as a
reflection on my character