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Calcutta

18th June 95

My dear Pippa

No further alarming changes have occurred since last week and I think I ought to be in London on the 14th of July - I wonder what you will all look like - much the same I expect except Penel whom I cannot imagine as a grown up young lady.

I haven't altered in the least being just as portly as of yore and with the same sweet smile.

Herbert is ditto. It is rather a

Calcutta
18th June 1857

pity that I didnt hear two
days before that I could go
for the P & O had reserved the
other bunk in his ^(H's) cabin for me
until ^{they when} I told them I wasnt
going. I am now in a 4 berthed
cabin and am somewhat anxious
to view the other inmates who
will probably be bondsmen of the
deepest dye but may be Colonels.

There are no certain news of
the monsoon yet but I dont
expect we shall be as lucky
as we were last time (exactly
the same time of year) when

we just got across in the nick
of time - &

I went last Sunday up
to Chanch to see Hughes &
the bridge which you will be
glad to hear there are prospects
of getting across before the rains.

I have sent my top hat
and all my decent clothes on
ahead by the Coromandel so
when you next see a figure in
the remains of a pink shirt and
a patched suit of once white
ducks wearing on his head a

battered in old solar tops,
pause before you cry 'police'
because it will probably be

Yr loving brother

Ralph Hatfield

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