

4495

Chauch

5<sup>th</sup> Sept 93.

My dear Pippa

You will be glad to hear that the first train went over the Berakar bridge on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1893. On its safe return to the station Drysdale had all the staff into his carriage where champagne was handed round & the bridge's health was drunk after which William D. made a magnificent speech in which he conclusively proved that the

Barakar bridge was the biggest bridge in India, & that it had been built in the shortest time <sup>at</sup> for the least expense with the best material and the finest workmanship by the splendidest staff that ever was. There was no other tomasha (Hindustani) but it is believed that there will be a grand opening ceremony when the line is finished in about January. If the Viceroy ~~is here~~ has not handed over to the new man by then perhaps he will boss the show!! This is the most blood curdling secret you must know and must not

be breathed to a soul. Brysdale told me under the seal of a terrible oath that <sup>it?</sup> makes me shiver to think of. Burn this when read. Gardiner, Robertson, & Rutherford came up on Sunday and went out as far as they could towards Sherria i.e. 10 miles. On Monday the first coal train crossed. Herbert also came up on Sunday. He is <sup>(living)</sup> chumming with Robertson & Rutherford and they have just taken a grand new house. I am going to the house warming on Saturday which will be a pleasant little change after which I

shall return to Khoodia and  
proceed to lay rails.

I must now stop and go  
and pay 233 coolies 2 annas  
each so farewell

yr loving brother

Ralph

P.S; Please send a sketch of  
Cromwell's boots,

Fawcett Library  
27 Wilfred Street  
London S.W.1.

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