

DEHRI BRIDGE,
SHAHABAD DISTRICT,
BENGAL.

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23rd May/99

My dear Pippen,

On the subject of
leave the following rules are
in force :-

1. Furlough. After sick
leave 3 years leave to be put
in before furlough can be
taken so I cannot get
furlough before 3rd November
1900 - Also after 10 years
service 18 months leave is
due, time spent on sick leave
not counting as service - ~~and~~
I entered into the S.I.R.

on 28th Nov. 1899, so deducting a years sickness I shall have done my 10 years on 27th Nov. 1900.

2. Privilege leave. I have 3 months due on 4th Aug. 1900.

My idea is to save up the priv. leave and go home in Aug 1900 and then take the furlough in May or thereabouts 1901.

If I get 18 months then I should avoid 2 rains & hot weather. The only disadvantage of this

method is financial, but if I stay here for another year I shall probably be pretty rich by that time. The other method would be to take my priv. leave in snippets say a month this year and two months next perhaps going to Cashmere, ~~but~~ at present I favour ~~meth~~ and then either taking 1 year furlough in Nov 1900 or 18 months in May 1901 as before, but at present I favour method No 1. What do you think?

I also have the notion if I get 18 months of going round

via Japan Shanghai & America
but this is vague & in the
ewigkest - Another thing
to be remembered is that
when you put in your mod-
est request for leave they
may meet you with the
flattering but unpleasant
remarks that they regret
that your valuable services
cannot at present be spared.
It seems full early to dis-
cuss this question, but if
method no 2 is adopted I
shall probably take a month
in July or August next.
This would be done if it

is considered that 18 months
is too long in which case I
would take a year from
Nov. 1900.

N.B. At least 3 months have
to intervene between priv & fur.

The reappearance of the
C.T.C. Gazette (in a new dress)
was greeted with cheers.
I see they seem to be
coming round to what I
long ago determined was
the right thing viz. what
they call a "free wheel"
viz. a gearing which only
clutches in one direction, so

that you can coast down
hills and keep your feet
on the pedals which don't
go round. When this is
combined with a good brake
(which it must be or you will
break your neck) and a
changeable gear, the acme
of bicycling will be found.

There ^{isn't} ~~are~~ already in vogue in
the 'horthfleet' bicycle which
used to call itself the Ariel
I think, the one with grass-
hopper sort of cranks and
worked by a wire instead
of a chain with little monkey

on the stick worked by squeezing
an india-rubber ball for changing
the gear. I always hankered
after this bicycle and if it
is still on the stocks in 1901
I have settled to get one.

I wish you had sent the
number before (March) with
all the letters about the
Blooming lady in the public
house. I must say old
Shipton showed better sense
than the judge who tried
the case.

How is the time of year
when all spare cash is
spent in buying tickets

in the Derby Sweep, and everyone lives in hopes of making a fortune, the first prize being generally about $2\frac{1}{2}$ lacks - £ 16,000! The great secret is to hit on a good non-de-plume - Henry Huddleston won Rs 28,000 last year entirely on the merits of his non de plume I may win - I have only got one rather good one in a joint ticket with Scott. After many attempts at anagrams combining our two names, with no better result than 'Joy Scotch teas'

we settled in despair to open a dictionary and take the first ~~two~~ words we saw. I looked first and got 'lame', then Scott got 'dead' making the neat combination of 'dead lame' which it is to be hoped our horse wont be.

It is devilish hot today though on the whole the hot weather so far hasnt been so bad. We shall get back into our own house this week which will be a blessing as it is rather a nuisance

living in one hour and
eating in another which
is what we have to do
now.

I see that General S.
has bought an enceph. Print.
Did he also buy the cool-
ing bookcase? I did
& it is the worst made
and ~~worst~~ dearest piece
of furniture I have ever
seen - However the books
in their lark coloured $\frac{1}{2}$
marocco bindings look
rather handsome.

"How many miles to Boston
Capting?"

"Sewing, madam."

"Sewing, Capting?" I thought
it was clewing."

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Farewell mein loaf

W^{ch} loving brother

Ralph Wathey