

It is not worth recording that 4/- half yearly to G. Smith-Love
had better be kept. Allahabad March 30th /77.

My dear Mamma

5539

I see by the papers that the
mail is to be in tomorrow, so that I shall
only write a little today and finish when
I get your letter. It is a week ago today since
Mrs Mitchell and the baby came, and I have
been tolerably busy ever since. On Monday
I expect Mr Mitchell comes for a day or two,
and takes them both with him, and
on Wednesday Mr Strahan, the chaplain
to Dr Caldwell comes. I hear no more of
any probable visitors after that, so I hope
the series is now complete. I am sure
I shall be very thankful for a little quiet.
We have a lawn tennis party of fourteen
or fifteen on Tuesday, which I think
will complete what we need to do in that
line. These things, with the Easter deco-
rations, and looking after the clothes
for Mrs Furrell's children, have kept me
very busy. I am thankful to say the
weather is still bearable. We have sunbaths
in the middle of the day but the nights
are tolerably cool for the time of year. This
last week we have been having delight-
ful moonlight drives every night, a
great rest after the commotions of the
day. I should not like to have a child
of fifteen months old in the house always

She is just old enough to cry and fidget whenever her mother goes out of her sight, but she is good enough and very amusing when Mrs. Mitchell is devoting all her attention to her. There was a delightful article on Lady Smith in the Spectator. I could fancy it was written by Mr. Norton. I have lately come in for 90 yards of very good firm, soft American drill, being a dancing cloth which Major Kaiter was anxious to dispose of for for Mrs. Warner, who bought it when she came a ball last year at this time. It cost £6, and Major Kaiter said he should be very thankful to get 24/- for it, as no one would take it. So he took it at that price and I am getting some of it up for winter underclothing. It will be very useful to us when we come home, as I expect we shall feel the cold pretty severely. I am getting some things made of it, ready against my voyage next year.

John has had evening services every day this week at church and they have been very well attended. The people seem to care more for church here than they do in a general way at home. And there was quite a large gathering this morning. It is a year ago today - good Friday - since we had the news of Mrs. Stephenson's death. I remember that day very well. Huntzou for sending Alethea's letter. I had one from Mr. Russell too. I wish they could buy the present house and make some additions to it. It seems

a pity to leave it, though in its present state it is entirely too small for such a family. I had a letter from Julie too, telling me of Mr. Peterson's marriage. They none of them knew a word of it (except Mrs. Cooper) until within a week of the time the lady sailed for Australia, though they must have been engaged a year and a half then. You he sent to Melbourne about the same time I came here, and it was settled then. It seems a pity he did not make up his mind years ago, both for the lady's sake and the children's. I hope she is worthy of him, for he is amongst the best men I ever knew. We have this week had three dishes of beautiful English strawberries sent me by the gardener of the Alfred Park. They reminded us very pleasantly of home. The English vegetables are continuing much longer than usual this year, in consequence of the rains. We have now peas, beans, artichokes, lettuce, cabbage, celery, spinach, tomatoes, mint, daff, and lots of other things, besides the native produce. Mangoes will soon be coming. We make chutney of them first, and when they are half worn, about the size of a lemon, they make a delicious dessert preserve. The housewife has added two other sorts of jelly to my stores this week, Cape gooseberry and the native mulberry. They seem to me to never to taste exactly alike, very much like the guava jelly. I am quite proud of my great cupboard full of sweets.

Saturday. The mail is in with your letter
and Miss Koster's and one from Miss
Wicallton, who is in London <sup>Fawcett Library
25 Abchurch Lane
London S.W. 1</sup> ⁸⁰⁶¹. She
says she met Mr Hunter at his sister's
house in York, and he told her he had
heard from Melvern. I like the pattern
of the black print you enclose, very much.
I think I shall get some plain black cam-
brics when I come home, and have them
made with pale coloured piping. I have
seen some very pretty ones here. Thank you
for the Journal too, which is always useful,
but I don't think I need trouble you
to send it often, as there is a monthly
fashion book, Le Follet, taken in our
library!! and I get the benefit of that.
There were some very pretty simple
dresses in the January number. Our
new neighbour Mr Pinton, successor
to Mr Waterfield, called this morning.
His wife is a descendant of Osmund
of Barthoruden. I think we shall find
them pleasant people. This day so far,
has been a perpetual run of notes and
messages. They come in loads, sometimes
and almost besilder me. I hope the children
will come to you soon. There was a letter from
Frank too, this morning. He says his sister
has some thoughts of going to live in West-
tynham again. I should be sorry for the
children to be brought up there. With love
from John to you and Ned. I am also, Dear Miss