

Le Hollis April 17<sup>th</sup> / 84.

My dear Husband.

Your letter came on Monday afternoon, wonderfully early. On very vacation, it is about that case not having turned up. I hope you will get it all right, for it contained as many of the most precious little things, which you bought in London and some valuable books and stationery. I will write to Watson today about it, and to Denny, to ask about the books. It was a long time before that box was traced when you went back to Bombay last time so I hope this box may be found too. On our shall welcome the new Indian curiosities. There will be no lack of room, things on shelves or in cabinets never make a room look crowded. It is having things lying about on tables which makes a place look cluttered up, and we don't keep our things on tables. I had in having some boys to tie this afternoon, John Head, Mr Hobbes' nephew and the little Furlong whom you will remember. He is full of

interest us about bird's eggs. He hopes  
that the Sraakim bit of coral will be in  
the Indian box. The children are all  
immensely well now. Noel especially  
seems full of life and activity. They  
seem to be enjoying their Easter  
holiday immensely, spending nearly  
all the time out in the garden. I think  
you could find time to write to Lillian  
and Mabel jointly, a letter on the  
subject of their confirmation. We  
they ought to have some advice from  
you on the occasion. Mamma continues  
about the same. She sends her love to  
you. Aunt Susan and Mr Harcourt  
are coming to see us on Tuesday, they  
will only stay a couple of days. I seem  
to have enough on my hands and  
mind now. I never make any en-  
gagements for going out, but I spend  
a good deal of time in the garden, so  
that I get plenty of fresh air, which is  
the important thing. When I once  
begin to be busy amongst my work-  
eries, the time goes, I scarcely know  
how, and I can come in at once

if I am wanted. It is well that I am  
not dependent upon society for my  
leisure, for in that case I should fare  
badly. The Bishop of Bombay is  
coming to a sort of missionary tea here  
on Wednesday. I shall not be able to  
go, as Aunt Susan will be here, and in  
any case I should not have left home.  
Do you remember our dining with  
him at Mrs Waterfield's. I see the old  
Bishop of Ripon is dead. And to my  
great satisfaction I hear that Madame  
Convery is returning to America to  
settle in Washington. I wish to God  
some years ago, for I detest his principles  
and his teaching, I never loved a man  
to me may be as an intellectual machine.  
I consider his influence over the  
Harcourts most pernicious. Have  
you seen his remarks on India. You  
know he has just returned from a tour  
round the world, taking India in his  
way and giving about ten days to it.  
He therefore considers himself qualified  
to pass an opinion upon all the questions  
of the country. It is very amusing.  
Is it true that Mr Bent Druff has spent  
40,000 rupees of public money on the

jurisdiction of the L. G's house at Oota-  
command; if we ought to be ashamed  
of himself. He needs to become a  
member of St. George's Company. I  
have not made up my mind about that  
yet. It would involve no difference in  
my way of living, for that is now about  
as simple as it can be. But oh! does the  
Church of England either practice or  
inculcate simplicity, self help and  
honourable straightforwardness of life.  
At least perhaps it inculcates them upon  
the poor, but it is in spite ready to clash  
hands and dine with their opposites  
amongst the rich. If a clergyman spoke  
as plainly to the rich sinners as he does  
to the poor ones, he would be hunted out  
of his church in no time. I feel weary  
and hopeless when I see nothing new  
going on in religious society. As for  
the world, one looks for nothing from it.  
Mr. Keston I am told to be one of the  
truest religious teachers living. He was  
reading aloud that beautiful old book  
Morte d'Arthur, from which the Idylls of  
the King are taken. The children seem to  
enjoy it very much. Mrs. Smith told  
Keston about the trap work he in time

for you to come get it at the Celestine  
Exhibition. It would have come  
so much sooner. But Mrs Dalby  
will do her best. I suppose you care  
for the parcel as you passed through  
Allahabad. I have not heard from  
her yet. By this time Mr Anand ought  
to have received his book, and you  
should soon have your parcel,  
with the American editions &c.  
I hope Ernest will come to see us in  
July. The children go to Fort St John  
time in August. I wish you could  
see an atling of a darter's lead  
solid. Not less done for the  
People's Club. It is really very  
creditable. Remember me to  
Mr Carter, and tell him he is  
not to trouble his conscience  
about writing me a letter. I know  
he is true at heart. I wish all  
were equally so.

Yours lovingly  
E. P.