

N.B.



in this letter. 4460

Madhupur

16<sup>th</sup> March /91

(or thereabouts)

My dear Pippa

I got a letter from you today which calls for very severe criticism in many places, so prepare for wippings. The first thing is about your neck, though not in anger but in sorrow, which you must take great care of yourself and not work yourself to a thread in reading to Grandpapa and other matters. The next thing is your truly disgraceful~~ly~~ matchmaking conspiracy which I can never sanction. Do you want to drive the unfortunate man to an early

lunatic asylum? This would be the sure result if they were once wedded as I am sure your conscience tells you and at the first opportunity I shall nip the bud if any (which I cannot imagine) has yet bloomed. The 3<sup>rd</sup> is that NEVER have I called Nellie awful names as she is one of the kindest and nicest people I have seen and was my one mainstay at Allahabad. If you have told anyone the contrary you must hasten to divulge the facts because I should be in anguish if the falsity was believed. The last ~~thing~~ <sup>complaint</sup> is to be passed on to Arthur <sup>Remond</sup> (whom you mentioned & which reminded me). Pour out many vials

on him for his disgraceful abstraction of my favourite vermilion blanket which may however be slightly mitigated on account of the hot weather. This brings me on to Herbert from whom I got a letter today saying he arrived in Calcutta last Wednesday and proposing to come & see me next Sunday. When seen he shall be made a note of according to instructions, I haven't heard any more about Sherrin but daily expect to. I think you had better address your letters to % W<sup>m</sup> Drysdale <sup>care</sup> Asansol till further notice as I suppose I shall be cheived off in less than a week. I think that is all there

is to say. I think I told you the  
painful tale about Dick's 'old man'.  
The result of his departure is that all  
my 16 servants have started deathly  
feuds against one another and are al-  
ways ~~bringing~~ <sup>making</sup> the most fearfully perjurious  
statements to me about each other in  
the hopes of getting mutually dismissed.  
I hope this is intelligible though mixed  
In reading over some old letters  
<sup>of yours</sup> today I made the painful discovery  
that I had been given Oldfield's  
camera for a birthday present  
which I had not noticed before. This  
is very grievous but now too late  
for aught but thanks and tears  
O. having left for Albion's shores.

Oh gurrawoo  
Would I had too.

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

With love to all concerned 737  
Goodbye  
Ralph.