

Allahabad. May 4th/77.

My dear Mamma

I am afraid we shall not get your letters this week in time to answer them, as there is no announcement of the mail yet. I must begin mine today, as to-morrow is the women's sewing class, and I get so tired with the long side there and back, that I am not good for much all the rest of the day. We went to a large dinner party last Tuesday which, strange to say, I really enjoyed very much. There were about 20 people there, amongst them our new general, a bluff man with one arm, and a Captain Wolseley, brother to Sir Garnet Wolseley. Sir Robert and Lady Stuart were there too, she looking delightful in white peraline. I was taken in to dinner by the same O'Walter, who took me in at Mr Pearson's dinner the week before, and we always find plenty to say to each other, which makes the H. L. pass very pleasantly. He left at half past

ten, and on our way home dipped for
an hour into a very delightful gather-
ing which these young backsliders
were giving in their own garden. There
were about twenty people, scattered
about on benches on the lawn, and
a band of music and tea and coffee
and ices. I thought it was a very good
idea, and much more comfortable
than an indoor party. He sure to
have done that same afternoon to
Mrs Plowden's lawn tennis party,
but we thought his engagements at
once quite enough. I had been out
very early in the morning to make
arrangements about Mrs Farrell's
children, who are to sail on the 20th
of this month, and when I got home
I had to go to bed for the rest of the day,
to be ready for the evening.

Here I was interrupted by a note from
Mrs Plowden, asking me to dine
there this evening, and then came
Mrs Saunders about these same
Farrell children, and it is afternoon
before I have been able to take to my
letter again. I went with Mrs Knowlton

last Saturday to see the native
Christian village. He had been there
week before, to see the schools there,
but had not time to go round the
village. I am sure no one could
see it without acknowledging that
Christianity does something for
the natives, after all; the place
looks so nice and clean and
wholesome, such a contrast to the
Kindoo or Musulman villages.
There are about 500 people in the
village all under the care of Mr
Molun, who is pastor, magistrate,
judge and everything else that is
needed. They have a nice church,
a school, a good house for Mr Molun
houses for the masters, and rows of
cottages for the people, with a separate
place for the widows. Some of the men
work as printers in the Government
press, some can do electroplating
very well, and the women take in
knitting. It is altogether a very plea-
sant comfortable little settlement.
I am going to have something electro-
plated by them for the curiosity of
the thing.

Saturday. I am as I expected pretty well finished by going to the club, and I have come to bed until six o'clock when three or four people are coming to play lawn tennis. We had four yesterday, and just at the last when I had to go out unexpectedly, so I had the entertainment on my hands, in addition two or three people came to call, and two of the players brought their wives, so that it was quite a little garden party. Mr Robinson and Mr Harrison were to dine with us at 7 and go with them to the Church Conference, so we had to hurry the guests away rather early and sit down to dinner, and before it was over I went to sleep. In my dinner with Mrs Plowden at eight. It was very pleasant, only General Brent and a Mr Mayne there, and we had a rubber in the garden afterwards. We have your letters this morning, with one from C. Smith. I am sure you will be very glad of the rest at Birmingham after the bustle of clearing. What a pity the house is built in such

a flimsy way as to recapitulate these
constant mendings. I expect the
most built house will seem very
good to me after India, for every-
thing here is very second rate in the
way of fitting, &c. The only thing is
that the houses have enormously
thick walls, enough to make very
pretty recesses in. Coloured like to see
the dressing room when it is finished.
I have never seen a papered wall since
I left home. You need not take the
trouble of remitting that little N. E.
money to Mr Smith. I can do for
stamps &c. I'll Godsell I am glad
to hear about his change of employ-
ment, for he will not have so much
anxiety as Mr. is for Mr. Perry.
It is very sad about Mrs. Hinson
having another fall; but she seems
to have a charmed life, nothing does
her any lasting harm. John sends
his love. See what weather has not brought
the rest from work which it did last
year, for the longer we stay, the more
there seems to be done but I am
thankful to say we both feel tolerable
well. This is Uncle and Aunt Beck's
wedding day, &c. it recalls the happy

times we have had there. I dread
Aunt Susan's health in Champagne
last night at Mrs. Plender's. I am afraid
I must drink Uncle and Aunt Beech's
in beer tonight at our own table but
the good wishes will be none the less
ours for them. Your affectionate daughter Eliza

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