

Sunday Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> / 80.

5578

My dear Husband,

I hope I shall hear on Thursday  
or Friday of your safe arrival at Callalaband.  
You would find a letter waiting for there,  
and I hope before even the enclosing one from  
Brindisi has turned up. Next a nuisance  
it was, your not leaving that, and the papers,  
all of which I posted myself, in proper  
time, in London. I have now regularly  
set to work on the pencil copy of another  
three-decker. I have written about half  
of the first volume, and it promises  
to go very nicely. I sit up in my little  
room with the asbestos fire, and I al-  
ways seem to have you present with me,  
as you were there on our last night at  
home. I write for three hours in a  
morning, whilst the children are at  
school, and again for about an hour and  
a half in the afternoon. At this rate, three  
months, if all is well, will see the end of

my work. I find my little woman such  
a comfort. Emma, the new cook, is a  
great treasure to me. I am glad she came  
before you went, so that you knew her. She  
saves me almost all trouble in house-  
keeping, being quite able to do the cooking  
without any help. And she is so bright and  
cheerful and willing too. Esther is very  
good too, though her talents are in a  
different line. I am sure I am very  
fortunate in them both. I had a letter  
yesterday from Mrs Biddulph, asking  
me for Mrs Polkin's address in Plouffe.  
I hope they will go there. She wrote from  
Nice. Did I tell you I saw Miss Biddulph  
at the Worcester station the other day. I  
hear General Biddulph is posted to  
Allahabad. By this time you will be  
quite settled to your work again. You  
may be sure we often talk about you  
and wonder what you are doing. I  
shall be very anxious to know what  
sort of a reception you have had and  
in your work season we begin. Did Mrs

Dally like her presents. Diana and I went  
to Mr Kerbolts' missionary meeting last  
Thursday. Mr Hastings gave the ad-  
dress. He is a bright, intelligent speaker,  
though you do not seem to learn much  
from him. Mr and Mrs Bick are  
coming to live in Miss Williams' house,  
next door to Mary Catherine. Mr was  
coming to dine today, but Noel has  
a cold, so I thought she had better wait  
until next Sunday, as she is liable to  
catch herself. I have bought a nice little  
book of good national songs for the  
children and I am going to have the  
piano in the dining room, so that  
we can have a little music every evening.  
They are all very fond of singing, and  
will I think have good voices. Miss  
White seems to interest them in their  
lessons. She talks to them about what  
they learn, and teaches well. I hope her  
health will keep up, so that the improve-  
ment may be a permanent one.  
Winter has really set in now. Only this



Thursday. Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> Had your letter last night, and very thankful I am to hear that you have landed safely. When you get to the Narbonne you would find a letter from me and Mr Stefford's power of attorney. The newspaper came this morning, but I have not had time to read it yet. I will see about the books as soon as I can. I hope you have had a good beginning at Allalabad, better than you hoped. You will so soon be in the spirit of your work that you will be all right. Mr Nicoll will be very pleased about his boy. I have no doubt you will be able to do the same for Noel, if his health get sufficiently established, but that will be the great thing.

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Letters to  
Harrison in  
London 1880-3