

4386

CLERGY HOUSE  
ALLAHABAD.

3/4/90

My dear Pippa

Many happy returns  
of the day. Papa has got a  
present for you from me  
which I hope will suit the  
complexion of the room.

The address at the top of the  
page is not the name of my  
house you will be glad to hear  
but a sort of parson's barracks.  
Six of them. The reason I am  
here is that the Chief Engineer

is at Allahabad tending the organ and I am helping him & we came here to breakfast.

The influenza is now raging here and half the town is down with it but it has not yet laid its icy hand on me. The weather is gradually warming up and people are going to the hills by scores, curcus tatties being dragged forth for the remainder. A curcus tatty is a sort of mat which

you stick up in the doorway and douch with water if the wind blows through. I am writing with a ree pen & ink of the consistency of strawberry jam which has to be scooped out of an inkpot filled up on one edge because there is about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch of ink in it. The consequence is that each letter has to be written at least twice over with one scoop to every three words. This is very trying.

and if I was not under the shadow of the church I should use naughty words.

Yesterday one of the railway barracks (a house with about six rooms) caught fire and was completely burnt out, the roof which was of thatch and tiles blazing away merrily. The fire engine turned out but the hose was mostly so rotten that whenever they began to pump they burst. Several people are selling

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ponies & carts now, on going  
away & I expect by next  
week I shall be provided with  
them and about time as the  
expence of driving about in a  
cab is withering.

I am getting on all right in  
the chummers, and I dont  
think the other two are such  
wretches as I thought -

Oldfield got his first brief yes  
terday and already imagines  
himself to be a high court judge

CHURCH HOUSE  
ST. HELENA

Talking about judges I will now tell you a story about Montagu Williams who has just been made one which as you all of you already heard it I will now proceed to relate -

He was hearing a case & summed up as follows - The counsel for the <sup>critic who is not the defendant</sup> ~~defendant~~ - has put forward a new point doubtless because he thinks it appropriate to a new judge. but the new point is a bad point, and

the new judge is a good judge, and therefore ~~the~~ judgment is given for the defendant with costs -

Enough before this ink drives me mad  
yr loving

Ralph Stoddy