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Allahabad
30th April 1890

My dear Pippa

The great event
of last week was a perform-
ance of 'the May Queen' by the
Allahabad Musical Society. The
May Queen sang disgracefully out
of tune with a fearful tremolo
on, or as the 'Morning Post' said:
- performed a difficult part with
brilliance and ease: also the
audience was very appreciative

and loudly applauded throughout the performance - especially a tipsy ruffian in the 3rd row who in the middle of a song kept shouting 'bravo bravissima' at the top of his voice till he was removed.

Most of the week has been spent in getting harness saddles tumtum pony &c which is a heavy task as I am warranted to get the worst I can at the price.

We had two days of sudden coolth which was very refreshing. A rumour has been spread that I am going to be haled off

to Calcutta there to sit & draw plans with another unfortunate critter, but I hope it is not true as I like A. much better than C. chiefly because the mosquitoes aren't so bad here. The other day I made a noble effort and read Middlemarch !! which I was surprised to find I liked. I am also proceeding with the Peninsula War. Are you? Please give the enclosed sheet to Oliver. I can't get anyone here to play chers with me so I am reduced to this - I can think of no more twaddle

so (last page)

Goodbye

Yr loving

Ralph
