

Allahabad
29th Jan^r 1890

My dear Pippa

How brutal that you are not coming with Papa. You will have to force him to take you out next year instead as I am sure he will be wanted. I am going with Campbell tomorrow to Bombay to meet him. My idea is to be his private secretary while he is in India, but I have not yet broached this except to Abbott who thinks it is a good notion. I have not got a house or a pony or a gun yet; isn't it fearful? The consequence is I am

fixed in Arthur's house like the old
man of the sea - It is very cold
here in the night. This morn-
ing early there was a hoar frost,
but - in the middle of the day it
is about as hot as a very hot
summers day. I am in despair
for anything to say because one
day is exactly the same as another
and any of my letters might do
for any other - so you must not
mind if there are no news. ~~is~~
this letter. next week will
probably be rather exciting.

Every ~~day~~ morning I go to
the office and either draw
plans or go around with Abbatt

in a trolly, to look at a signal
of or points, or something that
wants to be repaired, and every
afternoon is spent in wildly play-
ing badminton. In the evening we
generally play Patchesi or Pow. which
is a native game something like
backgammon. We learnt it from
the servants, much to ~~our~~ their
amusement; I believe they now
think of us with the greatest con-
tempt. On Sunday I did some
calls; I have now done 38;
this sounds a large number
but really it is nothing. Will
you remind Dick ~~what~~ of ~~that~~
his beavers 'chit' - He is in a

great state of excitement
about it and has presented me
with & two documents on the
subject. I hope you have by this
time made the acquaintance of
the Indian Marine officers &
that they came up to your
expectations. I should like to
kick that disgusting Harry and
the female man.

You will get a decent
letter next week from
y^r loving brother

Ralph