

4380

16 Elgin Road
Allahabad
Jan 14th

My dear Pippa

Donnez moi votre
patte. I am seated in Arthur's
drawingroom after dinner in solitary
grandeur; the other people have gone
to a dinner party, i.e. Arthur, Kelly and
Miss Beck who is staying here with her
brother for the great Allahabad Universi-
ty Tomarsha. (I don't know how to
spell it but this is a very useful word
which means entertainment or show or
anything you like.) Miss B. is
rather nice, 30, and a great authority
on water bugs, of which she has dis-
covered several new species. She has
taught me a new game of chess which
you ought to try. It is played on a

board of 10 squares a side. The creatures are arranged like this

Pawn	Pawn	P.	P.	Critter	Critter	P.	P.	P.	P.
Castle	Knight	Bishop	P. <small>man</small>	King	Queen	Prince	Bishop	Knight	Castle

The Prince moves like a queen and a knight, & the Policeman like a bishop and a knight. The Critters move like kings. The rest of the game is the same, except that the king is always put on the left of the Queen. You might bring it out as a new game and make your fortune! You might call it "If you want to know the time ask a pleccemaker." I will ~~be~~ now proceed to describe a day as spent in Allahabad. At seven o'clock my kitmutgar brings in 'chota hazri' which means little breakfast & consists of 2 eggs, ~~two~~ toast & tea. My kit is very noble and costs the wretched price of 8 Rupees a month; Munkoo (the bearer) is 10 R. He always wears an idiotic smile and will persist in placing on

my table long epistles in the most gorgeous English & without the slightest particle of meaning. I don't know who writes them for him but he must be a genius. Revonous a nos eggs, which having eaten I rise & (sometimes) walk to the office followed by a brigand called a chuprassie (ho! Oliver not a chupatty) who is my bodyservant supplied gratis by the E.I.R. Sometimes Abbat is there and we converse about the villanies of people who don't want Grand Chord lines &c. There is generally nothing to do before breakfast, but sometimes we trolly to the Sumna Bridge. It is well worth coming to India (almost) to ride on a trolly - seated in a comfortable arm chair with a large white umbrella over your head if the sun is hot, you are whizzed along in perfect joy by two improved Blondins who run along on the top of the rails and push behind. Oh

yes' as Gilead P Becke would say 'I am
Death on trolleys'. After breakfast, which
I go back for, I generally spend the time
in drawing various plans; my present
job is a house for an unfortunate
assistant manager of the Castor Oil Manu-
factory not far from here. I hope he
is not particular. At 2 my kitmutjar
brings lunch and at 4 I quit & go
home. In the afternoon I either
pay calls or play badminton till 6
when it gets too dark. Then moon
about till dinner after which reversi
or 'If you want to know the time' till
about $\frac{1}{2}$ past ten, when we seek the
downy as Spenser remarks.

Paying calls is a fearful task as
there are about 80 to do - I have
worked off 27 so far. This week is
full of excitements - tomorrow is the
University dinner & ~~se~~ conversazione
(belovoid word); then the English cricketers

are coming and there is a dance for them. I don't know when I am going to Calcutta but I should think in a week or so. I have placed my fortune in the Bank of Bengal. It is a great responsibility for ~~them~~ ^{the directors} but ~~the directors~~ ^{they} though looking a little care-worn ^{they} appear to be confident of being able to bear it. I have not yet received a salary ^{from the B.R.} but hope to soon.

15th. The mail has just come in with a letter from you & one from Elinor with your fearful adventures at Southbourne, also Dorothy's exciting adventures in Italy. I am most anxious to hear what ~~I~~ happened in Naples.

I have great hopes of this letter passing you somewhere in the Red Sea as I hear rumours that the Chairman is coming out. I am sending for lists of passengers and am in great

excitement to know if you will
soon really

Give me a paw

John Shaw

Attorney at law

Your loving

Ralph.

P.S. No time to answer Elmer this
week.