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Asansol

13<sup>th</sup> April/92

My dear Pippa

I arrived here on Monday after 'handing over' Madhu-pur to Mr. Jones. I expect I shall go out into camp tomorrow or next day. I have got about 16 miles for my division; from the Barakar, not including the bridge. Peddie has the next bit to me and F. Wright beyond him. Drysdale has charge of the whole thing. There will be no engineer on the Barakar bridge at present as there won't be time to do much to it before the rains. I am going

to live at the Khosdia river (where we had the adventure on the survey) about 7 miles from Barakur. At present I shall have to live in a tent as the bungalow which is being built there isn't finished yet. Let's hope it will be soon as it will be pretty hot in a tent I expect at this time of year. You will be glad to hear that I shall get 150 rupees a month extra besides the ordinary 450/- while on the construction and a free house so I shall be rolling in riches when I go home. I have determined that the first thing we will do shall be to go to the 'Pavilion' and hear Costellier sing his chivalric songs. (I am sure they will last till then.) In the meantime Herbert and I are working out a plan <sup>by which</sup> for you and Edith and Lady R.

with either Harry or Jim (on business with immense travelling fees) are to come out here next cold weather for a few months. You must know that the climate here in the cold weather is delightful and just the thing for Edith. I am going to write to her about it. This is a thing to be seriously considered, I don't see the slightest reason why it shouldn't be done.

I am stopping now with the Drysdales until I go out. I got your books to-day (4). They look most fascinating especially 'my Lady Nicotine' and 'mathematical recreations'; they will be just the thing for my wigwam on the prairie. (I that spelt right).

You may expect next mail to get some photos of the Madhupur

bungalow with inhabitants taken by  
Mr. Lenny when they were there.  
Please observe the true comic hall  
comic song grin on my face in one  
of them which is not in the least  
true to life ~~but~~ though long wished  
for to be able to put it on when  
required. (This sentence will be a  
good exercise of passing for mags)  
and is a sign that it is high  
time I should quit.

"Better the logic of a terrestrial  
atom than the brilliant inconsequence  
of a falling star" but as I have  
nothing but the latter left at this  
time of night I think I had better  
say "Goodbye but not Adieu"

Yr loving brother

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Ralph Thackeray