

We have not
heard from
Brothers and
Sisters
for
months.

5512

Allahabad August 20th / 76.

My dear Mamma

Things soon so quietly pass that I have really nothing to make a history out of. I was not at all well for three or four days after I came from Mysore. I was not well enough protected from the sun and it got into my head and gave me a headache so bad that by Wednesday I had to stay in bed all day. Now it is all right again and I shall trust better another time than to expose myself to the cause. I did not feel it at all just at the time. After four in the afternoon the air is very pleasant and we have had some lovely drives with such sunsets as I have never seen before. The chief event of my week has been the manufacture of a quantity of fine apple preserve for export. Mr Harrison sent me two of the largest I have ever seen, and whilst I was having them prepared, Mr Lodie, our Scripture reader, brought me four more, so that I have quite a supply now. I had it made in the verandah before me, partly to see how it was done and partly to be sure that all my sugar etc went in the right direction. I fancy that those hard stinging years would be very well done in the same way, so I send you all particulars. First the fruit was pared and thinly rubbed with salt to bring out some of the water, then washed, dried with a cloth and cut into slices about a quarter of an inch thick, then sieved and a pound of fine moist sugar allowed to each pound of fruit. So then brought the charcoal stove into the verandah, a pan half full of hot water was put on, a cloth loosely tied over the pan, the slices of apple put on this cloth, covered with

a plate and steamed for about a quarter of an hour then they were laid in a cloth and put on one side to drain. The sugar was then boiled with about a pint and a half of water (1/4 lb of sugar) until it came to a syrup which was quite glutinous between the finger and thumb, this is the way they try it. The fruit was then put into a soup tureen, the syrup poured over it and left to stand until next day. By that time so much water had come out of the fruit as to make the syrup quite thin again. It was then drawn off, boiled for about twenty minutes, until it was perfectly thick, the fruit put in, all boiled together for ten minutes, then put back into the tureen to cool, and next day put into jars with brandy paper over it. The syrup is now beautifully thick and the fruit quite transparent. The small mandarin oranges are done in the same way. so is ginger for preserve, only of course not sliced nor sweeted. The sugar that we use for preserving is 10/6 for three shillings and as white as the whitest moist sugar generally used for coffee in England.

Mr Harrison had an awkward accident last week, he fell back with his head on the edge of an earthenware pot, and cut himself very much. He is bound up now and has to wear a skull cap, having lost all his hair, but he is able to do about as usual. He finds it very pleasant having him so near. He generally dines with us on Friday eve. Last Friday Mr and Miss Biddulph came too, and kept us company whilst Mr H. and John went to the church meeting. Our lawn tennis and badminton grounds are going on apace. Labour is cheap here,

the coolies also prepare the ground, plough smooth and so, receiving 6/2 a day. The whole thing will only cost a pound, and then the set of bats, balls, netting & will be three or four pounds more. He means to have it once a fortnight on regular days, and as all these amusements are advertised in the Pioneer "Mr Stephenson's Badminton" may find its way into print by and by!! Fast cool weather there was a badminton for every day in the week. We shall not need then to have people to dinner so often. As it is now, dinner is the only attention we can offer to the young men who call. I daresay they will enjoy lawn tennis and badminton a great deal more. It will be quite easy then to have fifteen or twenty people at once. Our garden looks very pretty now, everything is so fresh and green, and the beds of white lilies so sweet as to outlast them. I get a dole, or tray of vegetables every morning from Mrs Harrison. The Indian corn is in season now, stalks of it about half as thick as your rye, studded over with grains. The stalk is boiled, then baked and eaten with pepper salt and butter. What a pleasure the corn flour people in England must make, for it costs positively nothing here. We read terrible accounts of the heat in England, especially in London. It is a pity they do not adopt Indian hours and habits, just for a few weeks, but they seem to use no precautions against it. A gentleman told me the other day that a Dr Hatter whom he knew here was in London a few years back, and met a nurse girl, wheeling some children in a perambulator. He thought they looked rather strange, and going up, found them both dead from the heat. The girl thought they were only asleep. That would never

near in India. We have decided not
to go anywhere this year, though I wish John would
cut away for ten days or so. I am sure it would
do him good. When a lady enquires about us, it
involves so much trouble that I do not care
to go for a little while. I hope next year we may
get a thorough holiday for two or three months, to
see Delhi and some of the interesting places.
We shall stand in need of a change by that time.
I have nothing to complain of since the rains
set in, but they do not suit John so well as the dry
weather. I am glad you go out a little sometimes
at Malvern. I can just fancy Mr. Mrs. Dinsmore
would enjoy his drive with you. It is a pity they
are going away, for they have always been such
pleasant neighbours. What a venture you let
take such a long journey as to Bradford. I wonder
Mrs. Miss Amy likes housekeeping. Remember me
to all the friends. I do not forget them. The sickness
must be something like biliousness and nearly
all the people away. It empties the English end of
the church looks very empty. Thanks Mrs. M.
In her letter, I am sorry she is suffering from the tic.
Mrs. M. says she was looking remarkably well at
Shrewsbury. He would find the mercurial very good.
I took it by me now. In constantly during the hot
weather I was having face ache. It relieves the
pain at once, though it may come again after
a few hours. We hear of a good deal of obsequy
now, in consequence I suppose of the rains. In
London, next door to us, has it, they say the only
thing to cure it is a sea voyage. But the remedy
for a bad sailor, would be worse than the disease.
I am thankful to say we have got through so far,
without any serious ailments, though one is bound
to feel the climate in many ways. John sends his
love to you. I am also your affectionate daughter
3034

Tuesday. I am very pleased to hear of your
Anna Acton's feeble health. I should think she
has suffered much, both in body and mind
of which she has never said a word, and she
has had very little opportunity of taking care
of herself. I hope, if she comes to you that the air
of Newbern will do her good. Give my love
to Mr. I remember sometime ago his brother
was ill in much the same way, and he seemed
to get right again.

He began to be very much afraid that the rains
have stopped for this season, and if so he shall
have a bad enough time all September. We
have had none for a fortnight now, and they
generally continue until the beginning of
October. In my bedroom where I generally
sit now, the thermometer generally rises to 90
& eleven and keeps so until 5. But the
evening, and nights are still very pleasant.
In the real hot weather there was no respite
except from 3 to 5 in the morning. We
have our windows closed most of the day,
still the air can get in through them, and
now and then so through them open. I think
on the whole, it has been a very unfavorable
season. We are very fortunate to keep our health
so well. I believe the frequent perspiration has
been a good thing for me, I never used to
perspire at all in England. Everybody
looks rather boiled now. John sends his
love, he is very busy, the places here lie so
far apart that half the time is taken up
in going from one to the other.

Your affectionate E. J. Stepten
I'll Aunt Susan that she must

without fail, get the Fortnightly Review
for July 1st to read an article by
Mr. Harrison in reply to one
of Mr. Bushkin in the June "For"
I have just got the first three
parts of Oeronde.