

Calcutta

4<sup>th</sup> Dec 95

4543

My dear Pippa

Here we are again!

A Muddy Xmas & a Sloppy New Year;  
I regret to have to inform the family  
that being reduced to the last depths  
of poverty I am unable to forward  
any other gifts than the Comps.  
of the Season. We must hope for  
better times.

The Government of India are  
at their usual hanky panky and  
obstructing us in every way they  
can think of and goodness knows  
when we shall really begin the  
new lines. ~~At present~~ The latest idea

is that I am to go as P.A.  
to Stone to Allahabad until the  
Stone bridge is about to begin  
and then go there, but I don't  
think that this will come off.

Anyhow I don't see any prospects  
of leaving Calcutta for a month  
at least and meantime the cold  
weather is slipping away.

Last Saturday was St Andrew's  
Day and Robertson treated his  
staff to the dinner which they  
have every year at the town hall  
There were about 400 Scotchmen  
& guests and things were as  
festive as usual. Two pipers of  
the 93<sup>rd</sup> and the band of the

Shropshire Regt. which is now in  
Calcutta played alternately during  
dinner; the most enthusiastic  
moment was when the HAGGIS  
was solemnly piped round the  
room before being cut up. After  
dinner came the speechifying. The  
Chairman of the Calcutta Chamber  
of Commerce made the usual  
idiotic remarks in disparagement  
of the E. I. Co. but was completely  
squashed by Sir Charles Elliott  
who politely told him that his  
remarks were senseless and that  
he and all the other Calcutta  
merchants were idiots, and didn't  
know what was good for them.

The gaieties of the season are beginning now; last Saturday was the 1<sup>st</sup> race meeting and next Saturday the first ball, given by the Calcutta Light Horse (volunteers) to which I suppose I shall go.

The ~~great~~ <sup>9<sup>th</sup> getting</sup> fashionable <sup>all the</sup> ~~game~~ <sup>rage</sup> just now is to play badminton in the ~~of~~ big ball room at the Saturday Club. A matting is stretched over the floor and 2 <sup>just now</sup> courts are marked out. I went to view it once but the sight sickened me so I left.

Farewell hoel hoel Farewell  
y<sup>r</sup>. loving brother  
Boots have arrived.

Ralph