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dellovah  
S. J. Ry.

14-1-03.

My dearest Mama,

Here commences my weekly letter!  
You have heard from Pippa of our  
proposed removal up to Gya? Taking  
every thing all round we are both  
very pleased, & one of the greatest ad-  
vantages to my mind is that there  
will be a Club for Ralph to go to  
of an evening, & where I hope he will  
get some Bridge & intellectual men  
to talk to & forget all about his  
work for a time, here, he is always  
surrounded by his work & only has Mr  
Bamber to talk to, which is very  
bad for him indeed! Whenever I  
talk to either of the Bambers I

always feel for bro. afterwards, what I'm sure a cat must feel when its fur has been rubbed the wrong way!

Then too we have all the expense of Calcutta (in fact greater, because servants require higher wages to induce them to come out here) & none of its pleasures being just too far away. Eya I believe is a very gay bright little station with plenty of dances & fun always going on, & very healthy, though exceedingly hot. I do so long sometimes for you to see Baby, every body says what an intelligent little creature he is. Just fancy the other day Ralph held up a bit of paper, & waved it about in front of Baby's face, who

got very annoyed & seized hold of it & with great difficulty & great interest tore it to pieces! And then

he laughed with glee, wicked little thing & kicked his feet about wildly. I never knew a Baby make such a noise, all day long he lies on his back & plays with his toys, he only has two! One a blue & pink ball covered with bells, & a red & white doll on a stick which squeaks. These he loves, & one by one he holds them up & then harrangues them in a stern voice saying "dat, dat, dat" & repeatedly slapping them. It's so funny to hear his voice going up & down just as if he really was talking. Lately he has been troubled with a hard dry cough, though he has no cold, so the Doctor who says his tonsils are very enlarged & inflamed

but apparently very little can be done  
he has merely ordered Nurse to rub  
the very back of his throat with  
borax & honey every day. The writtel  
of a Doctor has discovered I have  
got a varicose vein in my leg! I  
used to notice a little vein while  
I was at home & showed it to Nurse  
Carr, who said it was only a very tiny  
one & would disappear as soon as  
Baby was born! However it has been  
gradually getting worse until lately I  
complained about its throbing a good deal  
to Ralph, who insisted on the Dr.'s  
it when he came to see Baby. And  
he says its very bad & that for some  
time to come I must keep my leg up  
& that if I'm very careful it may  
disappear when I get stronger. One  
great comfort is he says I may walk  
but never stand! Isn't it tiresome!

We had no home letter last week



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though of course we've no right to complain, but we're longing to hear about the dance. Ralph wants me to go to the Century Bell because he thinks it will be an historical event, but the expense of the dresses has to be considered & they would be so useless afterwards.

I am sending a cheque for £2, will you very kindly choose a really nice warm pelisse suitable for a boy for me? And should there be anything over after paying for postage etc. I should like to have a nice little pair of white kid shoes & socks or some more



bibs will be most useful. I can't get anything really nice out here & Baby must have something warm to wear up in the hills, for we are not going to attempt to keep him down in the plains this year. In another two weeks the very hot weather will be in full swing, just when he will be fretting. Bya has a dry climate & I hear people use Cactus Tatis here, which reduced the temperature of a room to that of an ice house! But then of course it makes you feel the heat outside very much more, which is simply terrific. We shall be a 4 hrs.

journey from Dinapore! So I'm going to try & persuade Ruby & Oliver to spend their Sundays with us! Anyway we ought to be able to meet very often & I do hope we shall. Please give my love to Parnel & tell her I crave for her forgiveness for not having thanked her for the little patience table she gave us, before now, but now that I have to lie up so much I find it so useful, & am using it at the present moment! Could you possibly get me some nice bright pictures (out of old Xmas nos) to hang up in the Nursery. With fondest love to all from us all ever yr. affec<sup>t</sup> daughter  
 Margaret V. Strachey