

4574

Dehri Bridge

16<sup>th</sup> Nov. 97

My dear Pippa

I hope you got my letter last week, but as our letters are taken by runners to the Arrah the nearest railway station 58 miles away it seems that they often miss the mail if posted on Wednesday, so I am sending this on Tuesday, to make sure.

I have first to report that I have returned to health and ~~am~~ once again in blossom

24th Dec 1911  
1911

condition. I am still living in Palmer's house and am waiting for the return of Michel, who has gone away for a week, to settle whether I shall chum with him, or have a house to myself. I must now attempt to give a description of the place. First of all there is the river, which is a sandy tract 2 miles across, full of water in the rains but now with only 3 or 4 channels.

About a mile above the site

of our bridge is the ancient, which is a dam built right across the river to raise the water high enough to fill the canals. Near the ancient is old Deler where there are a good many bungalows, mostly empty, the canal workshops, and plenty of big trees, metalled roads &c. This was where the people who built the ancient lived and though very much run to seed looks more or less like a small up-country station. We are about

about two miles away down stream  
so as to be near the bridge, and  
our bungalows are planted  
down in the middle of the  
fields and look rather bare,  
except for <sup>an</sup> trees except those planted  
by us. Our bungalows are  
done together, Palmer's on the  
top of a slight eminence.  
He and Scott have made ex-  
cellent gardens round theirs.  
The bridge is not in very  
advanced condition. Last year  
broke the contractors who had taken

up the work, did rather badly,  
and they are now being turned  
out - I don't think much  
progress will be made till they  
go which will be the end of  
this month - meantime the  
river is only just going down,  
and we are now making the  
temporary bridges and laying  
lines across the river bed so  
as to get the stones bricks  
&c to the spot. The whole  
thing is very much like the  
Barakane bridge only much  
longer. Two other parties  
have arrived since I last

wrote viz Mr & Mrs Kirkman  
brick contractors of Cawnpore

He is a jovial old cuss &  
she is harmless and adds a  
touch of feminine refinement.

Another touch will be added  
tomorrow by Mrs Aslett who

arrives with her husband to-  
morrow - Being a bride and

just returned from her honey-  
moon she will probably be

somewhat polybious and  
amiable.

I have cleaned my  
bicycle after three days  
hard work. It was in the

most filthy condition, the  
baseline having collected vast  
masses of dust sand coal and  
other rubbish. The great score  
is that the P.O. forgot to  
charge for it so I am 30/-  
in pocket.

There is a great demand  
for my sweet photographs, so  
dont forget to send them; also  
a list of donees. (viz. receivers  
from you.)

A remark in your letter  
was not understood, namely,  
about the objectionable porter in  
Victoria Street.

the, ...  
I must now quit  
farewell ...  
the great ...  
to ...  
change for ...  
in ...  
husband ...  
for my sweet ...  
don't forget to send them; also  
of horses (via receiver  
and from you)  
A ...  
pleasant ...  
part in ...  
hard ...

Alph

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