

4643

DEHRI BRIDGE,
SHAHABAD DISTRICT,
BENGAL.

no 71

7th March 1900

My dear Pippa

The grand ceremony
of opening the Sone Bridge took
place on the 22nd Feb. exactly
3 years after it was started -

For various reasons there was
no big function, the following
being present Douglas Findlay,
the Stones, Highets, Drings and
Cherneys (Editor of Pioneer)

Martyn (Consulting Engineer) the
Forsythes (friends of Palmers), be
sides we My Py ites and
Lediou - All got into 2

1st Class carriages and went across the river by the low level line returning across the bridge. All then got out and viewed Mrs Stone driving in the last rivet, a silver one, with a beautiful silver hammer. The Consulting Engineer was asked if the Bridge might now be considered open for traffic - he said yes. 3 cheers were given and a 'group' was taken by a specially imported photographer and we then returned to Palmer's bungalow and drank the

bridges health in sumptuous
Then dinner and scratch-
back speeches from Stone
& Palmer after which all
departed in special trains
the guests to Calcutta and
Palmer to Mughalsarai to
catch the mail

Rather a dull performance
a gloom having been cast
by Palmer's misfortune -

The day after the subor-
dinates had their jollifi-
cation - a waltz and
sports for the natives, and
a dinner and dance for
the whites and whitey browns.

About 40 invitations were sent out but only 2 people thought it necessary to reply viz "Mrs & Mr." Radford (correct etiquette) and some other lunatic who declined it is believed because they considered themselves too swell to mingle with subordinates - I must admit that the dinner was rather a failure altogether only 22 including 5 of us - no ladies - why I cant imagine - it made me exceedingly angry however I recovered my temper when they turned up at the dance bringing amongst them one sweetly

DEHRI BRIDGE,
SHAHABAD DISTRICT,
BENGAL.

Called ? in the
Accounts dept I think. As
far as I can make out the
other sisters have married
fairly respectable people. I
must now leave this subject
as I am quite tired of it.
If you want any information
on particular points I will
afford it if I can - Oh
they call Oliver holl.

I stayed with the Huddlestons,
who are still living with
Beys - Also there was one
of May's brothers and his
Buck the daughter of Beys,

with infant - Mr Bruck
is pretty but not much
else I fancy - The Hud.
destons are going home
this mail (by which I also
was to have gone) and I
came in for the Farewell
Dance given to them by the
Traffic employes in the Rail.
way Theatre. This was a
great show and caused me
immense pleasure - In the
middle of the dance an
Assistant Station Master
mounted on to the stage
and made a most eloquent
speech in praise of H.B.

which was greeted with en-
thusiastic cheers. H.B. was
then seized upon and carted
round the room a dozen
times to the strains of 'For
hes a jolly good fellow' followed
by the whole mob struggling
to grasp him by the hand -
He made a most shocking bad
speech in reply but every
sentence was cheered to the
echo - The men are simply
devoted to him and quite
right too as he is "One of
the Best". Another song that
was almost as often sung as
For hes a j.g.f. was one called
"For Old Times Sake" - The
words are most ludicrously

inappropriate in the chorus

For old times's sake
Dont let our enmity live
For old times's sake
Cant we forget & forgive?
Life's too short to quarrel
"Earts too precious to brike
Shike and be brothers & friends
For old times sake

This kind of thing with much
drinking of healths was contin-
ued till 4 A.M. when we
walked home - This was
rather a feat on the part
of H.B. if as he says he
had 61 pegs!

I had 2 days at Allaha-
bad but nothing else of in-
terest occurred. Saw Kelly
but not Arthur. The H.B.'s

4643

DEHRI BRIDGE,
SHAHABAD DISTRICT,
BENGAL.

pretty and charming English
girl who had come on a
visit to the Waites (contractor).

I fell desperately in love
with her and had the brilli-
ant idea of asking her to
come for a drive with me
next day, which was accep-
ted with pleasure, much
to the rage of Richd M Cock-
shott & Co who hadnt thought
of it. Alas! she has
gone from me for ever
and I sit by the river
every day weeping. Her
name is Ello (short for Elinor).

On the 1st of March the line was opened for public traffic as already advised per postal telegram. The fuss and worry of getting everything ready in time was carewearing in the extreme. However it was done and there is now one train a day in each direction. There is so much traffic that they are talking of putting on another train already.

As for me I have been driven to death owing

to Palmer's departure and believe having already, without the help of, as much as two strong oxen could do from morn to night. Things are getting slightly better now but I want to move my office to Gya as it is very inconvenient having head quarters separated. Now Stone has written to say he wants me in Calcutta to do plans which have to be finished before I go on leave and wants to know when I think I shall be able to go without causing Led. great

Wretched creature you must stick to Bland.
Havent seen Oliver yet but shall soon. AA

inconvenience. Not so easy
to ~~answer~~ give an unpreju-
diced answer as after giving
a list of drawings &c to be
finished he makes the cheer-
ful remark "you will see
there is not much time to
spare;" Ed. is coming
here tomorrow and we will
settle what to say, but if
Stone insists on my doing
these beastly plans in Calcutta
I have strong misgivings
about seeing my beloved
home on the 24th of June
as arranged. However
Ladysmith is relieved and
that's one comfort
Y^r loving father
Ralph