

4431

Araucari

May 26th/91

My dear Pippa

On Wednesday ~~next~~

Drysdale & I went to dinner with
Arbuthnot & Wright (who are living
together, and after dinner went to
the kaitch which was a com-
plete fraud. Two hideous swathed
up greasy she-babooos strolled up
and down three feet off screaming
out songs at the tops of their
voices to the accompaniment of a
drum and fiddle occasionally stopping

in front of your chair (borrowed from the office) to ask for bucksheesh. All around, also on office chairs, were seated baboos smoking ~~hookahs~~ bubble bubbles. Overhead a tarpaulin was stretched and the scene was lighted up by 3 patent duplex lamps. Any thing ~~like~~ ^{more} unlike Georgia and the Arabian nights has never yet been seen and so after a quarter of an hour we departed, well boiled in our own juice. Never again said Pinchme. Besides this entertainment there was the weekly orgy at the Doctor's and a

dinner at the Englishes. Just after we started it began to pour and by the time we got there I was simply drenched in spite of macintoshes and so had to borrow an old suit of Englishes who weighs 17 stone so the sight may be imagined. A certain amount of amusement was got by watching the behaviour of our host & hostess, Mrs E. apologising for each dish &c, and Mr E. repeatedly reminding Mrs E. to make a 'pooltice' for his sore toe! There is certainly a very curious menagerie in these parts. The orgy will be

passed over as I was suffering
severely from indigestion brought
on by an amateur fiddler, but
you mustn't mention this as he
was Dick of Ashwick's dearest friend
in Burmah whence he had just
come and where he saw Cutty!

Yours fondly

Ralph