

Barakar

1479

Dec. 21st 1892

My dear Pippa

The address on your last letter was quite correct and arrived here safely which the same did one from Connie Whalley. I thought at first by the writing that it was from the flirtations one and opened it in fear & trembling. Many thanks to Elinor for kind wishes. How gorgeous to build her own house. There was a great tomasha in Asansol on Monday on the occasion of Dr. Bath's concert and fancy dress ball in aid of the Asansol Convent Rebuilding fund. The nuns thought it would be nice to have another storey

on their Convent so they built one. Unfortunately, the study of strains had not been one of the items in their curriculum and the walls at once saw their advantage and collapsed. I knew a man once — but that is another story. The concert was a very grand affair — special tickets, glimmers ~~from~~ (cabs of the heavy description) from Ranegunge, special license for the sale of spirituous & imported liquors in the Institute, and a special train from Barakar. I was so foolish as to go by this and arrived at 9 o'clock without having had any dinner. However I couldn't miss the first article on the programme which was — A Fairy Tableau! Battie and 19 fairies!! Such fairies. None of your flimsy delicate feathered whippersnappers but good honest robust heavyweights from whom

no genii need be afraid to fly. Perhaps it would have been more appropriate to call them brownies or even darkies but that is a slight matter. Perhaps the most pleasing chorus was the one depicted below — Battie looked



"We are little dainty fairies."

very elegant as a mixture of Watteau shepherd and light opera villager and brought down the house in his duet

with Phoebe (?) (out of Solauthe). I missed the rest of the concert as I went to Pearce's and had some dinner, with H. Wright who had already had one dinner but felt a little faint after the tableau and wanted some support. The dance afterwards was conducted with great spirit and I retired to rest at 5. There was a large crowd there including the Drysdales the Wards Saise the Picarines the Jobillies & the

fanyalis - Mrs Ward wore her famous
45 guinea parisian gown, the same one
that she wore at the drawing room &
which was described in the Englishman
even before Lady Lansdowne's.

I am going to the Drysdale's for
Xmas day - Robertson also will be
there - The two Wrights & Peddie will
be there also and ~~we have got~~
Mrs Drysdale ~~to~~ has promised us
that she will stop him the moment
he begins examinations or strains -
I expect you wout get this letter
till next mail it is fearfully
late

Y^r loving

Ralph

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