

44565

Madhupur

23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 91

My dear Pippa

Last week has  
been rather a lively one  
for Madhupur. Myne stopped  
here a day or two and on  
Saturday he rather Peddie  
Heaton and I went out to  
the duck tank and got 28  
between us. On Friday <sup>afternoon</sup> night  
Heaton left his servants in

his tent and came to see  
me having first told them to  
light his new stove for the first  
time. The result may easily  
be imagined; some curtains  
were carefully draped over the  
stone pipe and the whole  
tent was burnt to ashes with  
all the contents except a few  
clothes. H. has been living  
with me since the catastrophe.  
He went off yesterday to  
spend Xmas at Calcutta

and I am going tonight  
to do ditto at Assam.

On this day two years ago  
I landed on these shores, but  
I will spare you 15 pages of  
moralizing on the fact (which I  
could easily do) and will now  
cease having nothing more to  
impart.

Yr loving

Ralph.

P.S. Please burn this letter  
before reading it to save time.