

1481

Barakoor

1st February 1853

My dear Pippa

Nothing very particular has been happening lately. The bridge is getting on all right; the last foundation was finished today and the first girder was begun to be erected on Monday. It rained hard last Wednesday and we were in fear and trembling that the river would rise and wash all our engines and things away, but Provy had his eye on us and

no harm was done. The rain has made it quite cold here; one day we actually had a fire in the parlour! The latest rumour is rather disgusting. It is that Abbott is not coming out but is going to resign in March, and Palmer is to be made a D.E. and Collet personal ass. Lucky for them that Robertson isn't going, if true. By the bye this is supposed to be a deadly secret and although everybody has heard it nobody speaks about it to anybody else so mind you don't divulge it.

I think I told you that the Ben-

gal Coal Co. were going to give a tiffin on the opening of the line into their ~~said~~ coal pits. Here is the menu.

Barakar

Luncheon du 12 Janvier 1893

Mayonnaise de volaille.

Chandroid de Cailles à la Gelée.

Aspic de pâté de foie gras à la Mostovitch.

Galantine de Dinde Sauce Cumberland.

Pâté de Gibier à la Française.

Dinde. Jambon. Salade.

Aloyeau de bœuf.

Entremets

Pudding Diplômé.

Gelée au Maraschino.

Glace.

Crème à la vanille.

Dessert.

Doesn't this make the tears come to

your mouth? (This is a poetical way of putting it I think.) The tiffin went off with great success and so did my conundrum - Why is a chand-froid of quails to the jelly &c. It was rather premature however (the tiffin I mean) for though the line has been ready for 3 weeks no coal has been carried over it as the enterprising traffic department cannot concoct rules for working it!!.

I am expecting my box of books daily as I hear it has arrived in Calcutta. Many thank-yous to the kind sender. Also to Pernel for the noble way in which she has fulfilled your bequest.

Yr. loving brother

Ralph Thackeray

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