

R.S.

Assistant Engineer E.I.R.

hirsha Chati

District Mambloom

Bengal

Hudia

This (NIRSHACHATI) is  
a village on the grand  
trunk road about 2  
miles away from here  
and is the nearest P.O.

of lovingly  
Ralphs.

Khoolia

May 11<sup>th</sup>/92

4465

My dear Pippa

The beginning of this  
letter had better be taken up  
with a little ancient history  
as follows. I left Asansol for  
this place on Good Friday and  
as might have been expected from  
starting on that day got caught  
in the only storm for months and  
got drenched. As I think I re-  
marked before I am living at  
the Khoodia river about  $6\frac{1}{2}$   
miles from Barakar. My tent  
is pitched under a mango tree

on the grassy slopes overlooking the river which rushes along between its precipitous banks &c. At least it does in the rains; at present there's nary drop in it and all that is to be seen is sand and rocks. My tent has got a thatched roof over it to keep off some of the sun and so looks rather quaint. A house is being built for me close by and the sooner it is finished the better I shall be pleased as it is certainly a little too balmy in a tent to be altogether pleasant. On Easter Monday B.C. there was a grand concert at Agra to provide funds for a piano for the village school. Several Calcutta people came to perform and it was rather good. I will now pass

on to a description of my business. I have got from mile 1 to 16 to look after; the biggest work on this length is the K. bridge which will be 5 spans of about 50 ft. The rest is banks and cuttings and small bridges and culverts. The earthwork is being done by small native contractors who are given ~~about~~ a mile or two to do. They have to provide the coolies and do the work and I have got to look after them and see that they are doing it properly. I have got 10 of these critters on my division all natives except my one I have got two inspectors under me called Simpson and Dinton - who was on the survey. There is a good deal of riding to do going

up and down so I am going to get another pony besides Leira. It belongs to C. Plowden and it is called Primrose day - I think it is a very good name for a pony for me.

I am sending you 4 photographs this week taken by Mrs. Denyns when she was at Madhupur. Two are of my bungalow and two groups. I hope you like my appearance. In one of them my puppy Bingo was in the photograph at the beginning with his head on my knee, which accounts for the peculiar positions of Denyns's hand and mine, but he gradually backed out as the photo was being taken so that you can see the ghost of his hind legs about 3 yards away. N.B. My address for the present is 742(a)