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Calcutta

15<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1906

My dear Pippa,

Thank you for your letters reporting on Dicky's health, which I hope you will keep up. It doesn't seem to me that I can usefully discuss matters from here except to say that I have complete confidence in whatever arrangements are decided on at home - I was very glad to get Margaret's telegram as it would be a fearful disappointment if she couldn't come out but I don't feel certain that she is coming until I see her. I am afraid ~~two~~ telegrams had to be sent owing to the wrong telegraphic

address having been used - It ought to have been Clamoroso Calcutta. I got the 2<sup>nd</sup> one first and afterwards saw <sup>an advertisement that</sup> there was a telegram addressed to me undelivered which turned out to be the same message addressed to Conqueror.

I am gradually getting into the swing of things - people seem to be mildly amused at my being D.A. but I dare say they will get used to it in time. The meeting with H. Wright was slightly awkward but fortunately he has no personal feeling against me and referred to his appeal in a humorous style and we are the best of friends - I think the work is going to be

very interesting and that some thing is to be made of the Deputy Agentship. More of this anon, in the meantime I enclose a paragraph culled from the daily press which shows that the Public has its eye upon me.

My new spectacles seem to be all right - I have only had one eye-ache since I left London which was on arriving at Cobbe Newquene and may be put down to the railway journey which was very hot and tiring, so it looks as if Brailey knows his business. They are quite comfortable now and no longer feel strange. I spent a day with Oliver at Alla habad on my way through. He is very little altered and seems much the same. Ruby and Julia had

already left - I had no talk with  
him about it If you still think  
there is anything to be gained by it  
let me know.

I have received an invitation to  
the opening of the Grand Chord  
Railway by the Viceroy on the  
6th December. There is going to be  
a great tamarha with special  
trains for guests bands dinners  
speeches and I dont know what  
all.

Is there any news of the fair  
Arabian? Dont forget to tell me  
what happens.

Farewell now with fondest  
love

Yr loving brother  
Ralph

Fansett Library  
27 Wilfred Street  
London S.W.1.

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"Statesman"

7th Novbr 1906

## RANDOM NOTES.

[ By "DIOGENES." ]

THE experience of the returning warriors of the C. L. H. in finding Howrah station devoid of ticca gharis, is not singular. I understand that it is quite the exception for passengers arriving in any quantity to find gharis available, and the experienced traveller always takes the precaution of indenting in Calcutta for a ghari to meet him. This, of course, may tend to discourage the local Jehus, but even with the additions thus made to the cabstands, there are never enough gharis to meet the occasion. Apart from this the station is about as inconvenient and unsuitable as it well can be, and seeing the years during which the architectural and engineering talent of the E. I. R. were in labour over this building, one is forcibly reminded of the insignificant rodent produced by the mountain of the classics. Stone setts would be a vast improvement on the roadways between the platforms, but the whole arrangements as they stand recall, in miniature, Waterloo station, and they are in some respects even worse than that labyrinth.

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One wet morning last week the Deputy Agent of the E. I. R. might have been seen waiting for a ghari. Very patiently he stood, smoking his pipe for fully a quarter of an hour, and he then departed in a vehicle which did not afford much evidence of the vaunted improvement in hackney carriages. It was a bit disturbing to observe his calm demeanour. One would have liked to have seen him a little more perturbed, and evidently disgusted by the state of affairs, but let us hope it was not mere resignation but that like "Brer Rabbit," he was only lying low, and resolving to say "nuffin" until he was able from his official desk to stir up those who are responsible for this — the normal state of affairs when a crowded train arrives in the early morning. Seriously though, the approach to Calcutta via Howrah station, in spite of the so-called new station, is not calculated to impress the globe-trotter who has in all his progress through India been led to believe that in Calcutta he would find everything anglicised and even civilized.

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