

4610

Dehri Bridge

25th Jan^y 99



A puzzling German
To while away a sermon

My dear Pippa

The holiday to Allahabad passed off very successfully though with a few adventures and I enjoyed the tour immensely - I left here by trolley on Tuesday afternoon and had about 2 miles to ride to railhead when I caught the train and started off about 6 P.M. - I got to Behanabad at 7 where

Thomas gave me dinner and a long chair in which I made myself comfortable with plenty of naps in the brake van which was in front of the train, engine next and about 10 empty trucks following. All went well till about 2 AM. when I was awakened by cries of 'gharry girra' which means 'The carriage has fallen'. The train had stopped and I got out to see what had happened when I found the following wierd state of affairs - The last truck

but one had come entirely off the rails and was a complete wreck. I found that it had been derailed 2½ miles before the train had stopped and had been bumping along on the sleepers all that way. There were some coolies in the last truck who were almost dead with fright and had been yelling themselves hoarse in the vain attempt to attract the attention of the idiotic driver who admitted that the train seemed to be rather heavy but hadn't taken the trouble to find out

the reason - It is most extraordinary that the whole train was not upset.

Nothing could be done then so I cut off the last two trucks and proceeded to Mughalsarai which was about 10 miles off. After sending telegrams to Garland I enquired the way to the house of Bles assistant engineer whom I had asked to put me up. The house was pointed out and I marched off to it. It was now 4 in the morning, all the doors were shut and I couldnt find any servants

so at last I determined to
wake up Bles to let me in -
I advanced to one of the doors
and looking through the glass
saw a sleeping form within so
I hammered on the glass and
yelled - The only reply was
a gruff & enrag'd voice "The
other side!" I thought I
had gone to the guest chamber
and passed on to the next
door when another sleeping
form was seen - Again I
knocked and shouted and
again came the reply "The
other side!" but this time in
a female voice! Tableaux!
Vivants! There's a picture for you.

I fled hastily and having discovered what the weird cry meant went around to the back of the house where I found Bles who had been aroused by the excitement.

It appears that the house is divided into two, half of which is occupied by the Clerk of Works and his family and the other by Bles.

I had to get up again at 8 to catch the train to Allahabad which I succeeded in doing ~~at~~ and arrived at $\frac{1}{2}$ past eleven and went off to the Huddlestons when I found May just preparing to

drive off to meet me. The dance was the same night so there wasn't much time to prepare a fancy dress for me & I adopted the mean plan of sewing green silk onto my collar & cuffs - May went as Fair Rosamund with her hair hanging down and looked very pretty. H.B. called himself a negative and had everything white that ought to be black and everything black that ought to be white, including his face. The great success of the evening was Oliver who went as Mrs Fortescue Jones

in an elegant black dress
and a white poudre wig -
He looked complete, and
very striking & completely
took people in - It was a
very good dance given by
8 men one of whom was
Bathe - The most amusing
incident occurred the night
of the dance which I pro-
bably shall not have time
to relate but will make
an effort - Allahabad
was chock full of parsons
who had come for a church
congress or something of the
sort, and they were quartered

among all the people of the town - The Huddlestons had one staying with them whose room was next the nursery with a door between - The nurse and Winnie were taken for an hour or so to the dance to see the dresses, and on coming back at about $\frac{1}{2}$ past eleven found that the ayah had shut up all the nursery doors, so that the only way in was through the padre's room who was sleeping peacefully in his bed. The nurse ~~said~~ told my bearer ^{to go} through his room into ~~of~~ the nursery and open one of the outside doors, which

he proceeded to do, but just as he opened the connecting door the padre woke up, thought it was a burglar and jumped up - my beaver rushed through the nursery and let the nurse in who seeing the door to the padres room open rushed to shut it. The padre also seeing a female as he thought making for him also darted to the door to shut it from his side, but in his hurry he shut the wrong half first so that the door wouldnt shut. The nurse saw this and a fearful struggle en-

sued - ~~her pulling~~ a both trying to snatch the door from the other - Eventually explanations were entered into and the door was safely shut. The nurses description of the scene was too comique - The padre didnt say much about the adventure. The rest of this epistle will have to stand over till next week with love

Y^r
Napph

P.S. Oliver has been moved to Calcutta when he will work in the head office under George