

Allahabad. Dec^r 15th /76.

Will you post the enclosed

5528

My dear Mamma

You will think I am de-
veloping quite a taste for housekeeping when
I tell you that I have this morning been
making some of that lemon cheeseate stuff
which you used to make in our young days.
I have often thought I should like to try, as the
"ingrediments" cost so little here, but I was not
sure of the proportions, and it does not do to
fail in anything amongst Indian servants.
They are very observant, and if they thought you did
not understand things, they would impose upon
you ten times more. However last night I
found the recipe in a book which Mrs Robinson
lent me and this morning I set to work. There
is no going into the kitchen here, as at home. You
must have a stove & charcoal, and all the things
brought before you in the verandah, and do
the best you can in that way. I have never
seen lemons here yet, but I got citrons out
of my own compound, which answer just
as well, the 6 eggs cost 3^o the lb of sugar 3^o
and the 2 "chittacter" of butter, equivalent to
1/2 lb, 3^o more. I made as much as fills two good
sized pickle jars, and it has turned out most
successfully. I told you of my exploits in marmalade
two or three weeks ago. I made it of oranges, but
I was told that the citrons which grow in our
compound would do equally well, so now I
am having a second lot made, as when limes
it better than any other preserve. The Kansa
is preserving some of those little China oranges
too, they make a pretty dessert dish being so

clear and such a rich colour. Last week we made
a quantity of "putra" jelly. It is made from the calyx
of a flower which grows abundantly here, and is
quite equal to red currant jelly. Berries here only
cost the price of the sugar and that is one third
cheaper than at home. But then unless you look
after it yourself the servants will cheat you into
paying double the proper price. They are as good-
tempered as possible when you find them out in
these little deceptions. They just put their hands to-
gether and salarum, and call themselves your
"slave". One can never be indignant with them
though it is very vexing. It is quite a mistake
to suppose that because you keep so many ser-
vants you have therefore nothing to do but ask
for a thing. Only one servant, the bearer, is really
to be depended upon, and he always takes his
two hours daily, from 12 to 2. The others are
seldom to be seen, except at meal times. The
ayah, who is the lady's own personal attendant,
is away four hours every day, and at other times
if you want her she is most likely cossiping
with the other servants' wives in the cottages
which are as far from the house as you are from
the post office. So that generally it is more
trouble to call a servant than to do the thing
yourself. They certainly do take their work
easily, but then they have not the strength of
Europeans. They seem to feel the cold very much
just now. They come in a morning with their
shoulders up to their ears. We have spent nearly
£5 in giving them warm clothes, which are to
last them this winter and next. If they suffer
more than we do for three months in the year,
they certainly have the advantage of us during
the other nine. They lie basking in the sun quite

comfortably when we don't know what to do with
ourselves. This is a very busy week. The Exam-
ination of the High School, of which John is secretary
was last Tuesday, and that of the City Free School
which he manages entirely is to morrow. The Licen-
tenant Governor and Lady Louisa give the prizes.
I went to lunch with Lady Stuart last Tuesday, and
we went together to the school. The 26 frocks for the
free school children are now sent to them; blankets,
New Dally and I cut into 52 d lengths 150 yards
of flannel which will be given away next week.
Then comes decorating the church for confirmation,
then the children's and widows' treat here, then
the confirmation, after which I humbly hope we
shall be able to turn round and give our brains
a little rest, for indeed they have not had much
the last two months. Then the largines and in-
efficiency of the men who are still working at the
home these us beyond description. These repairs
ought to have been done in October, before the
onset of cold weather business began, but owing
to the baboo's neglect they are going on now and
add to our sorrows. I hope they will be finally
done with - I mean the repairs - this week. Nothing
can give you any idea of the scraping, shuffling, &c.
in which these men do their work. You must
literally dog their footsteps to get them to do anything
properly.
I went to see Mrs Sanders again yesterday. She is going
to the hills, Mussoorie, in March for six months,
and wants me to spend a month with her there
during the rains. John wishes me to join her in
taking the house for three or four months, so as
to avoid the hot weather here, but I do not wish to
do that, my past experience will enable me to con-
tend with the heat better next year, and if I have
the prospect of coming home the year after, that

will carry me through a great deal. If John and I could go together for six weeks, and blurt up this house, it would be very pleasant, but otherwise I should not care for it at all.

I wish you could see a very pretty plate which has been put in the study just now, a noble specimen of the generosity of the Public Works Department to which this house belongs. You would not allow such a poverty stricken thing to be put under your coffee in the back kitchen, but it is supposed to be a great favour to us. We shall keep it as it is, until the cold weather is over, and next year return to our former way of burning wood on the hearth, which was much better. What a contrast between this and the cosy, polished comfort of an English grate. I have only seen two English grates here, and even those desolate they look. But still the room is very nice and it is such a luxury to feel cold enough to want a fire. I am thankful to say we are both very well, as indeed we need to be to get through all the work that has to be done. I begin to feel rather sorry we did not go to the dance at Government House last night. People say it was very pretty. Everybody in the station was there, and some of the dances were splendid. But we had been out so much that to stay at home was a treat, and then I had been making carpets all day which was a queer preparation for a ball at night. The dirge had disappointed me, and I was determined to show him I could do without him. John sends his love with mine, to you and Mary Catharine. Tell Mrs Birch it is a long time since I heard from her. We are dining tonight at Mr Rushington's, one of the judges, they are very pleasant friendly people. I have filled up this letter with our own affairs, but I think you will like to hear about them, as I like best to hear about some matters when I hear from home. I shall go and look after my citron marmalade now, which is boiling in the scullery. Always your affectionate daughter Eliza

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