

Calcutta

4691

13th Decr. 06

My dear Pippa.

Thankyou for your last letter in the matter of expenses - I quite agree with you that there must be no stinting of expenditure at home and am now sending £50 a month. I have told Margaret she is to ask for more if she wants it but as I am sure she will be very unwilling to do so you might keep an eye on things and tell me if you think more is required - I could without any difficulty send another

£10 a month, and with a slight squeeze could probably send more without exceeding my income - Of course if any larger sum is wanted I can easily provide it, as when things have returned to their normal condition I shall soon make up any deficit - I suppose you have heard of the unexpected windfall to Dick and me of Rs 3500 - I have got about $\frac{1}{2}$ of this in hand the rest having gone to pay off my borrowings when we leave. Also it is highly possible that I may come in for a large sum shortly as we have good hope of selling my other coal mine soon, and

if this comes off as we hope, I may receive anything up to Rs 50,000 in cash and an equal amount in shares - But I am not building on this having had previous disappointments in similar affairs, and there is the usual hitch in this one, which takes the form of "tight money" whatever that means, in the present instance - However I think there is a really good chance this time, and if it comes off how would it do if I sent £100 or so as a reserve fund for emergencies?

I have had a grievous blow - Two large cases of my books have been devoured by white ants and all my best books have been utterly destroyed - I very nearly wept when I saw

them - The Encyc. Britt., 50 years
of Punch, Arabian Nights, Waverly
Novels, Temple Shakespeare, &c &c &c
irretrievably and unutterably ruined.
The boxes were tin lined but cannot
have been properly soldered up. A
few odd volumes here and there
are left in a more or less patch
upable condition but at present
I feel inclined to burn the whole
boiling.

I enclose a cutting from the
Englishman which gives a very
good idea of the Opening of
the Grand Chord - The whole
thing was the most enormous
success and went off without
a hitch from start to finish -
It might have been managed by
Jack! The Agent is fearfully

pleared and ~~there~~ are strong rumours that the longed for K is to be bestowed! It is reported that the Viceroy was at first greatly bored and said he was going to sit in his carriage all the time, but that Sir Andrew Fraser persuaded him to get out at the bottom of the hill section and get into the observation car which was a carriage truck fitted up with brass railings round it with his arms stuck about, an awning overhead, a carpet spread and comfortable armchairs arranged in it - This was pushed up in front of an engine so that he got a splendid view of the fine scenery, and by the end of the day, after a sumptuous

dinner in a lovely fairy
palace (the 3rd class waiting hall
at Gujandhi) he was quite
enthusiastic - He made the
worst speech I have ever heard,
including the Agent's.

We have given honey Paul
and her friend free ^{season} passes
over the E.I.R. and I have
written to the G.I.P. asking
them for "facilities" but have
not heard from them yet.

I am anxious to hear details
of the arrangements you have
come to about living in London
which you mentioned rather
mysteriously in your last
letter.

I must fly - Try to go
and see the creatures at
Hore sometimes and send
me reports

With fondest love

Ever your loving

Ralph

4691



Miss Strachey
by Lancaster Gate
London
England

13.12.06



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

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