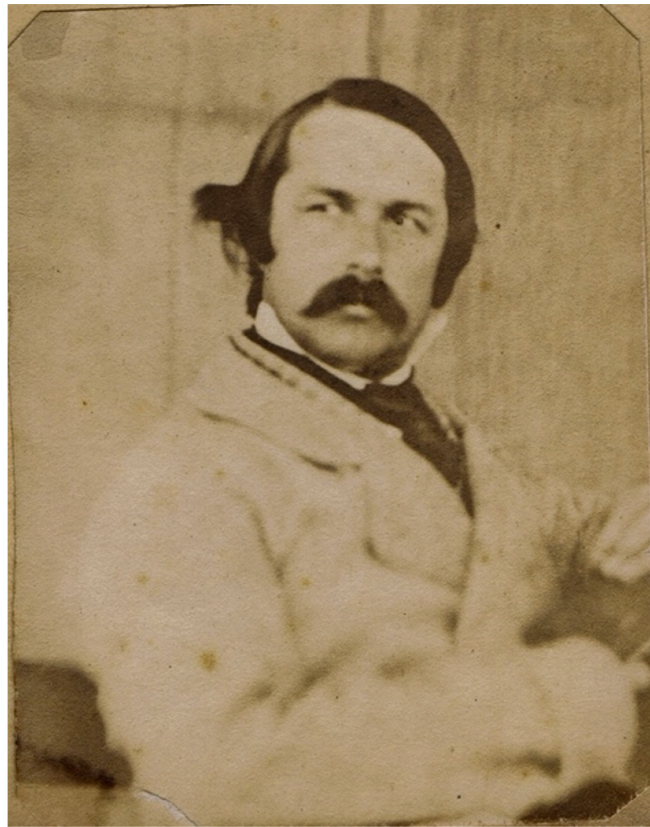


Letters to Mother, 1840-1850

From Juxon Henry Jones, Assistant Surgeon, in
India



Edited by Sarah Harrison

Letters from Juxon Henry Jones (1815-1875) to his mother, Harriet (1777-1867), while he was serving as an Assistant Surgeon in the Bengal Army in India until his first leave in 1850

At the time of leaving England, his mother, who was widowed in 1821 with seven dependent children, four sons and three daughters, ranging in age from 15 to 6, Juxon being the youngest, was living in Ottery St Mary, Devonshire, with her daughters - Sibella (1808-1874), Henrietta (1810-1865) and Irene (1814-1902).

Todd Thomas (known as Tom) (1806-1854) had married Susan Parker Montague in 1835, and was a cleric without a Living, running a small school in Hackney, London. Francis (known as Frank) (1809-1875) was also a cleric. Both he and Todd were graduates of Oriel College, Oxford. Frank had been presented by the College to the Vicarage of Moreton Pinkney, Northants, in 1837, a Living he held for the rest of his life, although he also had to supplement his income by teaching after his marriage.

Bertram (1812-1883) was admitted to Clare College, Cambridge, in 1830 but had apparently left without graduating. He matriculated again at Magdalen College, Oxford, in December 1840 although in 1841 he was teaching at a school in Henley. He was eventually ordained Deacon in Newfoundland in 1845.

Juxon (known to the family as Henry) was educated at Christ's Hospital, London. Trained as a surgeon at University College, London (Certificate for botany, 1836-7, and surgery 1838-9). Graduated Royal College of Surgeons 1st May 1839 and was appointed by the East India Company, Assistant-Surgeon to 7th Bengal Native Infantry, 1st December 1839.

As a preamble to Juxon's letters home, the following letter from his brother, Tom, to his mother, gives an insight into the period of preparation before leaving England.

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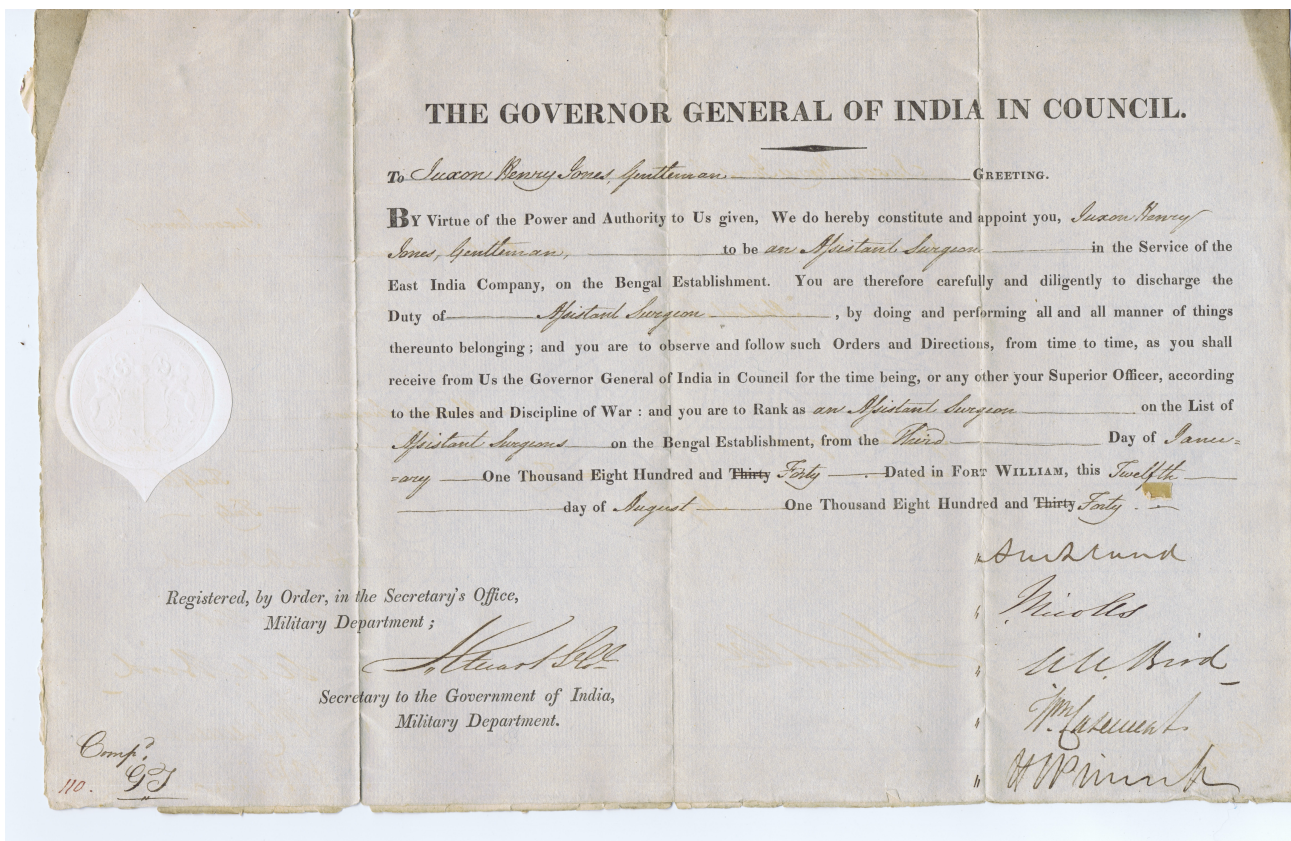
Homerton¹ 21. Oct: 1839 (continue to address at the School.)

My dear Mother,

You are too indulgent in the allowance you make for my long silence towards you: I have very little time it is true, but I ought to have found a portion of it to bestow on you. I have not had a word with you since Henry began to sojourn with us; an arrangement which gives me, & Susan too, the greatest satisfaction, and next to his being with you, (were that compatible with his necessary preparations for going abroad) is the best that could be made for all of us. I think he is comfortable here, at least he is very idle, and frequents not the Hospital and College [inserted: more than (Corrected by Henry's particular desire)] 15 Per Cent of his determinations. At all events we are very comfortable and enjoy his society very greatly. I condole with you and my dear Sisters most dismally on the disappointment in the fitting of the shirts; I know, seriously, that it must be very grievous; but I partly think you may comfort yourselves with ye reflexion that it is your own fault, as you could not imagine that Henry could be crammed into the very neat baby linen, of wh [sic] he showed me some specimens. We like our old fashioned house much; it is something like the Knightsbridge² one, only with more front and less room. We had pretty good weather for our move: and are settled in every thing but my books, which are still stowed away in cupboards and always unavailable to me. However under such disadvantages and without a room to myself I had to write the other day a sermon to preach

1v

in Hackney Church, which came off accordingly; but how, the preacher is the last to learn, & I have not yet learned. I have declined the curacy of Upper Clapton which was offered to me the other day; I think I was chiefly influenced by its being proposed as a temporary arrangement, Mr Heathcote³ finding himself obliged to get a curate who can regularly undertake the care of the parish. I thought it not worth my while to enter on so laborious an under taking if it were to lead to no permanent advantage; but I feel it a great relief to have some rest on ye Sunday and to have my half holiday, which must have been given up entirely in order to perform in a very hasty and laborious way the duty of visiting ye poor. I must have paid an assistant to look after my boarders and take them out for exercise meanwhile; which would have swallowed up most of my stipend, while it gave little satisfaction to ye parents of ye boys. I preached there one day lately assisting Mr Heathcote as a volunteer. I dined there the same week and met six other clergymen. Last week I dined with Mr A. Green, an agreeable & intelligent man, one of our Committee, who has two remarkably fine boys at the school. Give my best love to Henrietta & Irene, and thank Irene particularly for her kind letter. I must give up my letter to dear Susan who has kindly undertaken to fill it I did not intend to propose that the girls should make us a visit this Christmas, as you would be left alone just before Henry's departure & we have hardly accommodation for them with Frank & Henry. [rest missing]



Falmouth.
Sophia⁴ February 6th [1840.]

My dearest mother

I shall always I fear have to begin my letters with apologies for unfilial conduct with regard to writing. Tho' I have not written for a fortnight I did not intend leaving witht writing again. I have sad lack of matter for corresponding. I intended writing a few days ago, but we have had such tremendous weather that I could not compose myself for writing nor could any boat venture out to us for 3 days. We have not had ordinary storms but perfect hurricanes - and such is the opinion of

the oldest seamen. I have been on board for nearly a week. I stayed on shore as long as I thought expedient for my purse & now I shall remain here I think until we sail. We expected to have been off last night but the wind changed to West in 3 or 4 hours - today we have the same slight hope of starting, but the weather is exceedingly changeable. I have looked over my handkerchiefs and I don't see any that do not belong to me. I had two white china silk ones and I don't find George's⁵ name on either - they cost only 2/6 or 2/- each. I am very sorry that they are about to leave Ottery, though I shall be able to hear of them whenever you write. You ask how our female fellow passenger gets on - she appears to like our society very well & is very chatty. She sings like a nightingale and we expect to be favoured now and then with some songs - she has performed once to a select party. She paid me a most splendid compliment yesterday before all my fellow passengers. For the amusement of our friends I dressed myself in another mans coat - my cocked-hat - the Mates naval sword

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and a short clay in my mouth. I cut, as you imagine the most ludicrous figure. However it struck Mrs Hume⁶ that I cut a most martial figure and said she could not conceive such a noble change as was effected and that I should make a most dashing little officer - she omitted the 'little'. Though pleasant to make a fool of one's self for other's amusement - it had the most happy effect & produced immense laughter. You asked about young Denny's⁷ - he is writing home and sitting in the next chair to me, there's all the informatn I can give you of him. He is a most excellent goodhearted and gentlemanly, as nice a fellow as any on board. We are very great allies. His mother in a letter to him the other day desired to be remembd to me. She spoke of her great regard for our family, & lamented that distance keeps you from being acquainted. My chum Mr Blunt⁸ used to live next door to Holberton⁹ at Hampton at Lady Seaton's¹⁰. He is another of the best fellows on board. I would almost prefer having him in my cabin than having it to myself. We have had several rows - and one regular fisticuffs between Mr Blunt and a Mr Hinde¹¹, however it was almost instantly made up. We are all engaged in consultatn last night about the expediency of making an interchange of cabins between two separate parties, that were quarrelsome. It was happily effected - so that two other sources of disagreement were knocked on the head. I am very happy to see that there is a general spirit among our passengers which induces them all to take the best measures for settling every dispute. We are encouraged to hope that there will be no divisions or parties or rows of any continuance during the voyage. As I am writing the weather continues to promise a favourable change so that we

2

expect to sail today. Not I hope before I can find time to write 3 or 4 more letters. In these terrible bustling moments of departure it is almost impossible to write. The singing of the sailors at the capstan, the clatter & row of the cadets is eno' to deafen one. You will be glad to hear that I have rendered (by indefatigable industry) my cabin the most comfortable place imaginable. Our raised floor is covered by a fine piece of oil-cloth - I have put up two beautiful shelves & newly arranged all my boxes and table. If it was blessed with a port hole it would be nearly as comfortable as any in the ship. If my chum had been on board & engaged as I have been all day for the last week we should be all right. but he is almost the only one ashore and will come on board just as we sail & only add to the confusion which reigns in his part of the cabin. You must excuse me to my dear sisters for not writing, not only from the little opportunity of writing which I have, but also from my having nothing to say but what I have here written. I hope to have another letter from some of you - for tho' we may put out there is too great a chance of our return. There is one comfort that when we have fair wind it is likely to remain long eno' to carry us far from Falmouth. I was very sorry to hear of dear Netta's being so unwell. How happy I shall be when I can indite a letter from Calcutta & can set all your minds at ease as to my safety - from the danger of the sea at least. You need not

fear my forgetfulness of any of you. I derive unspeakable pleasure from knowing that I am in your thoughts & prayers. You will be perhaps surprised to hear me say that the gratitude arising from our preservation excites the best feelings - in more than one of us I hope - whereas the dangers that surrounded us produced no effect of the kind. I read with twice the pleasure, if I may so say, the psalm [psalm?] that you recommended me to read. I blushed to think that it should be another that advised me

2v

to express my gratitude in words of the Psalmist [sic - below 21] - it shewed my ignorance of them I am sorry to say if it shewed no more. Remember me & give my love to all my kind friends at Ottery and Exeter. I was glad to hear that you sent Bertram what he wanted - but am sorry to hear that he is still unsettled. I don't know his address and must therefore write direct to Tom I wrote to Tom a few days ago & expect an answer by the day's post

I had a few lines of good wishes from Miss Brooke¹². I would have acknowledged it long ago if I had known where to find her. Perhaps you will be writing & say how grateful I am for her kind wishes. That God may bless you my dear mother will be the constant prayer of your affecte son,
Juxon H. Jones

It is certain that we dont sail today so write by all means - by the post only of course.

[addressed: Mrs John Jones
 Ottery St. Mary
 Devonshire

stamped: FALMOUTH FE 6 1840]

1

Madras June 11th 1840
Cadet quarters Fort St George.

My dr M.

I have a glorious happiness of telling you of my safe arrival at Madras We came on shore yesterday mornng. Now I consider the greatest part of my troubles past - You must know we had not a single opportunity of sending letters by a homeward bound ship during the whole voyage. We first came up with a vessel just past into the Cape by which some of us sent letters to be conveyed by the 1st homeward bound ship touching there. I thought it would be of little use to send as we were about to weather the Cape which was the worst part of the voyage & it was not the best time for telling you of our safety - besides we expected that letters from Madras would reach just as soon as from the Cape . As I have written nothing during the voyage I must go back to the time we left Falmouth. I am afraid you were rather hurt at not receiving a parting line but the truth is that many of the cadets went away without writing. According to my custom I put off writing until the last day. I had gone aboard one afternoon intending to return ashore the next morning as there was no prospect of starting. When I was fast asleep in my cabin I was disturbed by the varying sound of bustle and business attending the departure of ship. The captain had sent off messengers to order all the passengers on board at an instant as a favourable wind had suddenly sprung up. I thought of jumping out of bed and getting a light and sending you a few words only to say we were off but I could not do it from all the row, jabbering & jam. This was my only consolation, that you would see in the papers that we had set sail on the 18th February at 4 o'clock in the morning. We have had

altogether the most unlucky voyage & to tell the truth I really thought that we should never reach our destination. We were so distressed by contrary winds and gales. On our third start we expected to return back for after the 1st day we had that infernal S.W. blowing again for 2 days. However we were soon cheered with favourable wind and beautiful weather and were daily interested

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in observing the sight of our approaching the "sweet south". This continued till we were near the Cape when we suffered severely and for a long time. You have of course heard of Cape weather but you can have no very clear concept of it without seeing it. The 1st time we had signs of the enormous seas that roll there, was on a perfectly calm morning, just as the trade winds had gradually faded away. On the moment I compared the vast waves & intermediate valleys to the hills and valleys between your house & Sidmouth. A comfortable idea that East hill was rolling down towards Ottery. When we got off Cape Town a most fearful gale sprung up from the N.E. - it was on Easter Sunday that it began. We were under close reefed topsails (N.B. always a certain indication of a gale) till the following Sunday. On the Friday we experienced a worse gale than is often seen . & our chief officer who has been in the companys service at sea for more than 15 years never saw such - for we never had a thread of sail up for 24 hours - the only sail that we had up before, having been blown to pieces it is a most rare occurrence for a vessel to go under bare poles as it is termed - except when masts were lost. Our course was exactly of this nature so that at the end of the week we were further off from our destination than at the beginning of it. We came in sight of Cape Town almost (land could be seen) whereas we ought to have gone 200 miles to the south of the Cape. From the Cape to Madras we have had no very good passage, it was an anxious question whether we should go thro' the channel between Madagascar and Africa to the Isle of Johanna¹³ to fetch water and fresh provisions, but from the uncertainty of the winds & the lengthening to a fearful degree our voyage all the passengers said they would be content with salt beef for a short time if we went the best and common course, which we accordingly did. The worst drawback to the enjoyment of the voyage was my villainous cabin - the cuddy¹⁴ being thronged with idle noisy cadets prevented my writing letters with which I thought of for passing some of the time. Tho' I scarcely regret it as one is to apt to punish ones readers with a great deal of trash. The post, which is a monthly one, goes off today

3

which makes me sorry I cannot write to the rest of my family and friends while at Madras, at least to go from here, I am not at all sorry now that we came by sea - all the gales and miseries & discomfiture are now forgotten and only the pleasurable recollections remain. We had everything most liberal style. We have had a very good table till the last fortnight - the best of wines every day - an unlimited supply - & champagne twice a week, besides particular convivial occasions - by which I mean plays. I never enjoyed Drury Lane or even the Opera so much as I did these performances of ours. Everything was got up in such a gay style - our noble union jack formed our drop scene - white canvas - the coverings - in fact the play house itself was made of canvas. Mrs Hume, who though a queer sort of a body, was at all times very kind, making female dresses and even lending her own dresses for the occasion. You wished to know how she would get on, while on board - she must have had a pleasant voyage on the whole - every attention was paid and she said she felt her [torn]most in her own family circle - often the evening amusemt was singing [for] we have several very good voices - my friend Dennys being really the best and Mrs H. would sing even solos great applause, she being really a beautiful singer - duets trios and serenades with guitars were very comn. Our amusemts on the whole were very few, in the hot weather we could [sic] nothing but lie on decks, it was scarcely possible even to read novels. The good order & friendly feelings amongst the passengers was a great happiness - there were no quarrels that did not blow over in a few hours. During the roughest gales, we were as happy almost as at other times - the passengers

being full of spirits and resolved to make the best of it - the various little accidents of tumbling about afforded great amusement - very often plates dishes bottles &c would be swept off the table - all the passengers and their chairs would follow them to the lee-side of the Cuddy. We'd often got rather good thumps. In the hot weather we had capital fun bathing at night, about 20 fellows in bathing plight hauling up buckets of water and throwing them at each other.

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We had no visit from Neptune on crossing the line - We had no objection to receiving a visit from him & our numbers were sufficient to enable us to have our own ways. - We had a good deal of amusement in the way of shooting. I was the only one that shot any albatrosses with ball - & I killed two - it was great fun for we often had 10 or 12 guns on the deck so that we fired in volleys at the poor birds & accordingly seldom hit them. In speaking of our plays, I did not tell you that I took the part of Mock Doctor¹⁵ in a farce of that name and I believe afforded them some amusements. The Rivals¹⁶ & High Life Below Stairs¹⁷ was also performed You must not expect a description of our delight at seeing the Madras lighthouse (at about 10 o'clock on Wednesday night. Then we saw the flag, & heard the evening gun, then the awful bug-bear the surf. In the morning hosts of the natives boats came off with a no. of naked yelling natives, howling devils. I came straight to the Fort and have got quarters here which are not at all good., our fare is rather good but nothing of the best - the fruit which is very abundant is second rate at our quarters - pine apples are as cheap & common as apples in England but one cannot delight in them too much - in fact I do not care much about them. Our rooms are very lofty and deliciously cool though this is the hottest time of the year. I do not find the heat at all oppressive - every habitation is as cool as a cucumber.

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It was an irregular post that started on thursday - & I was recommended to write by the regular one on Saturday next so that I shall have time to cross the whole of this sheet & write to Tom & others. Today (Wednesday 16th June) I have changed into the best room in the quarters, but nevertheless is something dismal - as the only furniture is a bad bedstead and much worse mattress. As I did not expect to find unfurnished rooms I bought no table or even bedding except one pair of sheets. It gets duller and duller daily as our old companions drop off every day being appointed to their regiments, - and all those that had letters of introduction have capital berths, horses etc at their friends houses - however there are 6 or 8 of our friends still with me. I am in the same room with Julius Dennys. Ships from London with cadets on board are daily arriving each of which sends 12 or 20 new fellows amongst us. I find that our passage was by far the most pleasant of all of them as far as the gaiety of the passengers was concerned. Some of them had no amusement at all. I forget whether I mentioned weekly newspapers - they afforded us a great deal of fun - there were 3 in all at war with one another, one of which not having as good a commander was fairly disabled & sunk after a long and glorious fight. Madras is a beautiful place tho I am glad to hear from everyone not so nice in many respects as Calcutta and the country round. We are surrounded by such a no. of rogues - cheats and thieves that you would fancy they were the elite of the Fleet prison¹⁹ and Old Bailey. I have had some insight into their ways and manage to go undisturbed. All the sellers of goods always ask about 10 times the proper price. I have been nearly all over Madras, all through the black Town where the natives live. It is a most curious place - One evening I walked through it with Dennys and you would have laughed to have seen us followed by a hundred people, all jabbering at us like so many sprites - none going before us but 3 or 4 walking in the same line with us ordering all the people out of the way, declaring, when we told them to be off, that they were our servants, with a cloud of skirmishers on our right & left. Dennys rather expected some assault, but I thought them very civil & obliging. We go about in Palanquins and gigs or cabs, called buggies which are of a vastly superior kind to London cabs. You know I suppose that all vehicles have a poor devil running at the horses head called a "sise", & the poor wretches can keep up a good pace as long as

the horses which are not easily tired here. I am afraid you will be scarcely able to read this criss-cross writing but I trust the acuteness of my dearest sisters bright eyes to assist, - a double letter would be a great increase of expense. I wish one of the dear creatures was here - the sight of a white girl is such a precious balm to my feelings that I would walk 20 miles to have the unhoped for pleasure of speaking but for ten minutes to one.

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The native girls are very ugly - tho' their forms are really beautiful, which is shown to the greatest advantage by the simplicity of their dress - I often sit in my room watching them on the ramparts 30 feet from my window. I speak of the lowest cast, for I have seen none of the Brahmin cast. Many of the men are very fine looking - they walk with such an air of ease & dignity that could not be surpassed by any noble. Their dresses are exactly what you see drawn in pictures of the Turks - Men of every degree wear turbans - the lowest casts have only a low shawl tied round the middle - the end thrown some over the shoulder - the highest classes wear Turkish trowsers & shoes - besides a sort of shirt or tunic. The better class of servants are very intelligent & understand & write English very well - my servant is a very fine fellow called Christie Sammy. Sammy is a very common name with them - it forms part of nearly all their names - Vary Sammy &c. Christie is my personal attendant and his understrappers I never see, for he only will attend upon my person which attendances I always dispense with as I like to wash and dress myself. Shaving oneself is quite out of the question. In Bengal one is obliged to have several servants, but the expense is scarcely greater. I have not been out of the house three days nor even been able to write for I caught a severe cold from imprudently leaving off my flannel - for what with musquitoe bites, & ants which are plentiful in every room (here at least), and prickly heat & what not, I was very uneasy. This account of an indisposition which confined me to my room will serve the sentimental part of my letter. Tho' I say I do not suffer from the heat, yet the heat of the sun is intense. I think the temperature 90° in the shade and the atmosphere makes one exceeding inactive. My cabin so well initiated me to the heat that I find I am never oppressed with it nor do I perspire more freely, than the generality - tho' I tremble at the thought of wearing a military stock & coats, belt and sword, for my poor friends seem nearly expiring under them. Our dress at present & while on board the ship was as easy as possible. I wear only trowsers & a very thin jacket & wear my neckerchief quite poetically. I was pleased to find that many of my shipmates were acquainted with many of my friends. A Mr Freeman²⁰ knows the Hadley²¹ people - he is a nephew of Mr Green's - Netta's partner - and his father now occupies the Trollope house.

A Mr Nicholas²² knows the Trollope slightly - Poor Anthony was his tutor while on the Continent - a Bath man knew the Severs²³ and Col. Baines. My chum Blunt has lived next to Holberton's

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at his Aunt's Lady Seaton & knew all the people at Hampton but in a higher sphere than mine, he is a nephew of Sir R. Blunt Bart²⁴ but he has died since he left Falmouth. Many of us have lost brothers & parents since we left home. I hope it will be long long ere I shall have such painful news - it is a thousand times more painful here, so far removed from our families. My friend Blunt was a very nice fellow & we got on most admirably together & we made our cabin in the cool weather as good as any in the ship. We used to have parties there & regular card parties - indeed our cabin was called Crockfords! I hear that we are very likely to be sent off to China²⁵ - on our arrival at Calcutta - great numbers of troops from Madras are gone there and others going - My Hampton friend Edlin²⁶ is gone to China & the news is that all the assistant surgeons are sent off there immediately upon their arrival. I don't like the idea in one respect & in another I do. The objection to going immediately is that I want rest - I want once more to taste a home. I dare say they will give us a few weeks respite before they send us to China - as there is no news of the campaign having begun. Professionally speaking! I should like to see campaign service; I should like to see China

tho' I suppose we should seldom see the Chinese. From what I hear it is likely to be a distressing war as the Chinese will retreat before, burn, & destroy every thing that can afford us shelter, & in such a desultory war provisions and even water will be very scarce, tanks will be poisoned I suppose, as is not infrequent in these parts of the world. If I go there, shall I not have gone about the world at a quick pace? But I ought perhaps delay mentioning the subject until I get to Bengal and learn for certain what will be my destination. I shall not at all dislike this roving life, except some of the hardships when they come - and as far as my safety is concerned I know all circumstances in life to be attended with almost equal danger & as long as I prefer another life I have nothing to fear, saving and excepting hearing of any accident or misfortune from England - or from Ottery. I feel compelled to put down the little I have said of my views of the dangers and difficulties that may attend me, that I may offer you all the consolation I can, and save your being too anxious and fearful for my welfare and happiness. I shall now begin [torn] letter to Tom, and some others of the family if possible - You must compare notes [torn] that you may hear more and I shall not copy this out for - Tom. We shall sail from Madras on Sunday next 20th for Calcutta from whence I shall write again of course.

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I am longing most anxiously for the letters you my dear Sisters promised me - I have found none here as I suppose you did not write to Madras. I must finish with an account of my personal condition. I have had excellent health all the voyage. I have not grown much! tho' we have had excellent growing weather, fine showers and hot suns, I am pretty well browned in the face and am rather rounder in the face than formerly, a certain sign that I am not yet a dried mummy. My liver is little altered I hope. Mulagatawny & Indian Curries are very good and not quite as combustible as reported in England. I suppose Indians eat more pepper in England to keep out the cold.

I have now only room for desiring my best love and affectionate remembrance to my dear Sisters, to the Patricks, the Bents²⁷. the Coleridges²⁸ &c.

Do not think that because I did not write during my voyage that I did not think of you all. Often - very often while lying quite alone when others had gone to bed, on a heavenly moonlight night have I thought of you all, & every object about you. The hour, the scene, & the prospects before me could alone produce feelings, which none can know but those who are similarly placed - & strange to say, tho I was just started in my career, my only hope seemed to be a safe return to the only land and people that I loved. God bless you my dear mother and may he bless all of us - My only anxiety now is about the news I shall receive from home -

Adieu adieu, Your most affecte. son Juxon H. Jones. 18th June 1840

[Address on letter that was sent:

Pr. the overland Mail

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: MADRAS 1840 June 1?

G 6 OC 1840]

1840 7th July Calcutta. South Barracks.
Fort William.

My dearest Mother

We arrived at Calcutta on the 30th June, since which time I have been waiting for letters from you all & I have not been willing to write till I received some - however, tho' the overland mail arrived on Friday last & none have been delivered (to me) yet, I trust when the letters are all sorted I shall find some for me. The mail starts this morning which prevents me saying more than that I am quite well, in very comfortable quarters, & very happy. We had a most rapid passage from Madras but had to wait more than 3 days for a pilot off the sand heads²⁹ - the passage thro' which and up the river being very dangerous. You will be glad to hear that we are none of us going to China tho' the Drs. would have been ordered off if we had arrived here a fortnight earlier. I shall stay either in the Fort or at the General Hospital in Calcutta, for about 2 or 3 months most likely however any letters will find me wherever I may be through my agents, Messrs Bagshaw & Co. Calcutta. I cannot afford to write many letters now even should I have time on account of the expense, as every letter I send costs me half a crown i.e. one rupee & I have marvellously little & our pay is worth nothing almost while we are staying in Calcutta - tho' we have no rent to pay. Our staying 6 weeks at Falmouth and a fortnight at Madras left me only 12£, to land with.

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I am woefully disappointed in not finding a single friend or acquaintance here - Mr Dampier³⁰ has started away on a sort of circuit for four months, tho' Mrs D. is here. I fortunately found out Mr and Mrs Edlin were* living at Dum Dum 6 miles off - I passed a very pleasant day with them - Jane is as thin as a ghost almost she had a boy 8 months ago³¹ - has been in excellent health while in India. I have delivered all the letters I was commissioned with to [] various agents & sent Sir J. Nicolls³² by a messenger. Colonel Hodgson³³ & Matilda I was told the other day are at Barrackpore 16 miles off, I shall go there on Wednesday. One of my old shipmates has asked me to dine with him which will be the first and perhaps the last time I shall dine out while at Calcutta unless Dampier returns while I am here - which I scarcely wish as I want to be posted to a regiment as soon as possible that I may have something to live upon. My name stands first of the newly arrived & as there is a great dearth of Drs. in India I may be posted within a month - Our ship the Sophia is going onto China with troops and is armed with 12 guns . our passengers presented Capt. McNair with a handsome piece of plate which he most highly deserved for his many good qualities as a Captn and gentlman³⁴. Give my best love to all the family & my best friends - it is most distressing not having had any news from you, but I trust today will bring me some. You must apologise for my not writing to Tom Frank Bertram & the dear girls - I know that

*they started yesterday on a journey 2 thousand miles up the country they have had these painful & laborious removes within 3 months.

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it will be much for you all to hear that I have at last arrived at my destination & am in good health and spirits - For a fortnight longer I shall have half a dozen of my old ship mates living in the same quarters with me - & when I begin my duties & study the language I shall not want for company or amusements. By the next mail I will venture upon some 3 or 4 good long letters, describing all the novelties which I meet with in this strange pt of the globe. God bless you my dearest mother,

Yr very affectte. son
Juxon H. Jones

It is now the beginning of the rainy season during which we are very much confined within doors - but [torn] weather is very comfortable & the mornings & ev[torn] are as cool as the summer evenings in England only much more delicious. Going out in the middle of the day is very oppressive & makes me sleep all day long nearly.

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Addressed:

By the over land Mail. July /20

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

Stamped:

CALCUTTA STEAM LETTERS 1840 July ?
EX 9 SP 1840

1

Dum Dum August 6th 1840

My dearest Mother

You will not exactly understand where I am and what I'm doing by the above address, so I begin by telling you that Dum Dum is the principal artillery station in Bengal, only 8 miles from Calcutta. I am not permanently posted to this place but only doing duty, as it is termed, for a time till I am sent up the country with some charge. Dum Dum is a very pleasant & pretty place - there are a great number of officers here, a great many married & they are without exception a most gentlemanly nice friendly set of fellows - our mess house & mess is the finest in India - it surpasses in magnificence most of the London club-houses - having in addition to the mess room a ball room, billiard room, fine library and model room for guns & all such warlike instrumts. I am living with 2 assistant surgeons (one a fellow passenger) in a house close to the hospital, rent free, & strange to say in the very one where Mr and Mrs Edlin (Jane Holberton that was) were living when I came out here to see them. We are very comfortable indeed - my duty is the most pleasant imaginable. I forgot to tell you that I am in the Horse Artillery! - where the pay is much better than in any other regiment. I have only to see the patients twice a day and have none of the dirty work. I have only to prescribe. And as there are not 200 men at this station of the Horse Artillery I have very few patients at a time. I have not one hour & ½'s duty a day scarcely. I have never met with a better set of fellows than the officers - We are all on the most friendly, sociable terms. We breakfast and tiff. (Lunch i.e.) at each other's houses & all dine at the mess at half past seven. We have a splendid band which plays every day in front of the mess house, & on Friday (always a public day for visitors & the chief officers' coming) for three hours nearly in the Library - the master of our band is the best in India - after dinner we always retire into the Billiard room to play & smoke & drink our coffee & this is a perfect compensation for the rest of the day - For owing to the heat & the rains we cannot move about in the day time unless upon visits, & we the Drs are particularly restricted in that way as we have neither horse nor carriage, without which one cannot exist in India - walking is nearly death

to one unless at a very early hour of the morning. We jog about in the most shabby disgraceful style in a miserable vehicle called a dum-dummy, to the amusement of our gay friends, particularly on the course as I call it - I mean the place upon which all the officers and their wives turn out for a drive in the evening to hear the band. The course at Calcutta is the fashionable drive & surpasses, at least in gaiety if not in splendour, our Hyde Park and Rotten Row. Our course at Dum Dum has its gaiety - the young officers careering on horse-back, some in buggy's (gent's cabs) & others in open carriages - after a little driving they meet at the mess house. ladies have their children sent there & they themselves the pretty dears, always go out with any bonnet or head gear of any kind. This scene always is most pleasing, & makes it seem like old England. One great evil we complain of is the total want of female society - as far as spinsters are concerned - tho' in fact I should have said that this station is particularly favoured as there are at least 12 married couples here. An unexpected visit of any young ladies to the Station is as anxiously looked forward to and canvassed in every way, as Napoleon's invasion of England. There are 3 ladies coming here in the cold weather, & I fully expect that they will be married or engaged before they have been here 2 days. I poor devil, must wait for years to set my circumstances all square - before I can think of marrying. If I was often at Coll. Hodgson's house I think I should be making up to someone there, however desperate might be my hopes. Matilda H. is not engaged in any way whatsoever, & as far as I can learn not likely to be married here. She is certainly a sweet, beautiful girl & it strikes every body as being very strange that she has not married, but the fact is that people marry only very young girls in this part of the world, & 20 years is considered quite antiquated. I told you that in the horse artillery I should have very good pay - but the fact is that until I am permanently posted it will be nothing considerable - & the Honble Co. have such a happy knack of rescinding all our bills that I scarcely know when I shall have any money of my own. You might guess that my living at Falmouth 6 weeks, Madras 2 weeks, in Fort William 2 weeks reduced my finances to a very low ebb - & at present the 1st months pay that is due to me will scarcely pay my bills.

2

This month I expect to receive only 20£ for the deductions for Funds are very considerable - nearly 7£ the 1st month. & for the first fortnight I was here in the Fort I only received pay at the rate of 14£ pr. month. As yet I have never received a halfpenny of pay, and I greatly marvel at my economy and that I have been able to go on till now when I had only 12£ when I landed at Calcutta. The next month I expect to receive 30£ which will easily enable me, if I have no travelling (which is exceedingly expensive) to save quite 10£ per month as long as it lasts. I am quite uncertain about the time I shall stay, here, but I hope to stay here till the end of the cold season. There is every prospect of a war in Napaul³⁵, & numbers of troops are ordered up there, & as we have 5 surgeons here where only 2 or 3 are wanted, we may reasonably expect that some of us will be sent up to Napaul - but all is uncertainty, till we actually receive orders. You can scarcely enter into my feelings when I say that I should like exceedingly to go there - It will be a tough fight for the Napaulese have always proved our most terrible and stoutest foes, they are like the inhabitants of all [torn: moun]tanous countries. You used to assert that living was very expensiv[torn] India - you have no idea how cheap it is - & many other [torn] such as clothes (not military) and washing &c. but furniture & hou[torn] chattles are atrociously expensive - they charged me 12£ for a camp [torn]ble bedstead chairs drawers & a few plates & cups & saucers & the commonst lamp. A friend of mine at the University (London) told me that tho' he kept 2 horses and a buggy, he could not spend all his pay by 10£ pr month. this gave me gt hopes, in fact I find that I have no expense beyond my living & servants - clothes I shall not want for some time I hope, & my servants cost only about 26£ a year & of course I supply nothing but their monthly pay. To return to other matters, I should describe to you the novelty of my feelings in this military life - it seems so strange to me to be mixing in circles of gay, splendidly dressed officers, with our band & splendid mess

house, a thing which used to appear to me too grand for a little doctor ever to aspire to. The Brigadier invited us to a fine dinner where we met nearly 20 officers, it looked very gay indeed, for the dress of the Artillery surpasses in splendour anything in the English Army In fact my dress which I thought is handsome, looks like livery in comparison.

2v

I went to a select dinner party last night & am going to dine out again to day. I can't say much for the amusement of these parties as there is nothing but chit-chat - no music or anything else that is entertaining. In the winter everything is totally changed according to all accts - parties are invited out from Calcutta - balls are given at the Mess. The Drs are obliged to attend the practice [] Cannon in the field, so that I shall derive much pleasure in witnessing the manoeuvring of a splendid body of Artillery - horse and foot. they practise 3 times a week in winter. I shall be able to get a horse I hope before that time, when I shall join in a little racing and coursing amongst ourselves - I forget that I must be mounted in the field when I have to turn out with the Soldiers. I am ashamed to say that I have

not prepared any letters for anyone, I always unfortunately leave writing to the last day - but I have the most cogent reason at the present for not writing too many letters - it is that I have to pay more than I have at present got for them. I shall have to pay 2/0 for every letter I send - I want to send at least a dozen letters but at present I scarcely own as many pence. I am afraid I write the most unsatisfactory letters - all about the most trifling subjects as if I was in daily correspondence with you, but as long as I can write that I am well & happy & not in debt or difficulties you will be glad to hear as much from me. I will now send to find how much more time can be allowed before the post is closed. We have been as yet so much occupied with friends, visitors, dining out, & that, together with the unavoidable inactivity resulting from the climate, I have not found time for writing - You know that I have hitherto trusted to yr telling my family how I am getting on

I shall have 2 more days for writing so I will write to Tom & Frank & the girls if possible - In the meantime I shall send this with my best & affectionate love to you all - thank dear Aunt Jim³⁶ for her letter by the bye I must say something more about Mrs H Rabans³⁷ offer of introductn to Dr Brown. God. bless you all, you scarcely imagine that I am looking forward already to my return to England on furlow - 7 years distant!

[torn] very affecte. son. Juxon H Jones.
Write to me - Horse Artillery,
Dum Dum.
Bengal.

[addressed:

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

6th Augst.
Via Falmouth

stamped: CALCUTTA G.P.O. SHIP LETTER 10 AG 10 1840]

Dum Dum October 4th 1840

My dear Mother

I cannot tell how it is that I have not had a letter from home for 2 months & the consequence will be that I shall not have one for 3 months. I must go into Calcutta & enquire if there are any letters which have been mislaid or sent in a wrong direction. I believe that even by this time I could not have recd. any letter in answer to my first to you. You must'nt be surprised at my not having written to you by the last overland as I always wait for the letters recd. from England before I write, & the mail goes out a few days after the arrival - The consequence of my waiting was that I was too late for the first altogether, from having hoped (to receive letters) too long. I am still at Dum Dum & living in the same house & going on much in the same way, tho' we are now much more quiet and retired for owing to having no vehicle of any kind we cannot go out & from finding that belonging to the mess was much too expensive for us we determined to cut it. For the 1st fortnight only did we attend the mess for we found our bill for dinner for that fortnight 5£! I could not tell you when I last wrote what the amount of my pay was, it is 36£ 10 a month. In fact I have by far the best appointmt of any of the new arrivals - but you know it is only temporary - & for the 1st 4 months 6£ are deducted for subscriptions for funds, and 2 or 3£ every month afterwds. I have had only 2 mos pay as yet as they always leave us in arrears of pay. I shall next pay day start all fair witht owing a soul a pis (half a farthing). The only draw back to our perfect enjoyment is the want of horse & buggy. A horse I shall buy in a few days if I can get one for 10£ horses here are immensely expensive - I might truly say 3 or 4 times as much as in England - I was told that it was just the contrary -300£ is not at all an uncomn price for a horse. I have already been dealing in horse flesh - we formed a join [sic] stock compy and bought a horse & buggy - when we had enjoyed it about a fortnight, the beast ran away with me, as it had often done with others,

1v

& turning into his old masters grounds, went full swing against the gate post & dashed the buggy all to pieces - the ruins were sold for 5£!! I lost however only 7£ by the deed - the horse also was sold at a bad bargain. I went several yards out of the machine & I believe several times head over heels, fortunately witht the least harm except an awful spattering of mud about me - for the rain had then been coming down in torrents for 48 hours (in a manner you have no idea of) My friends Crozier³⁸ & Butler³⁹, notwithstanding their heavy loss nearly died with laughter at my appearance. I afterwds bought a horse, a real beauty, & a great bargain for 40£ "upon tick" which I could easily have paid in 2 or 3 months, but not liking the feeling of being in debt even to a friend & afraid of utter ruin in case of the horse meeting with any accident I sold him again after 3 weeks for the same money - besides I had no saddle or bridle of my own, for which things they charge double & more in this country - 8£10 - for a saddle & 3£ for a bridle! A short time ago we left our present quarters for a very pretty house (bungalow) with a pretty flower & fruit garden - & most beautiful tank & good stable - but after a few days we were all sick i.e. laid up. Our friends then told us it was a very unhealthy spot, for the garden they called an unhealthy jungle & astonished us by showing us a great extent of rice-ground surround the garden, which was pretty large -We suddenly vacated the place and as suddenly recovered our health - so we are reinstated in our old quarters, not a thousandth pt. as comfortable as the Bungalow. I think I shall in the course of a few weeks be sent up the country - as soon as the cold season begins troops will begin to march up the Country for war will certainly begin this winter -There are constant rows & skirmishes up in Cabul - tho' they say that the Napausese have now come to terms with us. We have no account of the China expedition of any consequence or interest.

I think I told you of my having met Fred Lardner⁴⁰ - Young Dennys took me to his house - he was a great invalid when I first saw him - his physican told him to take a sea voyage some where or other, but poor fellow his finances were insufficient for you know he resigned the service on purpose to avoid a Court Martial, for some hasty and insulting language to his Colonel. When Dennys went up to Dinapore a 6 weeks trip, Lardner agreed to accompany him, thinking he might derive some benefit from the trip - but at Dinapore his illness increased - he came back to Calcutta 12 days ago - a few days after his return Mrs L. wrote to me asking me to come down and see him immedtly. When I came I saw that he was sinking fast - he had been delirious for a whole day before & only on my first arrival did he know me. I staid with him nearly the whole day during which he was hourly getting worse. he died the next morning at 10 A. M. A letter was sent off to me very early but I could get no conveyance till 6 p.m. & when I arrived he had been buried some hours. His poor wife who was very much attached to him was in a dreadful state from the constant watching & from her heavy loss - on the 26th of Sept. he died. He & [torn] were living together in her fathers house. Poor Fred had been [torn] indiscreet man & then took to drinking a great deal - of which he died. Mrs L⁴¹. who is a sweet little woman (not entirely of European parents) gave me as a memento of poor Fred a ring that he usually wore. I saw Richard L.⁴² his cousin who remembers us in Exeter very well he desired his kind regards. he is an Indigo planter. I reckoned poor L. as my only friend in Calcutta, at least who was always glad to see me. I called upon the Hodgsons some time ago for the third time only - I am. sorry that I don't see more of them, for I am desperately in love with someone there - but my hopes are equally desperate - for the Colonel tho' very kind, is not pressing in his invitations - in fact I have dined there but once. With the ladies I am very much pleased - they induced me the other day to promise that I would go with them to Governmt. House & most kindly promised me their hands in a dance - Alas! not a marriage. I am particularly shy of appearing in full uniform & shall never be induced to go to Governt. H. or to Sir J. Nicolls⁴³ - & I made as an excuse for not going that I knew nobody - & they promised me as many introductions as I wanted. However I nerved up my courage and promised to go - but when the day came I could get no conveyance for love nor money -

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But I know that if I had got a carriage I should have returned before the ball began. I was ½ determined not to go for when I said that I intended to go to the ball, to some of the officers, they said they would go there to see me. I have behaved very weakly in regard to Lady Nicolls' letters &c. I first of all gave them to another person to deliver and tho' I heard from my friends & the Hodgsons that Lady N had often asked why I did not pay her a visit, I have never called there. When I promised to Misses N that I would call I thought it was too late as I had been here 2 months. It is strange that I feel such an extreme dislike to go to these places, but certain it is that I shall never be able to over come it. It arises I suppose from a morbid sensibility about my personal dimensions! You must tell me if you have written any letters that have not reached me. After

this you had better direct to me at Dum Dum - & wherever I go next month I shall leave my address at the Generl. Post Off. I must now write a few lines to Netta & Irene - I have have just written to Holberton - as I have a few days before me I will write to Fanny Bent - tho' I have no doubt that you tell her all the particulars of my letters - In fact my letters to all my friends give much the same accounts of my proceedings. Remember me to all my friends not forgetting by any means the Pattricks - You must my dear mother keep a monthly correspondence - letters are here worth their weight in gold - I am the only one in the Cantonment that receives no letter by every mail - God bless you my very dear mother Yr very affectte, son. Juxon H Jones

[Addressed:

Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

Stamped: CALCUTTA G.P.O. SHIP LETTER ? OC 1840
EXETER DE 12 1840]

1

Yr last letter was dated early in August. November 14th 1840 - Chinsurah⁴⁴
30 miles from Calcutta on the banks of the Hoogly

My dearest Mother

About a fortnight ago I had a delicious feast upon your 2 last double letters and one from Hy Square⁴⁵ after a dead silence of 2 months & a half - Some mischance must have caused your letters of diff't. months arriving on the same day & at so late a period. Some unexplained mishap must have also caused delay in my letters home, for I was surprised at your complaining of my neglect in not writing, whereas I wrote to you a day or two after our landing at Madras, wh. was on 10th June, & with one exception I have written by every overland since - disturbances in Egypt & other places must acct. for the delay of some & the loss of others - I prepared a letter for you a day or two after receiving your last but as my destiny has been so much altered since, I tore it up and have begun another one, & for the last week I have been so much occupied that I have at length but little time for writing to any one else, tho' I sent a letter to Miss Baratty⁴⁶ a few days ago. I have told you often of my being at Dum Dum & all about the place & people of the extraordinary good pay I had there &c. On 30 of Octbr. I was ordered to Chinsurah for the charge of the Queen's recruits here - & this is even bettering my last appointmt. for I am now in Medl. charge & the Senior Asst. Surgeon here, so that I have extra allowances accordg. to no. of men & there is another Asst. Surgeon with me. Where can you fancy I am going? - only to Meerut! about a hundred days' march & 1500 miles up the Country. We march about the end of the month, there are upwards of 500 men going which together with my pay brings me in nearly 60£ a month!! for a little more than 3 months, which is the time allowed for going to Meerut. The expenses of marching are very heavy, for you are obliged to double the no. of your servants besides having 3 or 4 bullock carts - & then your tent costs you 15 to 30£. a horse I must get - & there are many other things running away with one's money at first - but how fortunate I am to get double (exactly) the ordinary allowance for such a youngster in the service. Tho' I have not a friend or acquaintance here of any influence I have been thus far a very great deal the most lucky fellow who has come out this year. With the increase of pay I have of course a vast increase of duty & responsibility, as I have to superintend and provide everything for the sick during a very long march - & am held responsible for all defects & deficiencies - however I am delighted at the prospect of having some

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spirit stirring duties, instead of going on in the sleepy way I did at Dum Dum; and having a great & importt. duty to discharge. I shall at an early period be stimulated to activity of every kind, & soon

become fitted or prepared for all the various situations in which I may be placed in this eventful life of mine (if I live). A regiment 900 strong encamped near this place a few days ago & I went over there & passed a day & night there. I found 2 old friends among the officers & passed a very pleasant evening in company with many of them. The sight was a very novel one indeed - the whole country seemed covered with the baggage in bullock-carts (huckeries) & Elephants &c. the camp itself looked very pretty - the snow white tents &c cheerful & pleasant & spreading over a great extent of ground - all the officers' tents were pitched in a nice cool shady sort of wood, like an orchard - all was bustle & life - the officers messed together in a large princely tent - their band played in the Evening, while visitors - ladies and civilians in their carriages came out from the neighbourhood to see and hear. One dreadful drawback to their happiness was the breaking of the Cholera; 4 persons had died in two days' march, but it had almost ceased when I was there. I slept upon the ground, having sent over my mattress & blankets; but the next morning I was left to shift for myself as my servants had not come & the palanquin was gone. I thought at first of deserting my bedding and walking home without it, but when all the soldiers had marched off, I bundled up my things, put them on my head & marched away for more than a quarter of a mile, threading my way among elephants, huckeries, palkis & all the lowest of camp followers - not a white face amongst them. At last I got out of the line of march, threw down my bed & waited till some one could be found to carry it for me. That was rather a novel scene to me - & you would have thought so had you seen me. It was not quite 3 o'clock in the morning, but quite light from a full moon shining. Chinsurah is a very pretty place indeed - it is a station for Queen's troops only - I am living in the Officers' quarter & though the whole place is filled with officers I know but 1 or two. I most foolishly omitted calling on them on my first arrival (which is the universal custom) & now I think it is too late - but as I shall be here only a few days I don't mind it, besides we are all here birds of passage - every one shortly going up the country, so that they have not even established a mess & there is not a room scarcely decently furnished - except with camp furniture & you know that is neither extensive or elegant. For the last few days I have been on a trip to Calcutta and Barrackpore - the weather being beautifully mild, & bright as the sun - & having cushions, books, cigars & beer I enjoyed myself immensely - it is a 12 hours trip to Calcutta (of course by water) & I spent two pleasant days in Calcutta - I was engaged in the state's business of course, making enquiries about the necessities for the march.

2

I may as well while I remember tell you to direct my letters always according to the date of my last letter - though not to Chinsurah as I am here for so short a time - for when I change my station, I leave my address at the post office according to whatever place I am going. You can scarcely fancy what a treat it is to have letters from home in this land where I have no relations or old friends - your letters are a sort of furlough to me - I almost feel myself at Ottery while reading them - & I offer myself such a lively picture of your happiness during the short meeting of all our family - oh may we have another such without a single one being absent - though that is a great thing to hope. Thought [sic] I sigh so much for home it is not with any painful feeling, for when I hear that all is well at home I am quite contented - my own prospects here being so good as to relieve me as also my family, of any anxiety about myself in worldly matters - and that is a great thing in our poverty-stricken family. I won't I fancy say too much about my money affairs, but it is not so much fancying them all important as because I have little to write about else. To continue the subject however I tell you for your consolation that I am at present quite square with the world - in the East at least, as I have cash in hand and owe no one a single rupee - & of my allowances and immediate prospects I hope to [earn] by some few pounds - I must tell you that during the 1st year in India very little can be laid by, except in the form of debts - the riches that most are blessed with at the end of the 1st year - particularly such as arrive in India as I did, with exactly 1/6d in their pockets - you know that I sold my gun for 12£ to enable me to carry on the war for a month. With regard to Mr Stowey's⁴⁷ debt I am almost sure that I can pay it off in 2 years and the interest is a matter of little importance as 100£

will here pay the interest of 300 in England - 8 pr. cent is what is given here. Out of the pay I shall receive in a few days I think I can lay by 50£ - that will leave me more than a pound a day for my expenses, which is a liberal allowance. To conclude this true & particlr acct. of myself I must tell you that I have enjoyed, I think better health here than I did in England - I have had only 2 days indispositn [] was from living in an unhealthy situated house for a week. I have not seen Mr Dampier yet - he is not returned to Calcutta from his professional circuit. Coll. Hodgson I have left in disgust, not having taken leave on my coming here - his want of cordiality in not inviting me to his house (for I have dined there but once) disgusted me - I wonder whether he fears the impudence of an Asst Surgeon would go so far as to ask the hand of his step-daughter - If I had had any encouragement to go to his house I should certainly have done what was in my power to secure the hand and heart too of one of the fair inmates of his house. I never cease to think of her, and to

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amuse myself with calculating the possibilities of my success! Was there ever such conceit, in one so very little? They return in January - Alas! Alas! she may after all die a maid, witht knowing that there is a heart ready (if tw'ere necessary) to shed its dearest blood, to obtain her slightest smile. I have been feeding upon sighs for so long a time that I am sure I shall do something desperate one of these days & marry some half-caste who may be had for the asking - too commn. a thing in this country where they are not admitted into all societies, & generly I should think causing some severe remorse on the husband's side. Do you think the idol of my soul - H - would come out here for my sake? But 'tis time to have done with this (to you only) nonsense.

I must add that I have Expd much pleasure from visiting the young ladies, and could never tear myself away from a morning visit under 3 & some 4 hours! & the last time I was there the Coll. seemed rather displeased - he might have mercifully granted a few moments sweet converse to such an unhappy expatriated de...l as me - I have found the kindest, most warm hearted friend in Mrs Fredk Lardner the only friend I had in Calcutta, for she has now left it for 2 months and is staying with Richd L. at some place very near this. I will try & find her out & ask her over here. Did you know a Mr Wallace (Revd) at Sidmouth - he and his wife spent a day with us at Dum Dum - he knew everyone I mentioned in Devon nearly & said he remembered Frank when tutoring the young Levines. Give my very best love to all my dear sisters & Aunt & my brothers and best friends when you write & dont forget the Patricks - Nettas bright eyes will read this small work for you - thank dear Tom for his letter & also Bertram & tell them & all witht exceptn to write write write - if you get thin paper 2 sheets may be sent without double postage - God bless you all - ever my dear Mother Yr affect. son Juxon H. Jones.

[addressed:

Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: CALCUTTA G.P.O. SHIP LETTER 15 NO 15 1840
HOOGLY

1. B 12 A 12 1841]

Camp, Sasseram⁴⁸

6 days march from Benares.

January 8th 1841

Recd your's of Octb 31st today

My dear Mother,

after a long silence I had the (x) inexpressible (really so) pleasure of receiving & reading a capital long letter from you - and a nice little bit from Netta - 1 from Aunt & George - and also 1 from Henry Square. It was such a prize, for I had entirely despaired of receiving any letters for nearly 4 months, while upon this march. There is a precious line or two of Henrietta's that I have read till I could no longer see, from what emotions I cannot say. 'Tis strange but true, that notwithstanding my being engaged in the multitudinous occupations of a march, thro' such a wild country, I always find a quiet moment in which I am considerably softened by recollections of home - & sigh for the dear objects left behind - & one above all. but enough - you cannot sympathise with me I fear. I must get over all the business part of my letter 1st & then I'll tell you what I am doing. Foremost - understand my dearest mother that I write to you always by every monthly post - Whatever dates my letters may bear, they always go from Calcutta - about ye 14 or 16th of every month - & up the country it is almost the same thing - as the letters need be written only a day or two earlier than I am in the habit of doing - i.e. about the 7 or 8th of each month - tho' I should explain that I often anticipate the date and put the 15th tho' I wrote on 6th. Your letter recd to-day is dated the 31st October - the 1st I have had, mentioning the recpt of any of mine - 7 months after my 1st letter. I recd at Chinsurah 2 letters from you bearing the dates of July and Augst & one from Bertram Aunt, & H Square [torn] I cannot speak certainly about former letters as I cannot get at my letters - but I fancy I cannot have missed more than one. I am so fully impressed with the circumstance, if I chance not to have a letter about the proper time, that I am more likely to forget whether I have dined to-day or not. I am sorry I made no enquiry at Bradshaws⁴⁹; I mislaid the letter & was unable to speak without it with any precision as to the parties concerned - however I will write about it one of these days - If there should be any small sum I should not much care about it, as I am now a rich man. I told you when I was at Chinsurah the fine pay I was to receive for 4 months while I am in charge of these troops. Perhaps it won't be so much as I 1st mentioned - not possibly above 50£ a month. I am glad to find that tho' the 1st expenses of the march are very great, in the end it is scarcely

1v

one third more than in Cantonments. The preparations & carriage cost me about 80£ but 52£ of it are allowed for the exigences of the march. We began our march from Chinsurah on the 27th November - i.e. the troops did - but I was unwilling to proceed on acct of the Hospital establishmt not being complete - wanting in an apothecary & Steward. The commander was very impatient of delay & would go on; & I was very obstinate in refusing to follow - however when he was about 6 days march ahead of me he decoyed me out of my intrenchmts in most masterly style - he told me if I came on he would send back tents, elephants & provisions, about half way sufficient for 3 days & then I might come on to him - I started one fine morning at 3 oclock & after 12 miles march we halted at 8 oclock - We ate our store of provisions that we took with us & rested till 4 p.m. & proceeded on another - 12 miles; but there were no provisions, no servants or cooks - only one solitary tent & about 12 very hard dry loaves. Accordingly my troops were near unto famishing, & all would no doubt have perished but for my timely assistance. I gave them beautiful tea, biscuit & a bottle of brandy. We slept well that night & started at 3 oclock next morning - & what was our horror and dismay at finding no better preparations than before - We could not possibly stay there one day. I a 2nd time supplied the greater pt of their provisions and we marched again at 4 p.m. The

next day with 2 more marches we came up with the troops & halted 2 days - & I was awfully fatigued - for we marched with the hot sun upon us for 3 hours each day - & I was, as every General should be, foremost in setting a fine example to my men. I walked and rode on horse back, while my lazy fellows were carried nearly all the way in Dhoolies - a sort of curtained palankeen on purpose for the sick. By the bye I should have mentioned the no. as well as the style of appointment of my troops - I had 13 men & a train of 20 Dhoolies - 6 of the men were sick & 7 of them, being rather well, were carried in triumph to proclaim my victories, for you understand they (ye victories) were seven - I considered it a fine performance altogether, except that I felt very much like a horse that is decoyed into his halter by the fine shaking of a sieve of oats. When we got to a fine place about 90 miles from Chinsurah - I obstinately refused to proceed further with the Apothecary - because I had to do all the duties in the Hospital - dispense medns. - keep accounts - reports, journals etc - & it was too much for me - & in order to keep the Major from going on too far - I kept 4 Tents 2 Elephants, Cooks - servants - 23 sick men & all the Hospital stores. the consequence was that tho' I stayed at the same place 7 days, I had only 3 marches to make to get up to him - Can you fancy little Bobby - heading a fine troop of "Ferocious"

2

(that's their epithet) Dhoolies, in their march across the desert wastes of Hindustan - I had unpleasant anticipations at such a commencement; but when we began to proceed in order every day I liked it rather than otherwise - The roads and country improved as we got up the hills - and the interest in visiting the native villages increased - The Officers are 13 in number & a very jolly larking set - the 2 Seniors being very superior sort of men & I am on the best of terms with them. The Comdg Officer Major Skinner⁵⁰ had travelled thro' all the Eastern world - is a scholar & an author & a most instructive and entertaining man. He very frequently favours me with an hours conversation - He is so well acquainted with everything about India, that there is not an object we pass but what he says something about it - gives the histories of the various great personages who have figured in the countries we pass thro' - & who had been buried near any of our encamping grounds. I am tomorrow going to visit 2 of the most celebrated Tombs in this part of the country at Sasseram⁵¹ - They are the 1st things that I have seen giving any idea of the magnificence & splendour of Eastern princes. One I saw to-day, which we took to be palace - This tomb & monument is placed in the middle of a large tank & contains 2 series of Apartmts all round the building & with an open space in the centre, where the 'spirited proprietor' was buried, the 1st of the family. In the morning we start at from ½ past 2 to ½ past 4 according to the length of the march it is bitterly cold - we all wear lots of flannel - pea jackets & cloaks - worsted stockings & still can't keep ourselves warm. It is prognosticated that I shall be found one of the dark mornings at the bottom of one of the deep gulleys - which are very deep & precipitous & som[etime]s. 4 or 5 occur in one mornings march - for I have twice had a narrow escape - from not perceiving the turn of the road which is always quite sudden & narrow - one day I went tearing full gallop & pulled up at the very brink of one, & another morning I was quietly walking down one that was perpendicular & only stopped at the loud exclamations of my companions - We constantly have races on the road & all sorts of rows. The horses fight like fun & the silly youngsters rejoice in it - 2 days ago I got a very tolerable kick from one brute - & my leg was saved from a fracture only by my cloak. No 2 of these country horses can look at one another witht instantly fighting - I exclaim against it most roundly every day - one fellow was thrown violently twice in one march. I always go ahead - to escape the dust & also to be able to warm myself & horse by an occasional gallop. Yesterday we passed the Soane⁵² and it was a most amusing spirit stirring scene. The bed of the river is much more than 2 miles across - but at this time of year not one half of it is water - there are six shallow broad channels & one of them very deep. It was glorious fun getting the horses into the boats. the soldiers do things in such

2v

spirited style as is highly amusing - they pressed in such a body upon some of the restive horses as carried them nobody knows how into the bodies. Some men carried their comrades thro' five streams, and after a great deal of struggling, on the part of the rider to keep his seat on his comrades back, would set him down in the 6th stream to the immense amusement of the rest. Several men were brought up before the Major for drunkenness & on being asked where they got drunk the men said they had understood that they were to march 20 miles through the water next morning! & had accordingly saved up their daily allowance of grog.

January 16th 1841

Benares.

Understanding that by sending letters from Benares we should be in good time for the post I had put off writing till we came here. I have had so much to do with papers & official visits & dining out that I have passed nearly 2 days here without having continued my letter. We have come from Sasseram by very long marches, averaging 15 miles a day - which is a very long walk before breakfast & we get in so late that we are very much exposed to the sun. & consequently I have to-day been laid up with a very bad head-ache; one good has resulted from it that it was an excuse for not going to a dinner party - We are here in the midst of a military world - barracks & parades in all directions & three regiments, (or their equivalents in Detachmts) in tents. I have not yet been into the Royal City of Benares - I shall ride there tomorrow - we are 3 ½ miles from it unfortunately. We are now in a much more civilised country - hitherto we have been chiefly in a wild, totally uncultivated Country - but with every blessing comes a curse - for now we every night expect to be robbed in every way - they steal every thing & even poison horses for the sake of their skins - I have already lost things to the amount of 20£ - in this country i.e. I had about 10 or 11£ worth of Linen stolen 2 nights ago. The natives are such precious "prigs" & the watchmen of no earthly use, so that there is no remedy for it. The servants in the camp rob most perhaps of any. We have hitherto been very fortunate in the health of our troops - not having lost a man (except one drowned in bathing). A small detachmt that encamped close to us yesterday has lost 12 men in coming thus far. I am not going to Kurnaul I am happy to say - but to Meerut, which is considered the most healthy station in India, besides being a larger pleasanter place. I only trust they will keep me there - we are already half way towards our destination. While dining at the mess of one of the regiments here yesterday I found out a brother-in-law⁵³ of Cath: Hunter's⁵⁴. The Hodgsons left for England on the 5th January I believe. You ask why I never mention Bolton⁵⁵ - you know he is at Madras - besides he was the only conceited noodle on board our ship and consequently I had no great regard for him. By the by introductions are of no use whatever when you are likely to be a long time in company with the person to whom you are introduced.

ENDS ABRUPTLY WITH NO SIGNATURE

1

Meerut⁵⁶. March 14th 1841

{Received yours of the 29th October on 8th January/41}

{Wrote my last on 16th January from Benares, }

{On the march I missed one mail, February's because I could not send a letter.

My dearest mother

here I am at last at Meerut after a march of 900 miles, in 3 & ½ months - and in as good spirits & health as a mortal could wish to be. I left Chinsurah on 27th Novbr & arrived here on 10th March. I am not at present going to Kurnaul, being ordered to stay here & "do

duty" with H. M's 9th. Regmt. In my last letter I gave you an account of our proceedings on the march - they were much the same throughout, except that the latter part (for ½ month) was much the pleasantest - Our party was reduced to 113 men & 3 officers. The weather was deliciously cool & fine all the time - & our marches in the mornings had all the charms of a walk on a fine English summer's morning. My horse being fairly done up, I walked nearly all the way during the last 3 weeks, at a time too when our marches were very long. You would scarcely believe that I walked 16 miles before breakfast & without fatigue, & 15 miles 3 successive mornings - this was very fine work for our health, indeed we were all in fine condition, & it is an almost unprecedented occurrence for 500 men to march thus far without the loss of a single man - except one drowned. I told you of the loss of a lot of my linen just before I got to Benares - when at the 2nd encampment on this side of Benares I lost all my knives forks & spoons & some trifles besides - they were a dreadful loss to me, for tho' they were not silver, I must supply their places with silver, & the knives & forks to be bought here are wretched things & 4 times the price they are in England. The losses I have suffered on the march, together with the perfect destruction of all my furniture will cost me a great deal - but I have learnt a great deal by my march, & in future shall proceed in a very difft. way. I am greatly disappointed too in the amount my pay - because in giving marching money they cut off a great deal of one's ordinary pay - & the Staff allowance which I don't get for a month, will be considerably cut - however I am quite square with the world & have at least 80£ to receive - tho' I must say I have not much to spare at present, for which reason I cannot write as many letters as I wish - costing as they do 2/- each.

1v

At Meerut I am living with an officer of the 9th who is a very superior man & quite a steady fellow - & considered by his brother officers "very serious". I occupy one end of the house & he the other - with fine spacious rooms, but so bare. The drawing room I am sitting in has for its furniture nothing beyond a little camp table (broken) & one chair, do. However to me now it is Elysium itself - for one never can learn the great blessing of having a house, without being without one for some months. The greatest bores on the march are the constt fear of being robbed or the breaking down of your baggage vehicles, that you are no sooner settled in your tent than you have to pack up everything to be sent forward in the afternoon - & so left with only an empty tent - & then it is so miserably dusty in the tent. Som[etime]s. the dust is so great you can scarcely open your eyes - & on several occasions when we have encamped by the bank of a river, the quantity of sand that gets into your boxes, bed, dinner &c &c is dreadful, & then you cannot have the luxury of bathing & dressing comfortably for you put on as much dust as clothing nearly. Often or rather nearly every day the dust was so great on the march that you could not see 10 yards - & the appearance. of the men on arrival was very ridiculous every part of your face & clothes covered with dust & I used to shake out bits from my boots stockings - & "sub dusera cheese" i e. from everything else. We were immensely amused every day for 2 or 3 weeks before reaching Allahabad. You may perhaps not be aware that all pious Hindoos make a pilgrimage to Allahabad at some period of their existence, whatever distance they may live from the holy city, & we were approaching the place while the grand festival⁵⁷ was going on. As a sign of their pilgrimage they bring away vessels of water - the water is holy & taken just at the point of confluence of the 2 rivers, ye Ganges & Jumna. The roads presented from morning to night & from night to morning - one continual stream of men & women going to the Holy Fair - & as they passed us they invariably saluted us with a salutation familiar to the time and circumstances of Bum Mahardeo which our men always returned, but with a slight alteration, making it Bum my hearty! this effect was ludicrous in the extreme. As soon as the shouted salutation from our men was heard, it went along the lines of pilgrims like wild fire - The numbers collected at Allahabad too were considerable - myriads upon myriads.

2

Our camp the day before entering Allbd was on the opposite side of the river & commanded a very extensive view of the country round - & the whole place seemed alive with men . The scenes in the Fair were extraordinary indeed. You must conceive the celebrated fair in Hyde Park to be magnified 50 times to judge the extent of this one. With 50,000 little covered stalls - very neat and regularly arranged in immensely long lines, leaving very broad streets between every 2 - forming in the whole 4 roads. At one end of these was the most holy & sacred spot, where all the religious ceremonies were carried on. Every individual, man woman and child, was shaved & sheared in this place & the quantity of hair strewn about was sufficient to make mattresses for the whole army. Numbers of Fakirs were sprinkled among the crowd - you of course know what sort of fellows these religious enthusiasts are. You know the vows that they make, to spend their existence in certain postures, or to progress on all fours - in fact everything that is exquisitely painful to the body. But strangely eno' the fellows I saw were the fattest, most comfortable looking in the whole place - tho' the beasts don't wear any clothes. It is almost incredible that many of them had hair 9 feet long - a length that would even astonish Mr Rowland - but it is an indisputable fact - They will unfold it and let the incredulous whites examine it. They plait it very lightly & make the most magnificent head dress and most impenetrable turban of it at the same time. At various times I have seen Fakirs in the most dreadful condition - some with an arm wasted & deformed by keeping it constantly fixed perpendicularly - & what is very extraordinary one fellow had his arm fixed horizontally - others who were making pilgrimages on their hands and knees. Our daily business of an afternoon was always to visit the village near which we encamped - It was always very amusing - numbers would always follow us, while we in the most unconcerned manner would put our heads in at every door & lounge about wherever we liked. It was always good fun to see the women start off like frightened deer & then stop and look back from every corner & doorway in the street - In no one single village or town - except in Benares was there the least appearance of elegance or even neatness or comfort. The Mussalman villages are in every respect superr. to the Hindoo - The houses or hovels rather are all built of mud - With the most intricate arrangement of streets & walls, & in every place there were more ruined & deserted houses than inhabited ones - giving one the idea that the houses last a few months only - & are never repaired, a village would

2v

travel across the country in process of time. They are all built on a rising ground & generally in an open plain - at least in the upper Provinces - & they have generally a wall or something for their defence against an enemy [sic] - The robbers being always about & in great gangs, mounted & armed, they need not only fortifications but offensive weapons in the shape of swords & spears which nearly everyone carries - at least in every village removed from the large stations, & in the stations every decent fellow carries his sword - & terrible weapons they are - they are very much curved, very heavy & as sharp as a razor, so that a touch would wound you. A very striking feature in all the villages in the upper Provinces - at least in all we saw - is, that in the houses of one or two and some[time]s. many - the richest men you see balconies & doors, made of the most exquisitely and elaborately carved wood, very dark & far surpassing any thing to be seen in our Cathedrals & abbeys. They are evidently very old; & the Mosques are most elaborately and delicately ornamented with mouldings & paintings & carving. You know how beautiful the mosques look in drawings of Eastern scenery - so they are in real life - but it is all sham. The domes and minarets which look so beautiful at a distance, when you come near are found to surmount only a white washed wall, decorated from top to bottom & looking towards Mecca - & in the rear of it, some steps & partitions for the performance of ceremonies of worship - There are only 3 or 4 really fine Mosques & temples I believe in India - & they are really wonderful. They are, at any rate, so rare that we have as yet seen nothing very fine - nothing except some tombs, that give one the least idea of Eastern magnificence. One scene that I saw was really very - I don't know what to say - impressive perhaps. It was nothing more nor less than an enormous city of the dead - The site of the city of Kurrah⁵⁸ which was once a very large & populous City, is now covered with nothing but tombs of all shapes

& sizes & graves - as far as the eye can reach over a dead flat, nothing else can be seen. But the most extraordinary thing I have seen, & by having seen which I shall ever consider myself a great traveller, was - what do you think? a--a- dead donkey! a positive fact tho' Sam Weller⁵⁹ never saw one. The Hindoo temples are miserable things generally - i.e. the paintings & ornaments; the buildings being generally much of the same kind as the Mussalman's - they are generally covered with designs properly so called of Elephants, tigers, monkeys, &c. all in the rudest style you can possibly conceive -

3

I go on with a second sheet to you as the postage is the same for single & double letters - About the Hindoo temples there are always kept whole droves of sacred monkeys and peacocks. The latter, ye fowls, are in some places found in great numbers & one day one of our officers shot eleven of them - they were excellent feeding only rather dry - Pigeons & doves are every where common as Sparrows, really so - & big sportsmen never thought worth shooting. I missed my gun very much on the march - game was in great abundance every where - & the country beautiful - & in many places, tho' quite uncultivated you would fancy you were walking in an extensive English park. Now I must say a few words about Meerut - you must know that this is the most healthy station in India & at the same time the largest. it is really a beautiful place - There are 7 Regimts here - 2 of them Cavalry - the 6th Lancers, George Harriot's⁶⁰ Regimt. is here, tho' Geo is absent in the hills - which by the by you can see from this place. You must know that we are all here in a state of great uneasiness about a campaign being commenced immediately. All the Troops here are in readiness to march & we are daily expecting orders to take the field. Genl. Lumley⁶¹ is coming from Calcutta to take command of the army - which is to consist of 12,000 men. We are all praying that we shall not go at this time of the year - it will be destructive to the men & cattle too, for the hot weather is just about to begin. I am in a great funk about it - all my money gone, all my boxes & things destroyed - besides the labour of a long march of 3 months & ½ only just over. However we must put up with it - I have been obliged to engage fresh beasts of burthen. & to keep my extra establishment of servants. I am afraid it looks very serious - furniture maybe bought for nothing almost, tents are being repaired in every garden or standing pitched, & no talk but about the horrors of a campaign at this time of the year. Lahore⁶² is the scene in which we are to act, either now or next autumn. I trust the latter

3v

They are having reviews here on a most magnificent style - 7 Regimts besides lots of Artillery - I never saw anything so fine as what I witnessed yesterday. We are to have 2 or 3 more this week and next - I suppose it has a fine effect in producing a military order among the troops. The Officers here are in immense numbers - the Course (ye evening drive) is exceedingly gay, rejoicing in every variety of military costume. The ladies of course very few and far between. I have met with great kindness & attention here - two bachelors perfect strangers to me, made me take up my quarters with them for 2 days till I got myself settled in my own - & such a nice place they have - they do know so well how to have things comfortable - do them bachelors. I have nothing to do here as I am detained only in anticipation of being wanted, if there is to be any fighting - I very much want some spare time - I want to get a knowledge of the language - I have been most properly punished for my neglect of it hitherto - for my ignorance was an effectual bar to the enjoyment of my march in many particulars - as I could use only one of my senses in my visits to the native towns & villages - & where some nice fellows wished to show us some attention, we were obliged to jog on by ourselves, because we could not possibly talk to them. The other day a 'great man' asked me & a friend of mine into his house & on our refusal, he wanted to have chairs bought out for us & offered us some claret. I have never seen the internal economy of a grand native's house & should have jumped at the proposal if I could have spoken to him. All my little stock of news if such it can be called, is exhausted. I go on scribble, scribble, till I dont know what I would be about. I have not

written any thing but Reports for the last 3 months & so don't know how to write what you would next like to know. When one is a bachelor one cannot have much to say of oneself - If I had a wife shouldn't I have a lot to say of her beauties, my happiness, &c &c. Writing a long letter seems to me

4

now a whole day's labour - tho' pleasant labour, till I begin to flag as at present - I'm always promising to write to Bertram & Sibella but some how never manage to do it. Poor dear Bert I could not help contrasting his hard life with my easy one, & wishing we could change for a time - when I read the account he gives of himself. You don't speak encouragingly of his Oxford scheme⁶³ - I should fear the vanishing of all his hopes if that fails. I want very much to hear of dear Bella - I have not recd any letters by this last mail, which reached Meerut 2 days ago - It may be that my letters are travelling all over India - My last from you had 6 different directions on it. Tom has not written to me - at least I have not heard from him yet - and nothing about Mrs. J⁶⁴. At Caunpore I expected to have seen Chas Reynolds⁶⁵ - but he was not with his Regmt there - & of Henry⁶⁶ I have not heard since I 1st arrived. I must write after my friend Dennys - if we go on this Expedition to Lahor[torn] he is sure to join us - he is about 180 miles above Meerut now - & [torn] Cunningham, my Hampton friend is there also - In a short time I [torn] have formed so many acquaintances in India that it will be difficult to get to a station where I have not some friend. The Officers in the Army are generally a very good set of fellows - & the slightest knowledge of any one direct or indirect is almost sure to gain you some kindness & attention. I scarcely ever mention to you my dear old friends the Bents - tho' I always rejoice that you invariably give me an account of them. I was surprised to hear of poor old Molly's death - at least at your mentioning it as having occurred a long time ago - a good old soul she was. You always of course give my best love to the Bents and Patricks - when shall I cease to be distracted with a thousand thoughts of happiness first & then of undying misery at the mention of that name. I suppose never. They say absence is a fine cure for the heart ache, but somehow or other I find it exactly the reverse. Things will come to a desperate pass with me if this goes on. However all things have an end, even marches, campaigns, & letters & love too - not tho' such love as mine.

4v

Give my best love to every member of the family - & give many thanks to Aunt & Netta for their letters - I dont think Irene wrote any thing in your last packet. Believe me my dear mother

Your affecte Son
Juxon H Jones.

Meerut Sunday 14th March.

I hope & my next I shall not have any account to give you of deeds done in battle by me or anyone else.

[addressed:

Via Falmouth by the Overland Mail

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: ? MY ? 1841]

Meerut - March 18th 1841.

My dearest Bertie

at last I begin a letter to you. having in almost every letter to mother promised one next time to you. Having as usual exhausted my stock of news in one letter to mother, I am obliged to scrawl this sheet without adding at all to the intelligence already communicated - for your information as well as mother's. Now what to talk to you about I know not. If I was along side of you, I would jabber away after my old fashion, & speak very learnedly of the wonders of the East, tho' a more interesting topic would be to hear you discourse upon your happiness & improved prospects - I am exceedingly anxious to hear that you are taking your terms at Oxford - What a better field will then be open to you. You must know how happy & sublimely contented I am - in fact I fancy my letters teem with nothing else. I am certainly living in a style that is gloriously contrasted with the life of a country Practitioner - & while I hear all the youngsters complaining about the country, their impoverished condition, &c (all flam) I am enjoying an easy life & without any fears for the future - as long as I keep my health that is - which, thank God, is better I think than ever it was. there never was a time when I could do as I have been doing - marching as well as the hardiest of our men on the march. You remember that I used to be knocked up with a walk to Sidmouth, but here I have walked 12 a miles a day for weeks - & always upon a cup of Coffee & occasionally 15 & 16 miles, without thinking of it. Our marches were always very pleasant - my chief companion was the Commdg Officer, a very superior man & one who has travelled every part of Asia - & has published some of his travels, & whose conversation was more entertaining & instructive than any person I ever knew. He was particularly kind to me, & used to come to my tent every day nearly, a great complimt. from a Commandg Officer. I have invariably received every attention and kindness from all persons into whose company I have been thrown. I never met with the least slight, that the most fastidious temper could lay hold upon, from any Officer however exalted - if [sic] fact one is always treated as a brother officer. I am now living in a more comfortable way than I have hitherto done - the climate is delightful, the station so

1v

very large and pretty - as well as very gay, for India. We have 8 Regmts here, which is an immense force - The 16th Queen's Lancers are here, and set a fine example in every kind of amusemt., but as the hot weather is now setting in, I shall see nothing of gaieties beyond dinners - the gayest of which I now quite disregard. In the approaching imprisonmt for 6 months I shall pass my time as pleasantly as any - I am living with a splendid handsome Grenadier - but still a man exactly after my own fancy - A man fond of reading, music, drawing & sociable conversation - very steady & quite a good hearted fellow into the bargain - he's a very young Captn (brevet)⁶⁷ of good connexions - & a man who has travelled. I shall rejoice in a long vacats for reading - & hope rather to get a taste for a little studying of my profession. You know that the whole populatn turn out for a drive or ride morning & eveng - & here I think our course is the gayest of the gay - the bands play there 4 times a week & the place is crowded with nearly 200 officers - Can you fancy little bobby careering up & down on a little showey horse, dashing by carriages & horse-men, all in the gayest trim, som[etime]s. charging (at a canter) 4 a breast down the whole course - I am now become a better & more Confident rider & during the whole march tho' we had races and steeple chases (on a very very small scale) I never got spilt - tho' every one else did some time or other. You heard of my racing along the road & of twice narrowly escaping a ride down a precipice - but many were the dangers of the march. You know that we always started so as to finish our march shortly after sunrise - one morning I was stumbling about the camp in the dark looking for a very sick patient, in a Dhoolie (a sort of palki for ye sick) & fancying that there was a dhoolie close before me I walked

bang up against the head of an Elephant, which was kneeling down to be loaded. I very narrowly escaped destruction - for it so happened that it was a vicious one - you may guess with what alarm I started back. We had 22 elephants in our camp - they are used for carrying the tents - I had a little bit of anatomization once on the march. I had a post-mortem examtn of an elephant! assistd by all the Officers and men nearly. We amputated the arm at the shoulder - & took out his heart - it was so amusing - there were 20 men with choppers & levers hard at work for 2 hours nearly. I wish I could give you drawings of the natives, at various occupations & at dinner - they would amuse you immensely. The young recruits that I marched up with afforded an inexhaustible fund of amusemt when with the natives -

2

They used to call every native John, in the most sociable way. The scenes at night were very amusing - owing to the immense nos of thieves that followd & infested the camp, we had 40 men from the neighbg villages to guard the camp every night. Every tent was supplied with one or two of these watchmen or Chokedars - these fellows that they may not go to sleep, sing out most lustily & in every variety of tone - howl - groan & yell "Kubadar - kubadar" at intervals of about 1 minute & ½ & this joined to the hideous noises made by the jackalls makes a sort of concert that is very soothing to your feelings - These chowkidars squat like so many imps all about the camp and each is armed with long bambo - In one's tent you hear the Centries [sic] speaking to these bruits - "that's right John - dont go to sleep - kukba-dar----" Some Irish fellow will say to one - "Now I tell what it is, if you don't get off your hunkers & walk about & stop that row, I'll give you a clip over the head." The poor beast not understanding a word of English, is accordingly soon rolled over. The Jackals come & put their noses into your tent doors - & once I heard a capital joke about them near my tent - at the change of centries, one fellow says to the man he is coming to relieve - "I thought you wasn't to pass one into the camp." "No to be sure" - "Well then I'm sure you hadn't no orders to pass jackalls! I put down my pen to take up the pencil



A Chokedar a native at Connor - (dinner)] - you see a Chokedar; but you ca[torn] him which is by far the most entertain[torn] What is very extraordinary about these natives is that they never eat in company - & not only is their food defiled by the touch, approach or even (shadow) of a European, but also by any human being - even the greatest native prince. The beasts strip to the last piece of cloth and squat down any where & dig a small hole for the purpose of cooking - if bricks are at hand, y make a sort of bird trap of them - then they arrange around them brass pans & chatties for water & begin making their cakes & chopping their garlic, onions and assafatidn &c. - the whole process of cooking eating & cleaning their vessels occupies them 2, 3 or 4 hours - nearly always 4 hours. They are altogether like swine - tho' their carriage & address is very striking on your first arrival in the Country - of course owing to their dress and their not ever being engaged in any hard labour, as well as the flexibleness of their joints, which must exist in order for them to squat in such

postures as they do - They are invariably as avaricious & cheating as Jews. They are eternally on the alert for profit - from the most trifling purchase for their masters - and for their honesty I can't say much. You will see in my other letter how vilely I was robbed on the march, to the amount of at least 20£ - by my servants -

2v

In my letter to mother I mentioned the prospect of an immediate war, only a short distance from us - but I am happy to say the probability of it in taking place at this time is diminishing every day - We shall learn about it for certain in 3 or 4 days. I have even ventured to buy a chair & a chattie - (an earthenware vessel worth $\frac{2}{3}$ of a penny) so great now is my confidence that we shall not commence a war at this time. I was really in great alarm at the prospect of another march - it is only pleasant when a novelty - besides I have not the money necessary for a march. The carriage of one's goods is an immense expense. I have just paid 30£ for the conveyance of my goods & chattels, & house too, I should add - i.e. my tent - but at all events it is ruinous to a full purse. I am now attached to a Queen's Regmt. the 9th, but I trust this will not last long, as I don't expect to go down in the world - to be an understrapper after having been first fiddle - there is every chance of my being attached to some native Regt as Surgeon - or as we

express it - to have "charge" of one. Which gives one pay to the amt of 50 or 60£ a month. I am sorry to say that this part of the world is a terribly expensive place - could you believe that they charge 31 Rs (that is 3£ 2s) for a ham! & many other things in like proportion - but I am very economical, & never spend money on a single indulgence, except cheeroots - & they are very cheap & so very superior to any cigars - only 2£16 a thousand - I never mean to buy furniture, beyond a chair & table I must not go, unless when I am richer I might venture to get another chair for my visitors - for at present, having but one I am obliged to request my friends to take "the chair". Now yt I have exhausted you & the paper I will make an end. I trust you will witht fail give me an immedte answer - I am terribly in want of letters - so few reach me. None of my brothers, you excepted, have written a word to me - which I think is shameful. God bless you my dear Bertram - ever your affte. brother Juxon H. Jones.

[addressed:

Via Falmouth by overland Mail

Bertram Jones Esqre
[c.o. Ottery St Mary]
Magalen Hall
Oxford

stamped: [Calcutta stamp illegible]
EX 11 MY 11 1841
HONITON MY12 184?
OXFORD MY14 1841]

1

Recd Yrs of January 29th on the 24th March | I sent my last on 19th March.

Meerut. 18th April 1841

My dearest Mother Since I wrote to you last I dont believe I have done anything but try to keep myself cool, that is to say I have been in the house nearly all the time, without any running about - either to make visits or even to go to the 'Mess' & nothing whatever has occurred to, by, or through me, that I am aware of, for the last month, though I should not forget one circumstance which gave me bright hopes for a time. I told you we enjoyed the finest health possible on our march & that not a single man died of sickness Now this was such an extraordinary circumstance that notice was taken of it at "headquarters" & has been much talked of since - for the marching of Troops is generally attended with most extensive & melancholy loss of life. The Commr in Chief, (in General Orders - published thro' out India) thanked our commanding officer for the great care & attention he must have devoted to the Troops & begged him especially to mention how far this happy occurrence was owing to the Drs. "in order that they might be appreciated and remembered". Major Skinner, my very particular friend, sent me a copy of his letter to the Comdr in Chief in which he butters me considerably. Every one has been talking about this, and my friends suggest that I should ask for any thing I want at this fine juncture - but I have not the face to do any thing of the kind - merely on the score of my good fortune! much less could I on the score of superior skill & merit! So if any good comes of it I shall be more ready to reject than accept any reward. Though I must say I wish I could get a better post than the one I now enjoy- for I have almost nothing to do & in consequence get nothing beyond my common pay - some 260 Rs a month - 26£, from which £4..10 is deducted for various Funds. They have very extensively cut

1v

my bills at the pay office - if they had not done so I should have been ready to have sent home 100£ - & even yet I may do it before next Autumn or Winter. I must therefore request you will learn from Mr Stowey⁶⁸ how it is to be paid into his hands. I was much mistaken about the interest of money in this Country at the Agra Bank it is only 5 pr. cent with 6 mos notice before withdrawing - I think it would almost be better on every account to let the money I lay by be put into the Agra Bank, only that I wish to pay you back the interest you have advanced. It is considered a certain thing - a campaign next September - the Country of Lahore being in much disturbance & the papers abuse the government for not having sent troops there before this - in anticipation of such an event I should be very unwilling to part with my little stocks of £ ready money- besides if I get an appt I must have a buggy (a cab) because one cannot go outdoors except in a carriage of some kind - & I am become very shy of the sun, in consequence of having a slight touch of it the other day - an intense headache & some fever for 24 hours. I rode 4 miles in the heat of the day - but I had an umbrella over my head. Mr & Mrs Edlin arrived here about 12 days ago. Edlin is permanently posted to the Horse Artillery & is greatly pleased at it. I wish I could get the same - but I have been too short a time in the Country to hope for it. Jane is very well & her baby much improved in beauty. I went yesterday to lunch with them. Their house is only a few hundred yards from ours. As they are old friends I am very much pleased at our being such near neighbours. I am so retiring an individual that I cannot boast of another acquaintance in the whole station! With one exception - I have not called upon anyone here with the exception of the Generals, which I believe is very silly behaviour: however I shall improve one of these days. I am living in the same place as I was when I wrote last You fancy that letters are longer in reaching Meerut than Calcutta - but we get our letters at least 1 week before they do in Calcutta, & the postage is /6d less. Your last letter I recd on the 24th of March & Toms letter which bears the same date as yours, reached me only 5 days ago - bearing nearly double postage, from having travelled at least

2

an unnecessary 1000 miles - at the same time I recd a very old letter of yours enclosing a part written by dear Bella. It had travelled all over India almost & cost of 5/. which I didn't scruple to give for it - but I shan't in future take in old letters - this one was dated November 29th /40! I

suppose my letters reach you with a little more regularity; tho' som[etime]s they must miss their destination. I am greatly delighted to hear of Bertram having entered at Oxford. I trust I shall hear of something better still one of these days. I had a very nice long letter from Tom & a little bit from Irene and Susan - both about marriage - the former gives me hopes in 7 years! the latter congratulating me on my wedded state! As I have such fine opportunities of reflection you may guess that my ideas often run upon that subject most extensively & I am daily getting more impatient - when I think of & feel the evanescent nature of all our ties here with our fellow creatures - when as soon as you begin to get attached to any person about you, away you go to the other end of India. This is particularly the curse of this Country - One of my old 'chums' at Dum Dum sent home for a young lady to whom he was greatly attached - on her arrival at Calcutta he hastened down to meet her - but [torn] he arrived, she was engaged to another man!! Did you ever___? [torn] would marry a young Asst Surgeon? I have not yet seen George Harriot. I am told he "came it very fast" when he married - he kept a very fine carriage - but only for a time. He will not go home I suppose with his Regmt as he could not possibly live in the Regmt at home where a tolerable fortune would be required. The Hodgsons are by this time I suppose in England. I am now very sorry to think of my rudeness in neglecting to wish them good bye - but the old Colonel appeared so evidently displeased with my visits that I had not the face to call again. If you see Matilda do hint this to her - for I was very grateful, to say no more, for her attentions and kindness. Most likely she will call me a little bear - she will give you some idea of what sort of monkey I look in my uniform - but mind you must be guided by the temper in which she speaks. I am so disinclined to write to my friends that I have not written to Dennys or Cunninghams yet - but the fact is I don't know what Regmts they belong to - or where they are - I often hear from Square

2v

I have thought a great deal of you at this season - & at the time, that I was certain that many of you were engaged at the Sacrament. My friend Borton⁶⁹ & I went on Easter day. It was very gratifying to see a great number of Officers going to the communion. The church is the largest in India as everything else here is on the largest scale. There are two or 3 theatres here tho' not much patronised. The gentlemen wont perform. We have just procured our first supply of Ice - we have 8 lbs a day between us for the consideration £1.12 thro' the whole of the hot weather. Without it we could not survive. You know how they make it

in this place - in shallow saucers - for in the winter the water freezes very rapidly here at night. On our march the Thermtr at starting every mornng was 45° [above: 43° once] 48° for a long time, & then by mid-day in the sun it stood at 130. The hot weather is now beginning & I have an idea that the "hot winds" will be very dreadful when one wants to go out. They cease not day or night. I suppose you have several of the family with you by this time, that is all the girls give my love to all & to each Your letter will unfortunately come a day or two after this has gone - which is I think a great bore, but is likely to be remedied before long. I am going to write to dear F Bent. A sorry sort of letter I have written

but this mode of living afford one very little to offer to one's friends in the way of intelligence. God bless you my dear mother - ever yr very affectionate son Juxon H. Jones.

[addressed:

Via Falmouth -

By the overland Mail

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: EXETER JU 7 1841]

1

Recd your's of the 28th Apl.
My last sent June 7th. - May omitted.

Meerut July 7th. [1841]

My dear Mother - I must first tell you that next month we have to write on the usual day of the month, i.e. on the 19 or 20th, so that there will be an interval of 40 days or more between this & my next letter. I told you before that I did not write in May, but I have since thought that it would be better not to omit any month, though I may have nothing to tell you. Of course you must do as you have always done, the same - & for my part I shall always think I have written a capital letter if I put down my name & place of abode, for of course you only want to hear that I am alive & kicking & that I do not forget my dear family - & just as precious as the most important & strange intelligence is the least scribble from any of them. To speak on this fertile subject, the weather - you will be happy to hear that the thermomter has on an average been during the past week one whole degree lower than it has been for 3 months - for the rains are coming - I only wish they would make haste; For a week past we have had cloudy weather & a few showers, just enough to keep one alive - not by its reviving one, but by affording us a hope that it will rain once again. You will pardon one for talking so much about heat when you reflect upon the sufferings endured in an atmosphere sometimes heated to 106 & ½ degrees - at 11 oclock at night, in the open air. It is almost incredible, tho' strictly true. I have tried it other nights, to the latest hour to which I sit up & have found it twice at 103° the greater part of the night. I begin to think that I cannot survive a second hot season. I told you of those balmy zephyrs - the Dust storms. Since I wrote, we have had 2 on a very grand scale - I take it that they are more grand & fearful in appearance than American storms. We had one overtake us at 3 oclock p.m. which changed the brightest day-light almost instantly into total darkness - so great, that not an object could be discerned in the room. Musquitoes are now coming into season - & every shower beings myriads of insects of some strange form & more astonishing ferocity. The fact is that I am very much in the dumps, as I have been unwell for 4 days, or sick at least from longing so anxiously for the rains, & every musquito bite drives me mad, the scratching more mad, & the burring of any insect into a raving distracted state of fury. I occupy myself in going from one kind of chair to another - So on to the sofa, back again to a chair, then try 2 chairs, 3 chairs - thro an infinite variety of manoeuvres, till quite exhausted I fall into a sound slumber for the greater part of the remainder of ye day.

1v

But don't for an instant conceive that this is the usual state of things - a passing reminder that I have such a thing as a liver makes me break out in a fresh place after this fashion - & makes me yellow, blue or green according to the various intensity of the attack of bile, dumps or whatever people call it. How could I have staid so many months in this house after having found out that it is generally 7° or 8° hotter than any others in the station, I can't conceive - for certain it is that I should have passed the hot season with very little discomfort, while indoors, if I had been in any other house. Tho' one is at all times hissing hot, I have not given up exercise (which I now concieve to be of no use) but I have daily practise in archery - & throwing darts as I used at Taunton - besides amusing myself with making targets &c. keeping tame partridges & making habitations for them - training dogs chiefly to tricks; attending to my horses &c. But I have not, when I have been well i.e.

unoppressed by the heat, by any means been so utterly idle. I have waded many (600) hundred pages into Gibbon - besides some (3) of Robertson's works - books about India &c. &c. & I find a very agreeable amusement in drawing. chalking I am working with at present, delineating heroes & Apollos & inspired individuals of both sexes - under the direction of my chum, who is a very good draftsman - The fiddle I fear is absent on sick leave - suffering severely from spasms & convulsive starts, affecting chiefly his stomach & back. The other day I took an opportunity of reckoning up the amount of my receipts during my first years residence in this beautiful country - to an exact penny the amount is £405. 14. $\frac{3}{4}$ in addition to which I have paid £60.0.0 to Funds - 465£ is not amiss - besides I see that after 9 months I had 100£ in pocket, tho' I started with the immense sum of 12£ obtained by my gun. For the last 4 months I have been on the lowest possible pay so that I have scarcely added one penny to my cash in hand, and most probably I shall be in the same post for the next four months - & this will add considerably to my claim, when I ask for any vacant post - it will be fine to say, that after having had medl charge of a large body of men for 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ months, I have been acting as deputy Scrub for 8 months - this added to "His Excellency was pleased to express his approbation" &c. I was about to expend my only dart upon a most noble head of game, by the advice of Edlin, but I was afraid that it was too great a spec - a civil appointmt worth 45£ a month - & the advantages of a civil station nearly double its value. That is the sort of thing to look to in a few, very few years, when I shall immediately marry, tell _____. I shall most certainly get some independt charge as soon as the weather allows of our moving about -

2

So that you will not be discouraged by seeing that I have made no remittances to Mr Stowey this year - for I of course reckon in one way the years by the time of my service in the Country - I am horrified to hear that you have come to a settlement about Terrington⁷⁰ - tho' I trust that it is more profitable to you unsold than otherwise - the house at Knightsbridge⁷¹ must be a very unpleasant affair - but I hate to think of these troubles - How I wish for the time when I shall feel myself free from my horrid encumbrance. I am afraid that it will take more than another year after Xmas next - it is true that fortune may give me an unexpected lift. I told you that I sent Holberton 25£. Will you thank George Patrick for his welcome letter & assure him that I will write to him next month. I had hoped to have written to Netta whilst staying at Babbycombe⁷², but I forgot till this moment that it is a month ago, all but 9 days, that I heard from her that she would be going to B. in the summer - & here two months more must elapse before a letter reaches you. I trusted that by having secret emmissaries admitted into the counsels of the enemy I might lead things the way I wished. Give my very best love to poor dear Fanny B. How greatly you must regret her having left Exeter. I suppose you have long ago seen the Hodgsons and Matilda [torn] of course you did not omit to tell my story - to offer my most abject apology for my gross rudeness to the lassies. I must stop after desiring my most affectionate love to you all & thanking Netta for her dear little appendix to your letter - & beseeching such other worthy members of the family to remember their little roasted, stewed, hashed, & dried-again brother. God bless you my dear mother

Your affecto. son Juxon H Jones

2v

[addressed:

Overland Mail

Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: MERO?? 7 July
EXETER SE 8 1841]

1

Recd. yours of the 28th June to-day!

Meerut - August 17th /41.

My dearest Mother by a strange accident or good fortune, for once I am able to reply to you without a tedious delay of one month - & you of course will have the same opportunity about this time of sending a letter immediately after the arrival of mine I am so completely struck all of a heap (as usual), by the arrival of your letters that I shall scarcely be able to give you an account of my goings on - or literally speaking, of my standings still. I am exactly in the same station & in the same circumstances that I described to you in one of my antediluvian letters about March A.C.1000000. By the bye I cannot refrain from mentioning again my extreme distress whenever & that's very often, that I reflect upon my shameful neglect in not having written to you in May last. however I am now in comparative ease as you must by this time have recd mine of June. My dear mother you talk of your letters not having interesting news - Why Mun (?), they are all about home - yourself and the dear bairns! & what could I want more - in fact it is "too many for my feelin's". & those little gossiping cherubs warm the cockles of one's heart with their pretty prattle. My dearest sisters I don't mean to be disrespectful, but only to express in most tender language my exceeding love towards you & how greatly I value the letters you write, which you are pleased to depreciate - I must lose no time in correcting your erroneous impressions about Holberton & myself - We are on the best possible terms - & yesterday I received a very long & kind letter from him - that is a most sincere proof of his regard & I greatly value it when I see that he very seldom writes to Jane & Edlin. He gives me a great deal of good & friendly advice about wasting time, money, & youthful energies - Oh dear! he forgets how old I am - & quite ignorant of the remarkable fact that I am 10 times more economical than I used to be - & incomparably more industrious - After having for a whole year entirely neglected the Eastern languages, I have now for a month been hard at work endeavouring to redeem the time - & I find that my industrious habits increase every day, & the difficulties are decreasing, so that I am now firmly resolved to pass the examination. Can you conceive your

1v

own Bobby learning Persian and Hindostani; & Sanskrit writing - the latter I can read & write as well as Irene does Greek! They are very tough subjects though. The Hon. Co. gives one 36£ on passing the examtn to pay expenses; which to me in another year will have cost 20£ books & teachers - I pay my moonshi⁷³ 1£ a month . However the 36£ will prove a sweet reward of real labour - if I chance to escape plucking. I have not been taken much notice of as yet by the Queen - of course no changes in one's life can take place in the hot weather excepting the various degrees of baking & stewing. I have decided upon my place of operations for the coming winter. I shall ask to go in charge of some Artillery to Ferozepore & which place being the turnpike gate on the high road to Cabul and Affghanistan, I shall certainly get into some active work & probably a good charge. Being in Cabul is considered as "active service", & therefore on one's return you get invariably (if well behaved) well provided for. The only alternative to this place would be to go down wards again - perhaps in some petty charge of 20 invalids - & from Calcutta to Arracan or any other healthy spot, or be kept on the high road as Edlin was for 6 months - up the Country and down again. I calculated it will easy [sic] to follow my own plans in this respect - because I am the Senior of 4 Asst. Surgeons in the Station - besides in their ideas I have been worst off - as they are in temporary

Medl. charge. I beg you to tell Henrietta that I have been extending my acquaintance at Meerut. I had often met a Surgeon at Edlin's house - & taking a great liking to him I at last mustered sufficient courage to call & I found his wife the prettiest kindest most lady-like woman I know - & that led to another acquaintance & to visits, 3 dinners, & much pleasure. This gentlemn gave me this statesman-like view of my prospects - & determined me to take immediate steps for procuring the change I want. My friends the Edlins are exceeding good friends - not a day passes without some intercourse - Jane has supplied me completely with fruit during the season - for we, preferring health to beauty, keep no vegetation in our garden! our house is situated in the middle of a piece of ground, 90 yds square - grown over by about 6 species of grass, from the finest to the rankest - surrounded by mud walls, hidden by a clipt hedge of henna I believe - at any rate it is used for the pink die, used by the women. But this comparative desolation enables us to live with very little of the croaking of frogs, musquitoes, & the deafening noise of insects.

2

18th

Meerut is the only place where fruit is in great abundance & variety - we have had strawberries, grapes, baking pears - besides the Indian fruits in great abundance - Mrs Edlin has sent me these things nearly every day. She is about to present her husband - with another baby. We have suffered & are still suffering from the most oppressive Summer nearly ever known - the rains ought to have begun in the middle of June - up to this hour we have not had more than 6 or 8 hours' rain. The old birds here are severely suffering from it - & I even, every 6th day nearly, find myself dreadfully oppressed - the great evil is the want of exercise & while the heat is great the least exercise quite exhausts me. For 5 months now the thermomtr in the house has only varied from 92 or 90 up to 98°. I intended fully to have taken a month's leave in the Hills in September to recruit my exhausted energies, but I was advised not to at this early stage of my career. My chum is going, so that I shall be left alone for a month - the time I must spend industriously in acquiring the colloquial use of language before I again undertake a march - One is completely a helpless child when ignorant of it - having as interpreters too, fellows that talk English worse than an African. It is the most amusing thing you can concieve to witness an angry Sahib blowing up his delinquent servant by means of an interpreter, (the lowest of his serv[torn]) but not so pleasant to the master or servt. Kiswaste tum no ___ and there you are suddenly gagged - it is exceedingly painful that sudden pull up & generally the rest of the sentence, though in good English, needs no interpreter - a sprig of Shilaleh - I have not yet seen the papers tho they came in yesterday - but some news I can tell you - We are in possession of Canton or rather were. they had a week's fighting or perhaps firing, for it - 9 soldiers & 5 times that no. of sailors killed - & a good many wounded the Commissary Genl. & ye Commodore died of fatigue. The Chinese lost about 2 thousand - the city was ransomed from utter destruction (for it was slightly plundered) for the enormous sum of 1 million & ½, of our money ⅔ of it hard cash, on the nail. By a sort of truce the troops have retired 60 miles from Canton & the Chinese are not to approach it within that distance. This news is collected from officers returned & not public despatches this is not published as yet, so they require confirmation on some points. My news is very scanty I must say for that's all of it. English news you dont want I suppose - however I'll tell the best of it - Parliament is dissolved!! I have not time to write to Frank this day, though I am deeply involved with him, in the score of letters. You had better keep close about my having received the most beautiful letter from him last month * as ye Interprts. above mentioned would give it - "Why for you not to us"

2v

so that his fierceness may be lessened when he finds I have not written to him this time. I begin to feel myself rather in debt to several members of the family. there is poor dear Aunt stands first and foremost - Tom Frank Berty & all my dear dear sisters. I want very much to send a letter to the girls

while they are at Babbycome - I might send more than one - to H. or a mortal defiance to Mr. _____. I don't know tho' - it is sixteen years I have to look forward, before I can think of going home - I am much distressed to hear of Mrs Reynolds⁷⁴ troubles about her son - I have not met H & Chas⁷⁵. I think often of her while learning Persian - The book she gave me has proved of exceeding value to me. Tell Irene that this [two words in Sanskrit] is her name in Sanscrit letters - I don't know whether

you ever read any of it - it is curious style. It cannot be prettily written without a reed-pen. I must try some other pen than this one if I want to write a decent letter I fancy. It is difficult to fill a sheet with so small a subject as the one treated of within - & I never have any body to talk about. Cardew⁷⁶ I have often heard of here - knowing some of his friends - he is at Cabul - & has ordered out a wife! Pleasant! marching 2000 miles to meet one's spouse. I don't know which one undertakes the job. I am doing duty with the 9th Regt. with two seniors in the same Regt. - it is excellent practice in a European Corps & ought to be beneficial to me. Give my best love to all at home - & lots of apologies for not writing. You see I have only one day for writing & one letter in this climate is as much as one can do in a day. Yr affectte son. Juxon H Jones.

[addressed:

Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: MEERUT 18 August
EXETER OC 13 1841]

1

Recd your's of June 29th on 17th Augst. & replied to it on the 18th.

Kurnaul⁷⁷. Septbr 16th /41

My dearest Mother you see that I have changed my abode & I give you to understand that I am now a Light Dragoon! very light indeed. I arrived here on 1st instt. being ordered to do duty with H M's 3rd Dragoons. There has been & is still a fearful degree of sickness in this station, and as there was only one Medical officer with this Regmt. I am come to offer my services, such as they are. This is in every respect a very great improvement - for I get 10£ a month increase of pay, & being ye only assistt. Surgeon with the Corps, I get a very tolerable share of the duties - very different from what it was at Meerut - Altogether I have so much to say about my present happiness that I shall be very tedious before I have done. I waste no room in telling you what sort of precious fellow I look in mustachios, long steel spurs, sabre & sabutashe - for such incredible things I leave to the powerful imaginations of the family. I am very likely to remain many months in my present capacity - & and altogether it is the best possible thing I could get - for pay, experience & select society. Infinitely better than the charge of any Native Corps which is nearly the best thing open to Asst. Surgeons. Now I will tell you of adventures. Before I left Meerut I was obliged to send forward all my things (but some clean linen) & all my servants - but instead of being a week without house & food, I was invited to pass the week with a Dr and Mrs Nisbet⁷⁸, - he an old Surgeon but not in years with a very pretty, kind agreeable wife. This was the pleasantest time I had ever spent in India - I was quite at home as you may suppose - & every day I met some nice people

at dinner - but all this comfort, good company, good living &c did not end at Meerut for I got an introduction to a Captn. & Mrs (again) McDonald⁷⁹ at Kurnaul - from whom I recd. a welcome as cordial as I should have at my own home - & with the exceptn of a Fanny Bent & a Baratty &c I never in all my life met with such people. I staid with the McDonalds for 9 days, and through them got introductions to & met frequently at dinner some, if not all, of the very best people in the station. I never in my life before enjoyed society as I have been doing. I passed one never-to-be forgotten day in the company of 3 ladies - one a beautiful accomplished spinster as we call the unmarried here, & her sister lately married to a young Engineer who keeps a splendid establishment - & is a most excellent & clever fellow. I cant give you any account of my kind host & hostess - except that he is more like my own brother than anyone I ever knew - & she more like my mother! & she is young & lovely as an angel - indeed her best friends call her Angelina though her name is only Jane. My feelings are now gradually becoming very soft and spoony (like Frank's) while describing

1v

my past happiness, which somehow or other is always connected with the fair - so I hurry off to scenes of misery sickness & things of that kind. I may not have told you all these upper stations are swarming with troops in case of any movements taking place in the Punjab or Affghanistan - & this place as being nearest the frontier is horribly overcrowded & the station is a very small one - so that there is the greatest difficulty in getting shelter under a roof - stables are turned into barracks - half a dozen officers in one house - 2 or 3 married people chumming together, in strange higgledy piggedly. Thro the exertions of my kind friend I have got the house of a gentleman now in the hills - & have a young griff just arrived, for a chum. He brought an introduction to Captn. Codrington⁸⁰ the former occupant, just as he was starting for the hills, & he asked me to receive & accommodate his young friend. of course I was most happy indeed to be useful to a young inexperienced fellow - but I don't rejoice so much in the society of boys, which is a certain sign that years are creeping over my head apace - & I greatly miss my old chum Borton and my later ones, the ladies! Since I have been in my present house, about a week I have been considerably knocked about day & night - our Regmt only 500 strong has 139 men in Hospital to-day - another Queen's Corps 240!! & the European (Compy's) Regmt. nearly the same number - Such immense sickness is almost unparalleled. - 3 or 4 days after my arrival our Surgeon was laid up & for two days I had nearly the whole duties of the Hospital - assisted by the Superintending Surgeon - I was seeing patients nearly all the day, 6 & 7 hours a day in the Hospital - & at present even I have little time to myself - besides I have no buggy (gig) & having to go about in the heat of the day I am sometimes nearly knocked down with the heat, & both my horses are fairly knocked up; so that this mornng I had to walk some distance - though it fortunately is very cool, almost cold, in the mornngs - nevertheless my health & spirits could not experience any improvemt - from any cause - I am very comfortably housed - a very snug little place it is - just the thing for the cold weather - I have brought my Moonshee with me from Meerut - & have given him a room in the house, so that he is ever at hand - which will be an immense advantage to me when I am less worked & have made a leetle more progress in the language - Our Surgeon is rather an old

2

officer having been upwds. of 20 years in the service - & he is exceedingly kind & attentive to me - entrusting me with all such cases as he can - allowing me to attend to some of the officers & have the charge of one Hospital - so that I am here a much more useful & important personage than I was at Meerut - Where, I was in a manner living in clover, tho' none of the richest certainly - in fact I could not be on shorter commons & so have scarcely put by a "pie" each month. This reminds me that I am leaving you to pay the interest of my money without offering to repay you - which of course I could easily do at any moment - & also pay off (now, I am sorry to say only a little) of my

debt. My little trip up here even, made some large demands on my purse - being obliged to buy a Palakeen - together with ye expenses of Dak⁸¹ travelling - I shall be very rich again shortly if I can go without a buggy during the cold weather - my pay will be almost 34£ a month - & I shall live very much at home as I have always done - I have now about 40£ in pocket - but each month will now give me 20£ above what my necessities require. I must also tell you that as on former occasion, I have made a good deposit for my money in the form of a gun - which would at any moment produce 20 or 25£ & I got it at a great bargain - even if I had not wanted it I should have bought it as a spec. I cannot but say, that I heartily wish [torn] had got rid of some portion of my debt when reflecting upon the uncertainty of life - & two years have nearly passed without my having begun the solution - however if I live, two more years cannot pass without my being completely rid of it - & I can scarcely be reduced again to the lowest pay of an Asst Surgeon - which I have been for 6 months alas - however all this will be a claim one of these days for a little kinder treatment. So much for business - how I hate it - My trip in a Palki hither was my first journey by Dak as it is called. I was 26 hours packed up in a small parcel without any provision beyond brandy & water & some sandwiches which Mrs Nisbet prepared with her own fair hands - The roads were nearly every inch under water - & I went over ploughed fields, hedges, ditches, thro' ravines & rivers at the splendid pace of 2¼ miles an hour - at 9 at night I arrived at a small village where I was to get a change of bearers; I found that none were to be had - the old bearers quietly squatted down & smoked their hubble-bubbles - & no bribes would induce them to go on another stage - they couldn't do it poor beasts - These fellows are great philosophers, nothing disturbs their equanimity under all mishaps all they do is to say "It is the will of God" - so I thought that I must Pass the night in my Palki in the midst of a dreary flooded plain with no other company than jackalls and wild dogs - so resolving not to be out done in my philosophic bearers, I set to and swallowed all my provinder & smoked

2v

my little stock of cigars - in this way I passed two hours; but finding myself very cold & damp, & thinking I might get a pleasant attack of Ague from the marsh all about me, I repeated my petition to the weary bearers - & they being now rather refreshed took up my Palki & away I went; & at 4 next morning I got a change of bearers - & found myself at 6 p.m. safely housed with the McDonalds - I believe there is a chance of the Dragoons going to Meerut - it will be a good move if they do - Meerut is such a fine healthy station & this (now at least) just the reverse - it is now all marsh swamp & jheel⁸² - We have 4 cavalry regmts. here - 2 European Regts. besides lots of Sepoys & Artillery - & six bands which play every evening - When the rains are fairly gone this place is much prettier than Meerut - there is a beautiful canal running through it, with a fine avenue by the side of it - a lovely place to ride in - no other such thing in the Country - There have I been chatting away of things that don't at all concern or interest you - one only talks of oneself somehow - but then we think of the absent.

My birthday⁸³ is on Tuesday next - when I shall know you will be thinking of me - over your cups most likely. If ever I have had a good apology for not writing to any other member of the family I have now - seeing that I have so many interruptions - & that letter writing takes up a great deal of time. I want very much to hear from Tom & Bertram - on B. I have most claims - tho' I know that he has a great deal to do dear fellow at all times. Frank so amused me by saying that he & Berty took my letter with their tea, when at Oxford. I wish I could send him something in reply for his amusing funny letters, besides my accounts of journeyings - bills & debts. We expect your letters in two or 3 days - when I hope to hear of dear Bella's health being better - my best thanks are due to my dear little sisters for their letters - I am very negligent of them & Aunt I must confess, but things will mend one of these days and I shall become a good boy - Give my very best love to all

God bless you my dear mother Yr. affecte Son Juxon H Jones.

I am expecting some killing news from the girls, of their visit to Babycombe - I'm fairly (or unfairly) cut out I know - Oh dear! what inconstant creatures the fair ones are. I have left Meerut without having ever seen G. Harriot - of the Reynolds I have not heard a word - nor of the Rabans⁸⁴ - or other acquaintances of the family -

[addressed:

Via Falmouth

Overland

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: EXETER NO 8 1841]

1

Recd yours of July 28th in Septbr 17th.

Kurnaul October 18th 1841

My dear mother

I have been writing two long scrawls to Tom & Frank to each of whom I was greatly in debt & have consequently nothing left to tell you - not that I mean to say that I have told them any thing - for nothing whatever has transpired of any consequence since I wrote last - & you have already experienced, there is less & less to be said of my goings on every month - But whatever the amount of news, I cannot forbear writing, as I dare say you would experience the same disappointment that I should if a single month should pass without receiving a letter, tho' I am sorry to find that notwithstanding my regularity in writing, my letters are very irregularly received by you - I cannot acct for it. I receive yours with beautiful & pleasing regularity - fortunate it is so, for I do not long half so much for pay-day as I do for your letters - the near approach of the day keeps me in excellent spirits. I only wish that the post could be so arranged that I might receive your letters the day before I write instead of the day after as is nearly always the case. Frank or Tom must tell you the important part of my communications to them, for I fear a return of my indisposition if I go on repeating the acct. of each day, immediately after my convalescence. I will just say that I have had a slight attack of fever which laid me up for a fortnight - I have been up for 5 days now and I feel quite well & strong & have no appearances of my late illness remaining except that I have no hair upon my head - the Dr. is very shy of letting me go about & so I kept still on the sick list - but I must be released in a day or two - for I am now quite equal to my duties. We have had a really formidable attack of sickness affecting all the Troops

1v

to a degree that has been seldom if ever known - The excessive work & being out in the sun on horse-back or in a Palki all day brought on my sickness. What do you think of 3 visits a day to the Hospital each 2 & 3 hours invariably, besides other visits to the Barracks - officers - women & children - We are now all pretty smooth again. I continue to like Kurnaul, tho' I know nothing of it as scarcely - since I wrote last I have been ½ the time so busy as never to be able to do any thing but my duties in the Hospital - & have been in bed the other half - However I had many visits from my kind friends during my confinement at home. They talk of a move to Meerut which would gladden

the hearts of all - chiefly on acct. of the good quarters and European shops (that is the cheapness of things) at Meerut - I have no particular attachment to the place as I have no friends there but Edlin and Dr Nisbet who received me into his house so kindly - for my old Regmt the 9th is going off to Cabool this or next month it is expected. Its a lucky thing I escaped going with them as far as finances are concerned - I used to wish to go there with that Regmt but my views are changed since I became a Dragoon. There is but a bare possibility of our taking the field so that my dear Netta will be disappointed in her expectations of my acct. of my deeds of battle. If we go I am not likely to be left in the lurch by the rascally Native Cavalry that somt. cut & leave their friends (the officers) to fight the battle by themselves. You of course remember the affair of the 2nd Cavalry the disbanding of the whole Corps as a terrible example - & will mark their disgrace for years - fancy a blank between the 1st & 3rd Regmts. We have heard lately of some of them (the Cavalry) behaving with great gallantry in a little spree up in Affghanistan. My young chum is just going off there - so I shall enjoy some quiet again. I hate the company of boys - my young friend was always hard at work hammering an old gun barrel - or a tin pot - destroying everything he has by way of making something new- this is not the sort of social rational

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intercourse that pleases me. I hope that the girls have been at Babbycombe & that I shall hear some accts of our old friends the Patricks. When shall I be able to write to George I wonder - Frank must be with you about this time - such a pleasure it must be for you to have a protector. You must indeed feel a painful blank when you visit Exeter. You have no one with whom you can make yourself at home, at any time - except at Bowrings⁸⁵ & how precious dull Ottery must be to ye younger part of the family - are the Patricks coming back there ever? They would make it a little pleasanter for you. The Coleridges⁸⁶ are very slow coaches indeed - it often struck me as being strange that I never had the least civility shown me by them - was never invited to their house. The people of this country are certainly of totally different natures from some at least at home. Who in England would ask a person after seeing him 3 or 4 times, to his house for a week - or upon the recommendation of a short note, make you as comfortable as if you were at home, & for as long a time as you chose to stay? I greatly miss my old chum Borton - one of the disadvantages of moving about here is that you are soon separated from friends. This naturally makes one wish for a companion who would accompany [torn] wherever you went - & such I must find long before my furlough comes I fear - You will be glad to hear that I am exceedingly pleased with my superior, the Surgeon - he has attended me with the greatest kindness he often asks me to dine with him - & takes me out in his carriage on the course of an evening - quite particular fine that! I have only been there twice as yet - you know what "the course" is - the drive where every one in the station goes morning & evening - I used to go every day at Meerut, in my days of ease. We have a band every night in the week, but lately all have sick & the sound of music has not been heard for the last 6 weeks except the day before yesterday, when one band was able to muster in some tolerable force. I am afraid of being late for the post. I have had so many interruptions - my young chum. has come in with a troop of fellows getting all his things ready for the march. I have but one room to sit in so that I am in the midst of row and hub-bub. I have indeed given you a real shabby letter but its too late to improve it - this is worth only a bad shilling. I have written lots of stuff to Tom & Frank & so

2v

have utterly for the present exhausted my writing faculties. You must ask them for their letters - I hope to hear from one of them this week. I find it is in vain that I endeavour to write to more than one member of the family at a time and you must eventually get tired of this my monthly writing. The worst of it is that I always feel myself in debt after writing folios. I must write to Holberton & to Mr. Twining⁸⁷ at his recommendn. I am sure that nothing will give me more pleasure than thanking him for his getting me my present location, I mean into Service. As I generly had to say I

have not seen or heard of the Reynolds - or other friends. My chum is going to join young Dennys' Regmt. so I must write to him - he is

in Cabul. With many apologies for not writing to the dear girls or Aunt & for this my sorry & hurried letter. I remain your affectite son Juxon.

[addressed:

Overland Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: HONITON DEC12 1841
EXETER DEC10 1841]

1

Recd. yours of Augst 29th on 21st October - my last on the 18th ultimo

Kurnaul November 17th /41

My dearest Mother

I am going to write to you in a desperate hurry I have just learnt that this is the last day for the mail, instead of tomorrow. I sent you last time but a sorry scrawl - in fact so bad that I think you must have got it at half price. You will be surprised to hear that I recd. an old letter of yrs of December last, it has been travelling thro'out India for the last nine months. It was such a treat in the middle of the month - & not a wit the worse for being rather ancient - there was a delightful little note from dear Sibella who I thought had not been able to send so long a chit at that time & I never gave her credit for so great an exertion - & there was as usual some little tit bits from Netta & Irene - the pretty dears I am afraid will think that I but ill requite them for their goodness - however I must say better things (positively) next time. I have for once a small bit of news. I have seen Mr & Mrs George Hariot - they passed a day here on their way from the hills to Meerut. I was invited to meet them at dinner & the next morning I took a ride with George & he passed the morning with me. I like him extremely - & he seemed exceedingly glad to see me - We chatted an immense deal of olden times & old friends & seemingly with intense interest & satisfaction. He was much grieved to hear of poor Mary Bent's⁸⁸ death & of poor Molly's too. His eldest child, a girl is exactly like what he was as a child - a little white headed thing, with the same mischievous diabolical scowl. Don't say I said so. His regmt is going home either this season or next - but he remains & will exchange into the one coming out. Mrs H. I did not speak to so cant tell you any thing of her but she seemed a quiet little lady - not possessing great charms of face. Talking of charms reminds me that you must tell Bella Netta & Irene that I am living with a lovjer!! & that the contagion has spread to me & I am beginning really to die for H__a. My chum⁸⁹, the son of our Coll⁹⁰. has been thwarted in love, & has hashed up a little bit of romance that is the talk of the whole station. The fair one I am well acquainted with & a most sweet amiable pretty creature she is. They have been engaged some time - the papa won't consent & has accordingly gone raving distracted mad - the daughter is pining away - liver broken eyes destroyed. The Col. who is a jolly old soldier before me, recommended his son to whip off with her, & that's the way it will end I [sic] sure & I am certainly to be engaged in the affair or to know all about it - I think I told you in my last of my being

accidentally introduced to Major Earle⁹¹ & his family, when out shooting - a week ago I passed another delightful day there in the evening the mama & the 3 sweet lassies accompanied me in a short shooting excursion - Plenty of dangerous flirting - no game - but very

1v

fair sport you may be certain. It very strongly reminded me of never-to-be forgotten days at Torquay, fancy such amiable things going on out here - For the last fortnight I have been enjoying myself vastly and accordingly very idle for I have literally nothing to do - My only duty is to attend the drills every other morning - which will soon grow exceedingly tiresome tho' at present rather agreeable. I had to get up an hour before dawn & go off to the parade, where you may suppose I learn more of military tactics than of doctoring - & I stand a pretty fair chance of being eaten up by the loose horses - there are sometimes half a dozen galloping about like furies & they are really dangerous fellows - & I being in the rear they are always down upon me - but I have escaped hitherto from being attacked & mean to fight manfully when I am, of course. If I had a good charger I think I should join in the drilling - the charging wheeling & skirmishing would be a good lark, if I could stick to my horse well enough. Yesterday my chum & I went out for a day's shooting - with camels tent and grub - but we had but little sport - we were looking too much after the deer & could not get sufficiently near them. The weather is now so delightful that you may be out all day with impunity - we were out from ½ past 5 till 3 p.m - I was neither hot nor fatigued in the least, but felt an infinitely deal better for the exercise - & we enjoyed the change of air & occupation very much. We had every thing so Comfortable - after the 1st 4 hours of it we had a nice wash, change of things & breakfast - & then started off till dinner time - & drove back in the evening. We were too near Cantonments for much game, which was however but a slight disappointmt. but next time we shall go some 6 or 8 miles off. My companion trode upon a large snake, but fortunately blew him to pieces before he had got his teeth ready. We are for certain going back to Meerut at the end of the cold season. i.e. in March. I'm not even sure that I shall not try to get some change of location before that time - tho' if there is no prospect of my getting any but a chance of native corps I shall grumblingly remain where I am. I have a hearty antipathy to this total professional idleness - which must continue during the whole of the practising season, but being with a native corps is worse than useless to a professional man I think - certainly it would be more satisfactory to treat dogs & horses than natives. Every native must go and sit completely undressed in the open air, to cook & eat his dinner - & this they do as long as there is a spark of life in them - & besides that they eat like pigs or boa constrictors, for every fellow eats till he can eat no more - & tho' they have the credit of being practically abstemious, I think nothing more disgusting than witnessing a native get near the end of his feed. All this is rather disapproved

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of by a scientific physician when a patient is near dying with a fever &c - & it is difficult to practise upon 5lbs of garlic, onions & gram twice a day. I have this moment had a note to tell me I must be off to see our Vettry surgeon - about 2 miles off, which will curtail my letter not a little I fear. However I have no news to tell you - beyond the affairs of Kurnaul - there are lots & lots of parties going on, said to be exceedingly gay & pleasant - We have re-union balls about once a fortnight - I dont go because I dont know any one - or rather any family that goes to them. The Genl. has just returned from the hills & that has led to several balls & parties. Marriages & such things lead to more & so this station is called in the Calcutta papers marvellously gay. I found that my pay as a cavalry officer was disallowed, but every one tells me that I shall recover the difference by sending a letter to the authorities - as every officer receives the cavalry allowances when doing duty with a mounted corps. & a bonus of 60 or 70£ by & by will be very good - There is but little talk now of a move into the Punjab. The Commdr in Chief is on his way here & I suppose that before he leaves the station we shall k[torn] what is to be done. You see in the papers of course that all the [torn]dian

news - Our officers and men have been horr[torn] murdered[torn] in the passes near Cabul - the natives in the passes are posted behind rocks & trees in the heights that overhang the road and pick off our men with perfect impunity - We have lost 50 men & more without having shot a single one of the enemy. Horrid work! particularly when you know that everyone who marches up there is exposed to the same cold blooded murder. Im sorry that I have not time to chat any more. I must be off. God bless you my dear mother Yr affecte son Juxon.

- give my love to all at home & make to yourself & them what apologies you can for my shabby chits (Ind. letters) The languages are not progressing rapidly, but in this gay charming weather its impossible to stay in-doors & with hard books before you. Netta's enquiries about the fiddle I must answer - he's not a busted yet - & I must confess that I sometimes attempt to play. I am going to have a master forthwith. What a good thing that production of Franks was - I'm going to send it & the answer afterwards to the Delhi Gazette!! The people of India are dabs at such things, at least I see them in the papers often

Adieu Adieu

2v

[addressed:

Via Falmouth

Overland Mail

Mrs. John Jones

Ottery St Mary

Sidmouth

Devonshire

England

[stamped: EXETER JA 18 1842

1

1841 December 12th "Himalaya Mountain"!

My dearest Mother

I recd. your last letter on the 23rd ultima, at Lightening Lodge, situated at 10,000 ft above the level of the sea (& on a level with the top of Mount Blanc) in the Himalaya Mountains. I arrived here 2 days before your letters & was then enjoying myself in the house of my old friend Major Skinner - he being the Commandant & I the medical officer in charge of this Convalescent Depot for Europeans - Civil, Military & babies - Tomorrow will complete the 3rd week of my stay here, but alas! my reign will be shortly over, for I have been for some days awaiting the arrival of my successor - little success to him! I thought I should have kept the post for the winter, particularly as it is not easy to come & go when the winter has fairly set in which it now seems to have done. But I was indulging in too bright a dream, knowing that this is by far the best post for a Medl. officer in the whole of India & always given to some old (& deserving) stager. It is rather shabby treatment of me, because I am put to the expense of 30£ for nothing. My travelling expenses & clothing & furniture all thrown away - for nothing that I had in the plains could I wear here & nothing that I have just furnished myself with, will be of service to me there. But I have visited the greatest Mountains in the world & I think I am living as high up in it (the world) as most human creatures. I am luxuriating in an English climate (for I'll be sworn I am the coldest of the two) English manners and customs!! frost & snow & fireside - a perfect picture of home. There is nothing Indian about us, except the shivering blacks. You would not know me if you could see me now - with a great red worsted nightcap on (it's nine o clock, a.m) a thick great coat, of stuff like lamb's wool - & a fierce pair of moustache - a fact; They are cultivated here to show our liberty -

Abroad you'd see me in a fustian colored coat, do. inexpressibles - a large pair of leather leggings, a real beaver hat & other articles making me look like a keen sportsman, or particularly comfortable looking gentleman - But we are all alike here. The place is now very much deserted - there are none but officers on sick leave and a very few ladies whose husbands are away in that field of blood & murder - Cabul. I wonder what they will say now of Ghuznee⁹² - retaken all our troops murdered &c &c. The great advantages of this place, Landour⁹³ are the splendid climate & the private practice - which makes every Dr's fortune who is lucky enough to get the post permanently. My private practice has been among the babies - but I have not made my fortune yet - for I have rather been cleaned out, than otherwise. I shall

1v

get a weeks leave & go on some pleasant excursions before I leave this to return to the 'plane roast' - What my lot is to be I can't conceive - My old post in the Dragoons has been occupied by another - & now I must wander about with the niggers I suppose - that I dread - & still more the chance of being sent to Cabul. A very large force has just started off there & my old regiment the 9th & Borton - to attempt to save our army up there - split into twenty parts - hemmed in by impossible passes - & enemies on every side - without a possibility of communicating with one another - or with this country - 14 officers already killed & numbers of men, & every one shot like dogs. To you at home I suppose these things have little interest - but here its the all absorbing subject of conversation, reflection, dreaming &c. In fact an army of nearly 25,000 men is in a very bad way - But this is all political stuff. You'll no doubt expect to hear something about the hills - but you'll be disappointed - for its impossible to say any thing about them - I used to conceive that people who had visited these Hills! they call them in India, had a trick of rather exaggerating in their accounts of the cuds - anglise precipices, valleys, yawning chasms - I dont know what to call them - & remembering that near Edinbro' I used to look down very steadily from Arthur's Seat, from which there is an easy descent of nearly 900 ft, I thought I should be able to go about these hills without any of the idle terrors that people talked of, quite like a native. But how different I found it. The hills I had once imagined so sublime & vast, were but playthings to the Himalayas. That's all I can say of them - no description can be given - descriptions must not be only vast but numberless - for you cannot go out without finding some sublime & mysterious change having affected the whole scene - from clouds & storm - sunshine - snow - light & shade & that sort of thing. When you consider that 3 hours walking brings you from the plains to this immense elevation, you will think that there can be but little exaggeration in saying that the view of the plains is boundless - it is so vast that the horizon does not appear to bound our view - or at all to belong to us, of this upper world - tho' perhaps it really does in both cases? We look so completely from the skies upon the nether world - & really the effect of a bright sunshiny cloud being close to one & cutting off the view of all before you, except the spot of ground you are on, is so strange & powerful, that I cannot I cannot help feeling myself to be suspended in middle air - & to partake in no small degree of the terrors of such a situation - supposing that I was sitting only on a cloud. There is, what you would call - a rather high range of hills about 23 miles off - between us & the plains & helping to form the beautiful valley of the Dhoon. In this valley from my verandah I can see

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the 'Infant Ganges' & the juvenile Jumna taking their silvery ways as far as the eye can reach nearly & then disappearing for a short space, show themselves on the other side of the hills, in the boundless plain, where their course is indicated by bright glittering spots appearing at intervals all the way to the horizon - on either side, east & west. The Jumna, which runs nearly west of us, when lighted up by the nearly setting sun, is the most wonderful & beautiful object in nature I ever saw. The other day we were standing outside the verandah for an hour, utterly lost in wonder & astonishment at the scene - over our heads was a black canopy - a perfect dome of dense clouds,

beneath the margin of which the whole view of the plains, hills, valley, rivers, towns cities and country appeared with a clearness & brilliancy, which I can compare only to a glimpse of the heavenly regions. Just looking over the other end of my pen I see the snowy range - "the snowy _____ that roving Tartar bounds" - most certainly the extreme limits of the world in this direction! There is a mighty range of mountains between us and them - promising eldest sons to the white headed old fellows beyond - forming many a frowning monster - & many a dark unfathomable abyss. I think you may if a good hand at rolling, go two thousand feet & more in half a second down these 'cuds' - & there are many little abrupt tumbles of 700 ft. before you'd come to the rolling part - & somehow one always walks on the very verge of these places - the roads are quite broad enough for the most timid & in some places railed in - they all ought to be so, as a false step of man or brute, would be indeed fatal. It is now very cold - the snow has now remained unmelted one week on the ground - which pretty nearly prevents every one from stirring abroad. I however must go to my Hospital, 1 mile & ½ away; but I endanger my life only every other day - not a Xian soul besides me appears out of doors - the other day when I went out, there was not a print of a foot for half a mile of my road - The cold is very distressing to the poor natives - whether of the hills or not - they are often nearly frozen in their wretched cabins - The snow puts an entire stop to all communication between the inhabitants - white or black - & when this desirable event comes I don't what [sic] we are to do - no wood, no water, no bread, no butter to be had for love or money - & how am I to go to my Hospital? I have twice attempted the performance & been obliged to go back, finding my nether limbs too benumbed to proceed - & on acct. of all this I wish for the arrival of my successor - Our house a government one - is the highest situated but one and called Lightning Lodge from being subject to attacks from that element - & this is ye case with all the houses on the summits of the hills, which have been so often burnt, that their ruins are now deserted & they form most improving & interesting objects in this wondrous scene - its something curious to see these scorched blackened ruins - such conspicuous objects in this world of mountains - The houses sprinkled all over the hills look like

2v

small dots of snow settled on the ledges in the front of some great house - Bus! not a kiss, but Enough! in Hindostanee. I have said nothing but hum drum stuff about the hills - but I did not know what I was about - I thought when at the bottom of the 3rd page it was the 1st - you will not think so - But look here Mama - I have anticipated the mail 3 days - I have a beautiful fire - dinner will soon be ready & I am just in the humour for talking to you, as if time & space had nothing to do with our communicatns - & I speak as if I had just come into the drawing room & was telling you where I had been just now. It may be the climate for I never felt so well inclined to set about writing. I shall write 3 distinct & separate letters to each & every member of the family. Now that I have written my letter I will read yours but without waiting I must tell you that I am nearly expiring with impatience to have your next letters - some strange eventful news- The sinner Tom has not written to me as you promised he would - he and Frank will be getting my letters about this time I suppose.

I have not seen or heard of my friends the Edlins lately - seen nothing of the Reynolds - I have I suppose forever taken leave of my good kind friends at Kurnaul - I have been staying some days with Major Skinner - Last evening we started off after dark - in the midst of the snow - each of us declaring that some death we'll die before the morning - but we came safe home again from a dinner party at the Major's - Tomorrow I go out to dine again - I have several kind invitations - meet with great kindness from the ladies - one of them soon to be a Countess - tho' any thing but fit for it. My chum a gentlemanly nice young fellow - son of a Bart - we are soon to part I am sorry to say. We'll have some shooting in the Dhoon first - & other little amusements - I had an odd adventure coming home in my Palkee - going along asleep I was stopped by a pleasant looking fellow "I beg your pardon for disturbing you - but you have been travelling - my house is close by - come and refresh

yourself." I was obliged to refuse this kindness - but again I was stopped, & pulled out of my Palki, shoved into a Gig

by my old Dum Dum chum - "We're going to dine with Turnbull" & lo! I found Mr T. to be the person who had stopped me on the Hon. Compy's high way. Indian manners Mama! I had a good dinner &c. much merriment & on I went sleeping till next morning. I got up in time to walk thro' the "pass" - the bed of a mighty mountain torrent - high rocks & precipices - I walked 8 miles thro' it - a novel scene to me - had 4 shots with pocket pistols at as many silver pheasants - did not hit [torn] you know I fired with ball - God bless you my dear Mot[torn] Yr affte. son Juxon H Jones.

[addressed:

Overland Mail

Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: LANDOUR 41 December 15
HONITON FE 10 1842
EXETER FE 10 1842]

1

[upside down at top of page: 18th January The above report all nonsense It is true that Sir W McNaughton⁹⁴ is murdered - most treacherously - while under a truce.]

Deyrah Dhoon.
January 14th /42

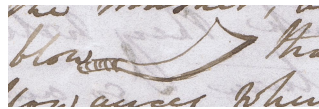
My very dear Mother

I received your last letter containing the joyful news of Frank's happy termination of his bachelors troubles⁹⁵, & the joy all the family are feeling in the occasion, on the day after Xmas day in my old quarters - Lightning Lodge - Tho' in every respect my Xmas was a happy & merry one, I was in ecstasies at this good news - & of some more, that came in while I was reading yours. I told you in my last how I was expecting daily to be turned out of Landour - in anticipation of this I applied for the civil Asst. Surgcy. of Deyrah - a beautiful place 5 miles from the foot of the Himalayas, & situated in the lovely valley of the Dhoon - called the Devonshire of India! While reading your dear letters I recd my appointment to Deyrah!! With this happy combination of success, you may imagine that I participated in no small degree in the 'mad delight' you were afflicted with - Every one says that I shall keep this post for a long time; but unfortunately, my predecessor who departed only 2 days ago, is going to petition for his return here - because he left a lucrative post elsewhere on purpose to get this one, & now he is ordered off with his corps - A local corps it is called because they never go away or move about! but in the present bad state of affairs I think they will be ordered off on foreign service. If they shortly return I go away & vice versa - or rather if they stay away a long time I remain a long time - So here I shall enjoy myself immensely while I can - I have scarcely any people to take care of, so I go out shooting, or up to the hills whenever I please - there is no such thing as a drum or bugle, red coat or sword to be seen or heard. I have not even to dismiss my moustache. The country about me is as green as the meadows in Devon. I have a sweet pretty little house & garden all to myself, & such I mean to keep it - I'll never

have a chum again. I have constantly visitors from the hills, coming for a days shooting - & during the last 3 weeks I have enjoyed myself as much as ever I did my Xmas holidays for I have had no duty whatever for 3 weeks.

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You see I had my 6 weeks enjoymt of the Hills - & having now had enough of cold & snow I come down into a climate which equals any in the world - We never experience the intense heat of the plains; no hot winds - & now it is milder i.e. warmer than the plains - without the intense cold they have morning & evening. In point of pecuniary excellence, 16£/10 a month is what I get - What I had at Landour - for I got no fees there, & more are to be had here - tho' above I had a good deal of hard work - the best thing no doubt - but here I can read & go on with my long neglected study of the languages - By the by the Drs. reap no advantage from passing an examinatr, because they cannot be Interpreters to Corps - & they are now cut off from civil employmts, except civil doctoring. I am studying drawing now with a vengeance - one of my fair patients at Landour has lent me a magnificent work - "Harding's Elementry Art"⁹⁶ - & I have such scenery to encourage me. From East to west the great blue mountains offer most grand subjects for drawing - so perhaps I may one day have a portfolio. I must tell you what a funny set of little fellows these mountaineers are. In the Regimt now going away I should belong to the Grenadier Company - their average stature is about 5 ft 2 in - or not so much. These are the extraordinary race that have one wife between 3 & 4 gentleman & the women I must say have a very lordly air, & appear quite equal to keeping in proper subjection 4 husbands - you have of course heard of this fact - they carry, together with the musket, a most awful hatchet - which will cut a man up with a blow



that's the sort of thing - I heard the other day that my extra allowances when I was with the Dragoons are to be cut - that makes me minus 33£ - I am not at present at all getting rich - The awful expenses of these removes keep me at a very low ebb - however in time I shall get on - health, happiness & an ample sufficiency I have always enjoyed - but I regard with great uneasiness my debt to Mr Stowey - & the consequences to you, for a time. two years are now completed alas! My old chum Butter⁹⁷ is living just 40 miles off, so we shall have frequent visits between us - he has just as little to do as I have. All this country about here is the most celebrated for tigers - so before long you will certainly hear of my going out on these expeditions for Tigers - The Leopards prowl about our houses every night - & those who keep traps catch one nearly every week. Without the greatest care, you lose every dog you have, by them.

2

Except a few miles of cultivated ground , the whole of this valley appears a fearful jungle - Yesterday I came upon the verge of it, when out shooting, & did not at all like the idea of going into it - It is now the bad season for shooting any thing but partridge - but we bag from 6 to 17 brace a day - I have had some 8 or 10 excursions & shall soon be a tolerable shot. Our expeditions from the hills were very fine - we used to walk the 14 miles down to the foot of them by moonlight, ride about 8 miles into the preserves before day-light, & toil through the whole day & ride back at night. that's something like an excursion - This is comparing notes with Tom - he has not yet sent me a letter as he promised lately - the sinner. It occurs to me that my letter to Frank calling him a spooney & other abusive names, will reach him just about this time. What a happy fellow he must be - I must say I fully anticipate as much happiness for him as he does himself - & how delightful to have another sister. How I wished to be at home to share all this delicious joy. But by the time I get

home there may be additional objects of interest. A minute ago a gentleman called upon me who keeps a 'Brighton Mail' coach & drives up & down the road with 4 in hand - it is an imported coach with all the English names on it - of person and places. If that does not complete the delusion of this being Devonshire I don't know what could, tho' you may remark that Brighton coaches don't go into Devonshire. He brought me the latest news from the N.W. 10,000 of our troops have capitulated! & to as sad a set of murderous barbarians as ever lived. What a state of things for a British army - they must have been starved into capitulation - for a few days ago the report was that they had but 2 days provisions. But this is mere report - tho' we have long been talking about the certainty of their capitulating ere long. A Dum Dum chum of mine died there the other day. This is at Candahar not at Cabul. My good old chum Borton is close up at Peshawa now, he is made a Capt'n. & I had a letter dated 29th Dec from my little tinkering companion at Kurnaul - from Peshawa. I told you of my living with a Mr White, a lovier - poor fellow, he has been fairly jilted - a dreadful thing for him, because it was made so public - every body enquiring when he was going to be married - no doubt his heart is still quite sound. Mine is healing fast - because of course my duties leave me no time to think of such vanities. You must see that my complaints on that score are getting smaller & fewer - & I dare say that in my next but 1 or 2 there will not be a word upon the subject. So much for the faithlessness of my sex - or me.

2v

A merry Xmas & happy new year & many many of them - to you Mama & all of the family - I spent a 2nd Xmas day with Major Skinner - the first nearly a thousand miles off from this. Since writing the line above I have been sent for by 3 different people - all lying in different directions & I have learnt that the intelligence from Candahar is not at all warranted true - so much the better. This place will be quite deserted in April - ½ the people are gone above - some gone off with the Regmt & the remainder go up in the hot weather. You can't conceive what a change it is to me to be an independt man here & as it was at Landour. So much better than being under the thumb of a crusty old Queen's doctor - & its so very agreeable attending the ladies - the chit chat with them are so much better than talking to none but whiskered Dragoons - How strangely one alters every month - When at Kurnaul I was afraid of my life, if anyone proposed my calling upon any one - & now it is my chief pleasure

but then I must remember that then I was afraid that people would consider me a bore - but when they consider themselves under an obligation to you, they are of course marvellously civil. All Meerut during 6 months I knew no one - at Landour in one week I knew every one! I never hear a word from Bertram & you don't speak of the progress of his Oxford career. Dear Sibella sent me a delightful letter from Plymouth - how marvellously gay & dashing you have all been - I wish there were some more marriages going on. It restores the life & energies that have been wasting for the last 10 years. Its a pity one can't marry every year - like these Goorkahs; at least 5 times. I have been taxed with two love makings at L - but they are not good in this country. Mrs McDonald is the only lady I have seen that is much like the lovely creatures at home. A young lady, daughter of a cavalry Coll ran away with a private of the Dragoons the other day - & Major S___ at L_d_r has a Mrs Huff as a captive - extensive damages - & being cut by all married folks is the consequence. Strange things you see in this country - Nothing more common.

I fancy that I write the ends of my letters too small - but I am very glad that your eyes are so well - & Sibella tells me she never knew you so well & happy in her life. How is dear Fanny Bt. give my best love to her - Fancy Rachael⁹⁸ being married - what a lark. Aunt Jim I suppose is with you now so give my best of all loves to her - tell her that I think of her whenever I put on any of my shirts with buttons - & Irene's pretty little studs, remind me of her. Tom's sword is fallen into disuse - but it is still my trusty companion.

[addressed:

Overland Mail

Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

[no stamps so probably enclosed with other family letters]

1

Deyrah Dhoon.
February 12th /42

My dearest Mother

In my last letter you will see that my thoughts were engaged in the contemplation (always with us an unpleasant one) - of the state of money affairs. My reflections were somewhat of a melancholy nature, which became gloomy indeed when I found 3 days after, in your letter, that you had felt & expressed the same uneasiness that I had - But I can give you this comfort, that I will certainly relieve you shortly of your burthen for the next three years - It was only lately that I considered the great inconvenience it would be to you to pay 10£, tho' it was only once a year - Now my ambition has been to get rid of a good large proportion of my debt at one fell swoop by sending you a hundred pounds, with two or 3 tens for the interest - that I see now is a thing hard indeed to be done - but I promise you before the expiration of 2mos to send you 50£ at least - My dear mother you must not at present compare my management with that of my $\frac{1}{2}$ brother in law, Roberton⁹⁹ - for you must consider that I came here without a penny - that I have not the power to keep a low rate of expenses & establishment - for the Dr. in such places as this & Landour, is liable to numberless visitors - must keep more horses than one - that I make removes every 1, 2 or 3 months - any one move being sufficient to clean me of 6 months' savings. The unavoidable expenses of my remove from Kurnaul to Landour were 16£ - from Meerat to Kurnaul something little short of that - My remove from Landour to Deyrah even makes an impression on my purse - I have an expensive house - it must be in some manner furnished - I have no chum to share the expenses of servants, rent &c. besides I must in such a place as this return the civilities I receive in the shape of dinners - I have not been 3 days at Deyrah without a visitor, sometimes 3 or 4 staying in my house at a time - & it is impossible that it should be otherwise in this land of hospitality. I have been so exceedingly disgusted with the retrenchments made upon my pay while with the Dragoons - amounting to 12£ a month, that I am shy now of saying anything about my pay, excepting that which I have recd - & as I have had none here I ought to be silent upon the subject - but I will suggest the possibility of my having 44£ a month in fact that is my pay here, of one penny of which they cannot cheat me. If I keep this post 3 months you may expect a handsome remittance

1v

I told you in my last that it was very uncertain how long I was to remain here - It seems to be a more certain matter now - that I shall shortly be ejected - if so, I shall be sent to Cabul - where we all reap - not honours & riches, but shame, defeat & ruin. I should not like to pay 2 yrs allowances by way of ransom - as many have done - tho' no such paltry sums have as yet been accepted - nothing short of a lak of Rupees suits the Affghans - You know by this time as all all Europe must know, of the melancholy fate of the Cabul force - reports are so various that we fear to send them

home. The most terrible thing that could possibly have occurred is the complete defeat of a fresh force sent to relieve them! of the latter there is no doubt. Poor Cardew of Mt. Radford has been reported dead, with a long string of others - my young Hampton friend Cunningham¹⁰⁰ was in the thick of the dreadful march from Cabul - not one living Sepoy remains of that force - the Natives were half destroyed by the cold - but it is hoped that the greater part of the Europeans will escape - for many days it was confidently reported that only one soul escaped - Dr. Brydon¹⁰¹. I have several friends in each of the 3 divisions of the army - the vanquished the beleaguered, & those marching to their relief. Never was this country in such a state - perhaps the worst thing is that none put the least confidence in our rulers or leaders - or rather than none are found worthy of confidence - These awful things are not mentioned in the Calcutta papers! & no decided steps are taken by the Governmt. We all suppose Lord Auckland¹⁰² to be raving distracted mad - & we know one thing equally to be feared for its disastrous consequences - viz. that there is a fierce opposition between the Govr. Genrl. & Commdr in Chief¹⁰³! It seems strange indeed to me to be in a country where we all feel as if we were sitting over a mine - with fearful chances of its exploding. The papers teem with dark forebodings - which certainly terrify the timid at least. The country is almost without troops thro'out the greater part - & in case of an outbreak, which could take place only under such a state of things, there is no power to suppress it - & the whole country seems threatening it in every direction - there have been already 3 instances of troops marching many miles to over awe the rebellious natives, not at a day's notice, but at a moment's, & at midnight too. This looks a very melancholy picture - but still it falls far short of the real actual state of things & the real feelings of the English world here. I tell you all this as a little matter of history - not to alarm you for I am not myself alarmed in the least - as to the safety of the Empire tho' it is a pitiable story you will have at home of the glory of British

2

Arms - & nothing very encouraging in the accts. of our Govr. Genrl. & the present power & firmness of this pretty considerable fine Empire. Of course if things take a favourable turn all these fears will be laughed at as idle in the extreme - but nevertheless they exist & I suppose not without good cause. If we can give the Affghans a licking & just make our own terms all will be shortly right - But we can't begin our operations under 6 weeks - & whatever force we employ to relieve our soldiers at Jelalabad, if the enemy oppose us the loss to us will be fearful, with little short of impunity to them. The Keiber Pass, 10 miles long, thro' which is the approach to Julallabad, is such a place that a few hundred Europeans could effectually stop any army. But this is enough of national matters. I have long known here a young fellow named Warren, whose family lived in ye Terrace at Mt. Radford - he has been staying with me 2 days - of course he knows nearly all our old acquaintance in those parts. I am getting up in the world you will say when I tell you my fine list of patients - 2 Generals civilians and ladies, & a probability of adding to them the ex-king of Affghan - Dost Mahommed¹⁰⁴. Unfortunately I get no fees - tho' I the other day attended a gay lady in her confinemt - a case in which we sometimes get one. However I have the pleasure of most choice society & very nice friends. There is an unlucky noble Lord in this country - Lord Henry Gordon¹⁰⁵ - I have several times met him & his lady; so we are also becoming aristocratic in our acquaintance. It is entirely a different life in these in these civil stations, red coats are an abomination to us - & poor living a still greater offence to our feelings. But alas I am only allowed to taste of this paradise a short time - I should shortly become actually rich in this place if I remained - All the officers of the Corps that was stationed here are men of substance. They farm a great deal - besides having a farm yard - for here all meat, fowls &c are not only execrable, but very expensive, & having ducks & mutton of one's own feeding is not only fattening to the body, but to the purse also. I have just had a note from the Dr. attending upon Dost Mahomd., saying that he (the Dost) is not likely to come here - it adds that he gets 10£ a month for attending the old boy - besides the charge of Troops to take care of him - What a prize he would be to me! it would make for me nearly 60£ a month. Dont you wish you may get it, says Avarice? 13th. Yesterday a proclamation from ye Governor

Genl. reached us. it is very encouraging to the desponding - Six Regmts are instantly to be raised & 3 Corps of 600 men to be raised to 1,000!! there is great palaver about the past mishaps in Affghanistn - that they will be the cause of a terrible dismay to our enemies, of the energy, power & resources of this great Empire - And there is more comforting news from Cabul - it appears certain that many officers are living, tho prisoners. We hear nothing of even a remnant of the Queen's 44th Regt being saved. I have this instt read this mornngs news - about 60 persons altogether are saved. I see in the same acct. that my little chum Halhed¹⁰⁶ at Kurnaul was wounded in the late disgraceful defeat in the Keiber Pass under Col. Wild - At Julallabad there are only now 1,500 men - they are in good spirits however

2v

and doing everything to strengthen their position. Lady Hale is wounded & one poor lady was shot dead in the action. The paper of today laughs at the trumpery measures taken by the Governmt to increase the army - for that they are only restoring the Regmts that have been cut up. We all wish to see the Govr General up on this frontier - but as Lord Ellenbro' is expected now, measures on a very small scale will be taken I suppose by the ex-Governr. I have not heard from Tom or Berty but once since I have been here - now is that not shameful in the extreme & I always keep up my hopes a week after the 1st delivery of the letters. I am preparing to go on a shooting excursion & have not time to abuse them now - but I will do it another time - Its really infamous. I have been out shooting deer pea-fowl - wild pigs & the other day nearly shot a leopard. I was within

four yards of him - & the place I go to was beaten the other day for 2 tigers that had killed two bullocks - we came upon one bleeding from the tiger's bite & not quite dead. I wish you adieu rather abruptly with all the kindest love's & thanks for letters, to my dearest sisters & Aunt Jim - I see I have written a very trumpery letter more about politics than anything else - I sent a short scrawl to Frank last time - dear lucky dog - God bless you my dearest Mother - Juxon H Jones.

[addressed:

Overland Mail Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: DERAH DOON 14 Feby /42
EXETER AP 9 1842]

1

Deyrah Dhoon
March 14th /42

My dearest Mother

The past month has been a perfect blank as far as regards changes & news - at least of a pleasant kind. What has most occupied my mind is, the certainty of my speedy removal from this sweet place. the regiment is to be back here about this time next month, & with it the Dr., my predecessor. There is scarcely a possibility of my remaining beyond a week or two after their return. There is no chance of the Corps going on service as was fully anticipated at first. For we are about

to show our neighbours that when we get licked, we are unable to retaliate - In other words, it is fully expected that the war in Affghantn will not be carried on - all that will be done will be to relieve Genl Sale and his troops, that have been shut up in Julallabad for the last 5 months - & it is expected that that will be effected by treaty & not by force of arms, so I have not the terrors & discomforts of a shabby campaign before me, when I am again thrown on the wide world - tho' I look forward with horror to my next change. I shall assuredly be posted to a Native Corps, the very last thing I wish for, with the exception of "doing duty" under another Dr. - for now I cannot stomach such degradation. The peace and quiet of this place is now destroyed - Dost Mahommed, with a great party of Europeans are encamped 200 yds from my door - Red coats, swords, bugles &c throng in every place - the very fields & valleys are filled with strolling jacket-less soldiers; the game is all driven away - not shot; & every quiet resident disgusted at the intrusion - I have not yet seen the poor ex-king - nor is he to be under my care - for a Dr. came here with him. Col Everest¹⁰⁷ the Surveyor Genl. is encamped close to me - he told me the Dost was a mere 'nigger'. he gave the officers a splendid dinner yesterday - He has very kindly pressed me to go & visit him at his "park" in the hills. He has nearly the largest salary in the country & lives like a prince - & has his house always full of company. I shall pay him a visit when I am struck off the books of Deyrah Dhoon - Lots of ladies, music &c to be had there - I have been tolerably free from company of late - a whole party of my dear friends being gone on an excursion to the interior - & it is getting too hot for people to visit the

1v

Dhoon for pleasure or sporting. I had a letter the other day from my worthy old chum Borton, at Peshawar. They had been visited by a fearful earth-quake - which shook down a great part of the city - threw down even beasts. & all thought they were about to be swallowed up. We had a slighter, tho' still a severe touch of it here - Every one being greatly alarmed & instantly darting from their beds to escape being crushed - Our very splendid house was so shaken & cracked as to be considered unsafe for further residence. What a blessing is sound sleep - I never thought any thing of it - tho' every other person who was asleep at the time was waked up by it. This is the 3rd shock that has been felt here since I came. We are anxiously looking forward to the next mail from home - for we could not before have had many remarks from home, upon the news we sent in December - We want much to know if people at home think or talk at all about our Cabul affairs - the annihilation of a whole army, & other little amusing matters concerning our Govr Genl. - Comdr. in Chief - Lord Ellenbro' arrived on the 28th ultimo - we are anxiously looking for some indication of the course he will pursue - Our consolation that we daily have is that men & officers are continually escaping from the enemy - many that have long been considered dead - I hear nothing of my poor young friend Cunninghame - I thought Cardew was certainly in Cabul - in the list of all the officers in the Cabul force, given in to-day's paper, I see a Dr. Cardew¹⁰⁸ of the Madras service - It seems strange to see in the papers constant orders for levying troops to replace those destroyed at Cabul. People begin very much to talk of misconduct in the (Queen's) 44th - that [blotted] some proposal made to hold the Bala Hissar¹⁰⁹, it was answered that the 44th could not be depended upon! There will be more investigations of Ld Auckland's conduct when he gets home - perhaps he may be impeached. But I suppose you take but little interest in these affairs I suppose you don't devour the papers as I have learnt to do of late. So my dear brother was actually married on 13th January - I expect a wedding feast in your coming letters - accounts of the beautiful bride & the sweet lovely bride's-maids - the gaiety, the joy &c. but as it must all have been inexpressible, I shall not expect a description that comes up to my own dreams on the subject - Its enough to make & begin anew my complaints - of bachelorship, cruel maids and all that sort of thing. But my courage is quickly damped, when I come

2

to be acquainted with the fair objects of my distant admiration - I have been racking my brains with the pros and cons of various fair idols - of the chances of happiness or misery - This is certainly dangerous work - but my contemplations generally end in an unsatisfactory way, so that I feel pretty secure & quite sound. I have had a pretty considerable deal of flirtation lately, which is a good preventative to more rash actions - But mind, this applies only to the Indian fair - Whose accomplishments are so rare as not to be easily found - they generally understand a good deal of Hindostani - dabble slightly in worsted work & ___ I am afraid that is all they can boast of - How should you like me to introduce to you a daughter who eats chupatties, & does not mind the smoke of cigars & hookahs - who never read 3 books - has no idea of music - never heard any - & the worst of all would be one who knows nothing of England - of home - thinks overland letters a great nuisance & nonsense &c &c. that's the sort of wife I shall be getting, one of these days. You can scarcely conceive how unhappy I am become at the prospect of a speedy change of place - all my bright schemes & dreams quite knocked on the head - slick. I look with indifference or pain, upon my increasing stock of chickens & ducks - have ordered a stop to be put on the improvements in the house and garden - think of making my grave here, or of getting a stroke of the sun, just to get 6 months sick leave - I must sell all my provisions, except the cocked hat & all the other hated paraphernalia of war, & like an outcast commence my lonely march to where fate - or the Superintendent Surgeon, may lead me. Now that I am about to be ejected from the Valley of the Dhoon - my "happy valley" - I have nothing to look forward to but constant change, constant marching, heat, deserts &c. I have lately commenced upon my scheme for passing the hot weather - in a way that would have greatly increased my happiness, improved my mind & body, and obtained for the Honble compny a much more worthy servant. These things are now my only care - for I have not one patient - I do a great deal in the gossiping line - giving each of my fair friends in turn the benefit of my conversation - but I shall soon be unhappiest man alive - Dont you think my dear mother it is really affecting? 6 A.M.15th. I am going to the hills directly & must close my letter; or it will be too late after my return - With best love to all Your very affectte son

J.H.J.

2v

[addressed:

Via Falmouth Overland

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: DERAH DOON 16 March /42
EXETER MY 10 1842

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1

Deyrah Dhoon. April 16th /42

My dearest Mother I have been very anxious from not having received your letter of January till the day before yesterday. I was of course looking forward for accounts of dear Frank's marriage & the unusual occurrence of having no letter filled me with alarm - this was happily changed to joy 2 days ago. my letter had been travelling all over the country for one month. I have just written to the post master at Kurnaul, to forward my letters to Deyrah - & I shall be careful to instruct the P.

Masters whenever I change my station. I have been going on in the old quiet way since I wrote last - but now comes another change - the Corps will be here on the 2nd May & then I am again adrift - Happily there is now no chance of my going to Cabul - for no more troops will now be sent there - not till the autumn. I cannot in the least divine the nature of my next post. I shall endeavour to get leave for a month or 2 till the rains begin - for the change to the plains will be very distressing during the hottest months of the year - but this is in consideration for my health more than my pocket. I have not had the pleasure of attending upon the ex-king of Affghantan. & my position as usual has promised more that it performed - From Deyrah I shall go for ever I suppose, & a Native Corps in all probability will be my fate. I had a letter from my old chum Borton written in the afternoon of the day before the long expected & dreaded fighting in the Khyber Pass. I have just heard of his safety, but a very intimate friend of mine in the Corps was killed. You will of course see accounts of the whole affair - by the next mail. Ghuznee has fallen & all our troops there who had entered into a treaty with the Affghans, were massacred on their march - just a repetition of the Cabul disaster. The intelligence of the success of this last effort has relieved us of much anxiety

1v

for had it failed our Empire here would have been lost for ever. We were much disappointed at seeing no mention of the late affair at Cabul, in the last papers from home. Now we are intensely anxious to hear what effect it has produced at home - But I am writing in a desperate hurry, owing to my delaying till the last hour - so I wont talk about politics - tho' for me to disregard such things, would be like - not interfering with the flames, if my house was on fire. I was indeed happy to hear the account of Frank's happy blissful marriage having, beyond the possibility of doubt actually taking place - no more complainings, fears, & threats of doing something desperate. Oh how I envy him. I must follow his example as well as I can - there is no peace or happiness in a bachelor's house - one has such lots of stray acquaintances, who afford you no gratification beyond keeping your house in disorder, discomfort, beer & smoke, that I must get up some matrimonial scheme - but with whom? Many of my old ship-mates are already spliced; but to creatures whose vile deformities of mind & body would incapacitate from being your scullion - that is too harsh perhaps - but the most elegant of my female acquaintances shine chiefly in Crystalizing salt-petre & adorning it with pink ribbons - or in other pursuits equally great & good. My dear mother, this viciousness I think arises from my present troubles - for I have had my house turned topsy-turvy for the last week by fellows who have abused & bullied my servants till they have run away - & I have missed my dinner for the last 5 days - one is apt to bite when hungry - but I am now left alone & shall gradually regain my equanimity & magnanimity. I have been wondering that Tom & Bertram have not written to me more than once since I came out - I shall be down upon them with the greatest abuse if I dont get some news from them shortly - You mention nothing about Berty's Oxford career - I am so anxious to learn how he is getting on in it, that I shall ask for a special report the next time you write -

2

I am delighted to hear that dear old Fanny B. is so well & about to write to me. I have not heard a word of the Baratty for a long time - & I am gradually dropping my correspondence. I have not much enjoyed my days here from the continual flow of friends & acquaintance into my house - it has often been proposed to put a sign of the Red Lion or Blue Bear but when I change to another station I will not visit one single soul - It is a vexation of spirit to me - & the more I see of my species (here at least) the more I am disgusted with it. The change I have experienced in the last few months was very pleasant while it was novel. but I can get tired of smoking, abuse & scandal. I am shocked to see what a shabby account I am giving you of the proceedings of the month - but I have little variety - not that my happiness is the less for that - I have been more than usually occupied professionally [torn] lots of babies very sick - I have had the rare felicity of hearing lots of

delightful music - entirely on my own acct. Give my best & dearest love to all & thanks for letters.
By the bye you dont know how I prize the one single hair that you sent me - I have placed it where I
can see it every hour of the day. My dear mother
Your affecte loving son J. Henry

2v

[addressed:

Via Falmouth

Overland Mail

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: DERAH DOON
 EXETER JU 9 1842
 SIDMOUTH JU 10 1842]

1

Deyrah Dhoon May 6th /42

My dearest Mother

As I told you in my last shabby note I received my last letter but one, a month after it had reached Bombay so that I got your last packet 3 or 4 days after the other. You may guess how surprised & delighted I was to hear of the happy prospect in dear Nettas¹¹⁰ fortunes. It makes me as happy as Frank's wondrous good fortune. As you say now that we have made a beginning there is no seeing where this marrying is to end - I myself even, who always appeared utterly incapable of such things, have taken the infection - I told you in my last that I should shortly be out of my repose at Deyrah - on the 29th of last month I was relieved by the return of the former Dr with the Corps. After enjoying two or three days' quiet I accepted one of many kind invitations to go up to the hills till I received orders to go away to some other station & charge. I have been here (Landour) for 3 days enjoying the delicious climate before returning to the plains - laying in a stock of cold to counteract the heat below which is now become intense - even at Deyrah it was nearly as hot as at Meerut. I greatly fear the consequences of a sudden return to the plains in the hottest month of the year; but it cannot be helped. I hear too that fevers are raging very badly at Delhi & other places that suffered last Autumn. Perhaps out of pity for my youth & inexperience I may be allowed to remain here for a month till the rains set in. But I shall learn my fate in a day or two, perhaps before I close this letter - I learnt the day that I gave up my appointmt that 20£ of my 2 months' pay were to be cut for no earthly reason - but on applying to the Magistrate about it he yesterday sent me the kindest letter saying that he would pay me - & take the fight all to himself - You must know that when pay is cut on any pretence there is the greatest possible difficulty in recovering it - some 6 months'

1v

correspondence with all the great authorities & perhaps getting into hot water with some of them, would be the mode of proceeding - So my friends Williams' kindness is very great - Indeed I can't say how much I have been gratified by the kindness of many friends, just at the time of my going

away - many hearty invitations to pass my short holiday with them. I have come to Landour just at the time that it is most gay - when scores & scores of women are to be seen on the course every day - but the 1st day I went I was so perplexed with the wondrous sight that I have vowed not to go on the course again. I was riding with two fellows that I kept in constant roar of laughter at my absurdities - or my blindness. I was bowing & speaking to every one I did not know and taking no notice of the kind smiles & salutations of all the fair that I did know - however it mattered little for there is scarcely a spin¹¹¹ to be seen or heard of - for being in pursuit of the single I make no account of less noble gains. Would you not be astonished by living in a large community of what we call grass widows - ladies whose husbands are absent on service. When I was up here last, there was nothing but grief & sorrowing - but now things have quite changed by the favourable aspect of affairs in Affghanistan. I had a letter from my old chum Borton the day after the fight giving me a most particular & interesting account of the whole of it - but giving me the painful news of the death of a good old friend of mine & who after my leaving Meerut was Borton's chum. You will of course see in the papers that our affairs are improving in India - The force now with Genl. Pollock¹¹² is near 12000 strong, & it is to advance at once upon Cabul & is going to pay Candahar, Guznee, and other places a visit. We have not even yet recd. accts. of the feelings of the people at home upon hearing of our Cabul disaster - One thing gives us great comfort that numbers of our troops have returned to our camp after our success having driven the inhabitants away from their homes & villages - 600 Sepoys came in in one day - but unhappily hitherto no European officer or man has returned or escaped - The prisoners have left their old place of confinement - have been carried towards Cabul & elsewhere. The last grand mishap but one was the fall of Guzni in which a Regmt. capitulated & were afterwards massacred - the officers we suppose are prisoners - Cardew was the only Dr. with the Regimt. Shah Shorjah, the King that Lord Auckland made, is dead & also Akbar Khan the chief who headed the revolt, & ye massacre of our Troops. I must occasionally give you a bit of news because you seldom see London papers - & never any Indian war ones - I was delighted by receiving a good long letter from dear Fanny B. but like your letter of Janry

2

I did not receive it till a few days before the arrival of February's mail. She writes in such good spirits that I should think that she was in a better state of health than when I saw her last. I saw that Frank Reynolds¹¹³ had safely arrived (with his lady) at Bombay, which is, I suppose to the Presidency to which he belongs. I am now staying with a very old friend & chum of Hy Reynolds - he tells me many stories of him - I have had no communication either with him or Charles. I was much shocked to hear of the death of my old friend Catherine - I never heard of it in India. What strange events one lives to see. The marriages at home seem the most surprising - I am so delighted to hear of Netta's engagement - & George is such a good, excellent, worthy fellow. I had a strong presentiment that I was to become his brother-in-law some way or other. By the bye Mama you think flirtation a very bad thing do you - very improper in young women? I say its natural & think that a little of it most laudable. Did my dear sisters never flirt? & you must acknowledge that they are patterns of every excellence. I only wish I could see any one here that could possibly remind me of them - would I not win her - Oh no! You remember that I promised to abstain from any & all mention of this subject - but while you continue to write upon it I cannot refrain from doing the same. I never felt more seriously determined when an opportunity offers, to do the rash thing. Of course both of us wish the opportunity may be very distant indeed - as now doubt it is. I was told a good story - of the whole of the men at Delhi, Civil & Military being at pursuit one poor girl - a friend of mine being one - & though a young bachelor & coeval with me, he gave a gay party to all the ladies of the station, in the hopes of engaging them all on his side - & to show them that his house was quite in a fit state for the residence any fair one - with fine mirrors, cradles, nursery, ribbons and all other female vanities. He ought to succeed certainly. I shall be able to attend to my promise & your wishes as soon as I can collect my treasures here & know whither I am going. I am going to start a cab [sic] when I get settled - I would rather to go without my rest & food than not do

so for the former is equal necessity with the latter - So don't imagine I am neglecting my duty for my own gratification or convenience. I got my fever last year by the unavoidable exposure of the sun at all hours of the day. Holberton told he was glad that I smashed my last buggy - but he don't know what's what - I have been obliged to shoot my beautiful old Arab. I left him at Kurnaul for two months & received him in very bad condition - & with a long bill for his keep from my friend White. He never recovered his former condition & imperilled my neck on two occasions - so rather than sell him for 5 or 10 rupees I preferred putting an end to his existence whereby I lost 25£!! my first loss in horse flesh - I made enquiries of

2v

a very great friend of mine, of Robertson - My friend is the Dr. of his Regmt but that wing was at Chittagong & the others at Kyuk Phyoo & the Dr. had not been with the one at Chittag - but he told me that Robertson was exceedingly liked by those who knew him - I must I fear omit writing to George P. this time - it being nearly impossible to write much with a house-ful of bachelors & to-day is the last safe day I am surprised to hear. As I am about to return to the plains I think I shall sell my gun for 20£ - I have about 100£ in hand - if I wait a short time & get any decent post I shall get a buggy with other monish [sic] and send you the 120 - but I may not wait for the ripening of any such scheme

but send you fifty certainly by the next mail. There is not time now for sending it - besides ½ the sum is owing to me here. I expect by the next Overland that Bertram Sibella & Irene are to be married. In the mean time give my best & dearest love to one & all. I have not yet heard from any of my brothers - I must except Frank for he was a beautiful correspondent before he took to marrying. I am myself very negligent, for I ought to sport more than one letter at a time because I always owing to the kindness of my sisters & others, get more than one letter - God bless you my dear Mother Yr affectionate son

Juxon H Jones

Direct still to me at Deyrah Dhoon - for I have not yet received any orders

[addressed:

Overland Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: LANDOUR May 5
EXETER JY 8 1842
HONITON JY 10 1842]

1

June 3rd 1842
Deyrah Dhoon
not near Delhi

My dear Mother

I shall surprise you by telling you that I am still at Deyrah - it is now 5 weeks since I

was relieved - that is, since I was gulled into giving up my late post; I have been regularly cheated out of my beautiful appointment by the manoeuvres of 2 kind friends. Every body about here has been talking about the unjustness & roguery practised towards me. These last 5 weeks I have been passing in the hills - in the most agreeable way possible but this calm forebodes a storm by and by I fear - Yet I could not avoid it - I made the necessary Official reports of my having no occupation, but hitherto I have not been noticed - It gives me a hope that the quiet proceedings of those, who without the least power or authority, have turned me out - may after all be cancelled & I may be again re-appointed. I shall again write you a short shabby letter, for I am writing as usual at the 12th hour. I have been living in the most constant whirl of gaieties I ever witnessed

1v

we scarcely once in a fortnight dine quietly at home - balls, theatricals, picnicks, dinners, & visits take up all our time - In an hour's time I must be off to join in a picnic, when every one in the place will be present. However my time is nearly run out - I must go down to Deyrah in a day or two. I wanted to witness the wondrous & gay doings in the Hills, which are often published for the gratification of the tame frying grilling inhabitants of the Plains. Yesterday I dined with the man who has charge of Dost Mahomed - & he gave me nothing but Affghan dishes - there were scores of them, very curious, but very beastly! As the war is to be carried on I am very uncertain about my destination, if indeed it is to be changed - & so I am at present not at all able to talk about business - for I must first know the means I shall require, before I can say what I can spare. This must not make you uneasy - for if I should be ordered on service I should be obliged to lay out half the funds in my hands - & it is not the want of the sinews of war but the uncertainty as to how they are to be

2

applied that has kept me from fulfilling my promise by this post. I am quite ashamed of the wretched style of my present letter but it's 1 o'clock & by 2 I must have dressed and ridden 3 miles over the hills. I owe a great many letters but positively in a house with 3 other bachelors it is impossible to write letters - I had a nice long letter from Tom last mail & from Bella & Irene good dear girls. Would you conceive it that I could jirk a stone on to the roof of ye house where resides a lady as knows you Irene. A Miss Drury¹¹⁴ that was - now Mrs Beavan - a cousin of the Merivells¹¹⁵ - John I understand has a capital post of 600£ a year. Mrs B. was staying with Grants when she saw Irene Jones. She is rather pretty but has no life about her. She told me of the marriages of the Misses Grant. I had a letter of yours a few days ago dated March or April 1840 - more than 2 years- old - talking about good old friends being since dead - I met a man the other day who knew Mrs Trevor well - Catherine H that was - neither of us had heard of her death

God bless you my dearest mother

your affecte son

Henry

2v

[addressed:

Overland Mail

Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire

Sidmouth England

stamped: LANDOUR June ?
EXETER AU 9 1842
HONITON AU 9 1842
SIDMOUTH AU 9 1842

]

July 1st 1842

My dear Mother I now begin my last letter from the Himalaya's - & all my hopes of remaining in the Dhoon are vanished forever. On the 26th June I received an order to go to Delhi as Garrison Surgeon - from every quarter I hear that the place is exceedingly - unusually hot & unhealthy, & that nearly nearly every living soul is sick there - a nice prospect for me. About a fortnight ago I went down the Hills to my house at Deyrah - it was fearfully hot the 1st day, but on the 2nd the rains began to fall & somehow or other I got a return of my ague - I was very sick & sorry for 3 days & then I set off to return to the Hills - I was obliged to stop half way at a miserable wretched thatched hut, where I remained 2 days & where fully receiving the benefit of the wind & rain reaped two more attacks of ague & fever. Beginning to fear the consequences of this cruel exposure to the raging elements, and of not being able to get any physic, I set off at night thro' torrents of rain, to finish the rest of my journey to Landour; and if possible to get a sick certificate for 4 months, to remain in the hills till the cold weather - With a little physic & leeches I soon rallied, but found to my great discomfort that I could not get a sick certificate - & for this reason - on the very day I arrived orders came to the Doctors here, to furnish the Commdr in Chief with full reports on the health & condition of every officer on sick leave here, & of the probability of their being fit for service in October next. You must know that a large army, called the Army of reserve, of about 20,000 men, is forth with to be assembled about Kurnaul. What their destination is to be no body can tell - I am sure that I shall be very shortly ordered from Delhi to Kurnaul to join this army, for I am sent to Delhi only while this excessive sickness lasts - just as I was sent to Kurnaul last year - & of course I shall catch the prevailing fever as before. This formation

1v

of another large force puts us all in greater Confusion, discomfort & uncertainty than ever - & it affects half the remaining regiments in the country - a larger force at this time could scarcely be found without completely draining the country of soldiers. We are in great want of those ten thousand from home. The day before yesterday I went to Deyrah to pack off my goods & chattels to Delhi - I shall follow them on about the 6th - they will be 15 days travelling there & I shall be about 3 days. I fortunately have a friend there with whom I can put up till I can get settled in my own quarters - which most unhappily must be situated 2 miles from my work - the garrison being in the city of Delhi, which is 2 miles from the European Station. The principal inconvenience resulting from this is that I must have a horse & buggy (cab) which will shortly be of no use, if I join the army of reserve; & I must let it rot along with some hundred other in the premises of Mr Ford the buggy-maker. It is very fortunate that buggies are to be bought for a song - tho' of the tune of 40£ or thereabouts - 2nd. To day I have had the promise of the loan of a buggy all the time I am at Delhi - We have heard to-day that at Akbur Khan, the murderer of our envoy, who for a long time has been almost without troops or friends, has somehow or other got possession of the throne of Cabul - This is encouraging to all - as we shall now have some one to attack in earnest, instead of attempting to catch a mere refugee & rogue. For some time we have not known against whom we should direct our vengeance - The poor unhappy prisoners are carried on to Cabul. My letter writing last night was interrupted by a tremendous row in the street below - which I fear will be attendant with some unpleasant consequences. I am living for a few days with two harum-scarum youths, who have their

house in the Bazaar - i.e. the native city. The great scarcity of houses in the hills obliged them to put up in these quarters - opposite our abode lives the greatest i.e. the richest man in these parts. It occurred to my lively friends that

2

it would be a great 'spree' to convey this great personage 'victorious' from his own comfortable quarters into our room here, to give him a glass of grog - They walked quietly into his room and while he was making his salaams, caught him up in their arms & carried him down the steps of his house, across the street & just into our door - He made an immense row, which in an instant brought hundreds of natives to the rescue of their great man - & I really thought my friend would have been half murdered - Nothing was to be seen but clubs & swords &c, & a small sea of heads, from which were emanating most sweet howls shrieks & yells - Our friends how ever effected their escape unharmed - owing chiefly to the dish-covers, in which they had enveloped their heads. For an hour afterwards we fully expected that they would attack the house every instant - Great preparations were made on our part for the attack - but fortunately after 3 hours' row, which the natives only know how to make, the mob all retired & left us in peace - However the Adjutant came galloping down at one o'clock in the morning to see what was the matter, & gratified us with the intelligence that we should all catch it in the morning - However [torn] I took no part in it, beyond beseeching these giddy fellows not to commence their foolish prank, I don't expect a wiggling for myself tho' I am placed in unpleasant association with these rioters. I had by the last mail the most delightful letter from Frank, with such accounts of his dear wife, of his happiness &c as make me envy him more than any other mortal, I think him still the most ardent lover I e'er heard tell on. I have plainly assured all my lady acquaintances that I mean to settle when these tedious wars are over - & I mean to keep my word - It would not be pleasant to take the field leaving a small family at large. I am sorry to feel that my letters get shorter & worser every mail - but here for the last 3 months nearly, have I been living on my friends - going from house to house - changing my quarters from Deyrah to Landour, to Mussoorie Terri-pani & back again - Never anticipating the "last safe day" - & almost invariably do I sit down to write in the midst of noisy clamorous fellows - When I go to Delhi I shall become quiet again - I shall carefully eschew a too numerous acquaintance - In fact I have desired all my friends not to speak to me, should any of them meet

2v

me at Delhi or anywhere in the plains. I shall again follow my old sequestered habits & then I shall answer the letters of a whole host of creditors - I think I told you of having had a letter from dear Fanny B. I very much fear that the constant talk I gave you about Mr Stowey's debt will shortly discourage & alarm you - but it is impossible for me in my present unsettled state to settle anything. You must know that being in arrears of my pay, the cash in hand gradually subsides & I scarcely ever get more than 50£ in hand at a time - & of course from the uncertainty of the time I may get my arrears of pay, I can never leave myself without at least a couple of months' provision. If I stay quietly at Delhi for two

months I can provide for the campaign & leave all the superfluities for you. This diabolical journey before me will fleece me of more than 10£, a little more wool will go in the trip back to Kurnaul - and in preparations for the war - chargers & pistols - & dear Tom's sword must be left to rust at home, while I go around with a much more formidable weapon. The difficulty of laying by any tin, is the only drawback to my enjoying these stirring and troublous times - I have spoken to the chum of the Botanist of these parts - & I shall pass thro' Saharunpore & stay a day or two with them both - when I will get some of the seeds you want, and also beg for some seeds of different curious plants of the Himlys for you. It would better speaking than writing to the Dr. as I do not know how they should be sent - by sea or over-land. I am in the middle of preparations for a fancy ball, my 2

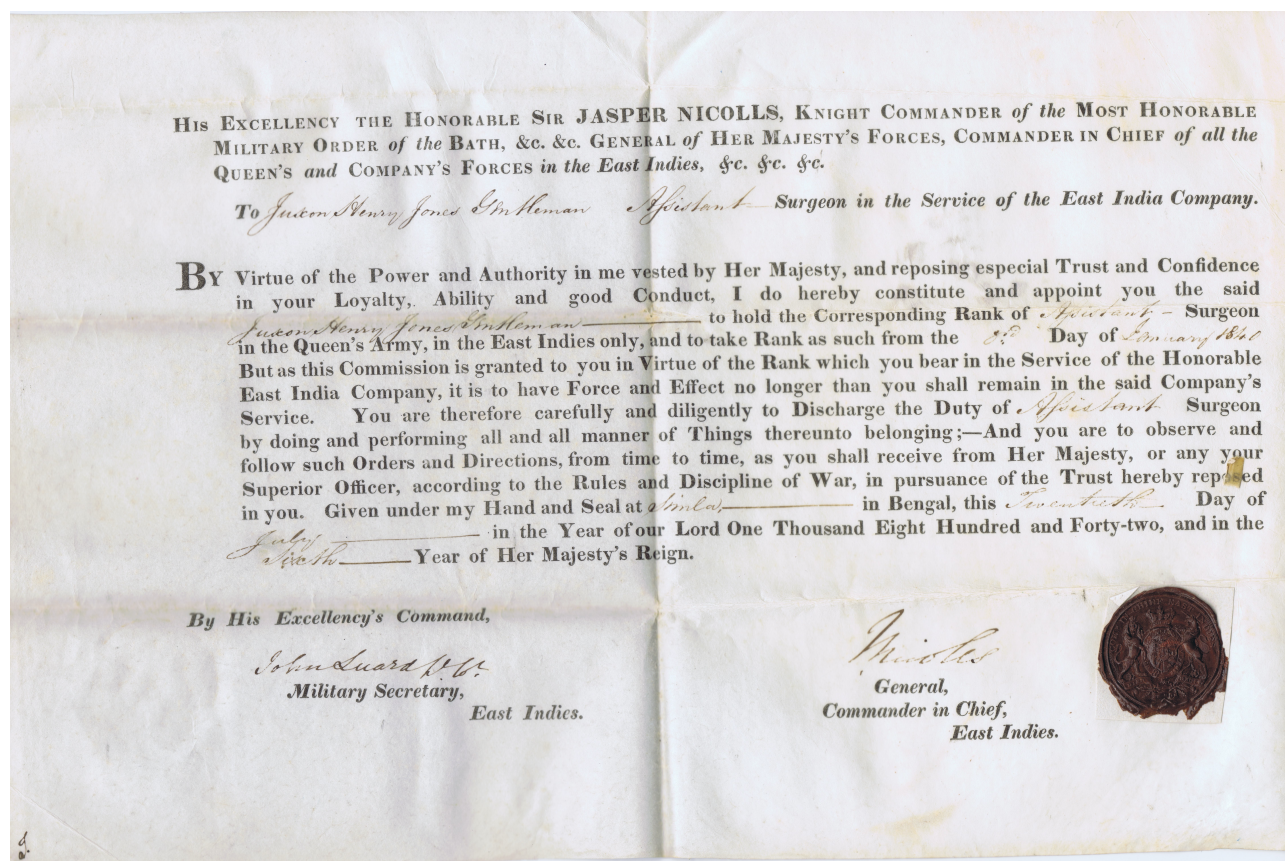
friends are going as Greenwich & Chelsea pensioners - By the by one of them was my 1st chum when I came up in November last - Some time ago I heard him speaking of Dryden

He is the son of Sir. C. Wale¹¹⁶ who lives close to Cambridge - where he formed an acquaintance with Sir H. Dryden¹¹⁷ - Frank may tell him of my having been a chum of his friend for many months - I must now finish with promises of better behaviour & desiring best loves to all the family - by no means omitting the bright & glorious addition. By the by at Delhi I shall get the hair which you gave me set in a ring encircling your own & other's of the family - At Delhi the most exquisite things in jewelry are made for a song - you have seen specimens of Delhi jew[torn] I suppose. I shall send some to deck the bride dear Nett[torn] I can get an opportunity of a friend's going home - God bless you [torn]rest mother Yr affecte son J H J

[addressed:

Over-land Mail Via Falmouth
Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: LANDOUR Jul ?
 EXETER SE 9 1842
 SIDMOUTH ?]



[this letter is torn with the corner of the bottom of the first page missing]

Dehlie - August 13th /42
vulg: Delhi

My dearest Mother

As I presaged in my last, you find me dating my letter from a very different place from that in which I wrote my last letter - Tho' I now remember that it was not in my last that I played the prophet, for my last was written just before I started on my journey hitherward - but I am not quite certain that I did write last month, as I was travelling during the last 3 "safe days" & in a very unsettled state both before and after my journey - It seems as if I had had no communication with you for half an age - for I have not received any letters from home by the last mail! - & I have not any recollection of having written to you lately. Well I must tell you what a nice place Delhi is compared to the Hills - the thermometer ranges from 94° to 98° - that in a [torn] should give you to understand that it is [torn] abominable detestable place - hotter than any [torn]-nace I have hitherto visited - dusty, dirty [torn] We have had no rain - scarcely a drop - clouds [torn] over a week - we get then such a cool ref[torn] storm & then the sky becomes bright [torn] or two. It is really so hot that the sun [torn] during the night as well as the day [torn] that I cannot go to any hotter place - [torn]

1v

In course this ancient capital of the Moguls is a very splendid place - totally different from any other city that I have seen - it is of immense extent & very little of it is laid out in regular streets - the magnificent palace, the mosks & other fine buildings, with gardens in abundance, give it a cool and pleasant appearance for a city, in this part of the world - The Jumna flows close by the walls - which are very lofty & enclose the whole city - & from the parapet you get a very grand view of the city & the river - but then its all so hot!! I nearly got a brain fever with looking at it. The Cantonments are 2 miles from the city, but I live as near the latter as I can, as my work lies in the city altogether. I am garrison Surgeon. In Delhi is the great Magazine of the upper Provinces, & I have the care of the Europeans & Natives employed there & I get the same allowances as for a Regiment - without the bother of a useless & troublesome acquaintance of any brother officers, & no commanding officer - no parades or other military nui[torn]nces - Tho' I have lost one sign at least, of my for[torn] liberty viz my ferocious moustaches - I am chum-[torn] with a very pleasant sort of young fellow - a [torn] His whole family lives 50 yards off - there is a [torn] & a nice young lassie, just fresh from home & [torn]too - only unhappily she is-so-very-little! Plays [torn]itly - The father is the civil Surgeon here [torn]ut & kind fellow, I'm not quite so often [torn]s I should wish for fear of giving a good [torn] report universally spread about here

2

that I am engaged to her. Should you hear of it dont believe it - for I am bent on marrying some one who is just my height or none at all. This is a splendid place for marrying there seems to be a rage for it here - all the bachelors striving to imitate the example of two who have lately made themselves miserable for life - 2 particular friends of mine have been as we call it - juwab'd, i.e. rejected, condemned, spit upon or something of that kind - Poor Dennys was one of them - the brother of my old shipmate - a most capital good fellow - Every man in the station seems to try his fortune with each & every girl - I have been asked by several whether I have serious intentions upon M[torn] Mary Anne (by Jove What a coincidence) because they wo[torn] not wish to enter the lists against me - There hav[torn] balls and parties no few - but as I eschew them carefully I [torn] nothing to say about them. I went to one but being disappointed I have been discouraged from going to any more The gentlemen were 8 or 10 times more plentiful than the ladies - & the emulation among the former is so great that I am afraid of suffering some signal disgrace - fancy every woman

engaged for the next six quadrilles & ten waltzes! On meeting with some such reply I muttered something between my teeth - indicative of impatience or something still more improper & never repeated my humble request to any one, any where or any how. The same day I left the hills my old friend Macdonald¹¹⁸ with whom I had been staying for nearly 2 months, when riding fell down the deepest of the cuds about the station and was killed in a most dreadful way - for it appeared that he regained his footing somewhere half way down & after a short time fell to the very bottom - I should say a distance of at least 1500 feet -

2v

I am quite tired of talking over my business without any performance - tho I forwarded you of the cleaning out that would attend my removal from the Hills - at any rate I shall be stationary here for 1 month & to that I must trust for fulfilling my oft repeated promises - At present I am as poor as a rat - but then I have at least 70£ due to me - I have not had my pay for 3 months. I made the most unlucky bargain the other day - I gave 15£ for a horse which has turned out to be not worth his salt - That & clearing all scores at Deyrah left me without a rap - I have been chatting this morning with a friend who came from Exeter - a friend of Jonny Merivale & equally clever with him as a singer - he knows nearly everyone that I could mention in those parts.

I am delighted to hear that my young Hampton friend Square has got an appointment in our Service - I should be delighted to see him out here - We of the Medl. Service have lately acquired what has long been striven for - viz a retiring pension proportioned to our length of service independt of rank - It does not affect one if one serves only for 15 years - upon 500£ a year for that period - but the pension increases in a beautiful increasing ratio - so that your rank makes little difference - that is none at all after having retired from the Service - The chief subject of interest to all of us, is the destintn of this large army - & to me in in particular whether I shall be ordered to join it or to remain in my present occupation. I would rather remain here I think

I think I must enclose a couple of letters - one for Fanny B. & one for George Pattrick - From this rambling mode of life I have of late followed I have allowed my debts to correspondents to accumulate at a great rate. For fear I should not send my loves to the family by any other means I must do it here - & hoping that I may yet get your letter [torn]ay - or else I shall kick up such a dust for negle[torn] God bless you my dear mother

Juxon

[addressed:

Via Falmouth

Over land

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: DELHIE ? August ?
EXETER OC 12 1842]

My very dear Mother

Your nice long letter of last month gave me the most perfect pleasure - Your good health, spirits & long letter assure me of your being in the most happy state - of course with the alloy that you mention as being mixed with Frank's happiness - viz a want of tin - next month, I swear by this sheet of paper that I will send you enough to repay you & to save you some expense on my account for a couple of years - You have often told me to speak of business on a separate piece of paper - in this instance you must consider this to be ye said piece of paper for business - for I am afraid that I have little news to tell you. I am never tired of saying that I am well & happy - tho' to others less interested this may become tedious - I like my present berth very much I get good pay, in fact the best I have hitherto received, except on my march up the country - I am living too in the retired way in which I like to spend my days; I mean that I have scarcely found any acquaintance with the people, & being a good mile from Cantonments I seldom am troubled with too many visitors - I am again pretty steadily at work with the eternal, infernal languages - now however I am making sensible advancement - I derive some advantage & shall shortly derive greater from the circumstance of my chum, a Civilian, being perfectly acquainted with the language - Fiddling (oh that eternal fiddle as my friends generally exclaim) employs most agreeably two or three hours of each day, by which means I am advancing by rapid strides - I dare say we, that is my sisters & myself will have some duets when my Furlough comes. You have no idea what a very useful & agreeable recreation it is in this land of idleness & of confinement - within doors, its very cheap & keeps me from beer, pipes & sleeping - the universal amusements in this country. You will be glad to hear that we have had lots of rain & that there is little cause for complaining of the heat - the mornings are always delightfully cold. In the winter in this place will be as pleasant as one could wish - then I trust to have some more sporting - for I have now been long enough in the house, altogether without exercise to wish ardently for some new amusements. We are going to have a cricket club, of which I shall become a member & we are going to have races - I have so little associated with the people here that I feel quite a stranger - I have refused three invitations to balls on that acct. and also because I dont ever dance - and besides the ladies as I have before told you always get engaged for every dance before the dancing has begun - so I suppose they chose and refuse just as they please -

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I had such a pretty little part of a letter from Mary Ann¹¹⁹ - I thought that I ought to have written to her first, but as my negligence drew forth such a nice sisterly little letter of introduction, I am rather rejoiced than otherwise at my bad behaviour - You did not even hint at nephews and nieces or grandchildren in your last - I may speak boldly in this letter of the subject, as by the time you get this all doubts on the subject will be at an end - I almost despaired of ever seeing or even having any nephews or nieces but now I have better prospects. We are all so old that its quite time there were some young members of the family - I don't mean to make any reflections upon the gentle ones of the family, but I being the youngest, & in 5 days to be of the monstrous antiquity of 27 years this really shockingly alarmed - Tho' if I could be 35 tomorrow I would consent to it, for I trust that in 7 years I shall be with you or rather on my way to Devonshire. By the time you get this I shall have nearly completed 3 years of the 10 - the remaining seven will go very quickly. As for leaving my marriage till I get home I shall never dream of it. This mode of life of ours is the one of all others that requires some gentle companion for life - the poor Drs. being invariably moved about every 6 or 12 months, have time to form friendships, only to be broken when most appreciated. This reminds me of my good friend Borton - I have not heard from him for an age - In to day's paper there is no news from Cabul. You will see in the paper that the troops from Jelallabad & from Candahar are an their way to Caubul. When we heard last, Pollock had had a slight affair with the enemy, two or 3 marches the other side of Jelallabad - they cannot go quickly on to Cabul for want of carriage! Akbar Khan they say is preparing to defend himself in the City - if so he is safe in our power. We hear nothing new of the prisoners - Pollock insinuated that if they were not safely

restored the whole country should suffer - But then here's another iron in the fire - this grand army of reserve. It may be that it is preparing in case of any misadventure happening to the Cabul army. In such a country who can say what may not happen - At any rate none of our neighbours are at all unruly or kicking up any row worth mentioning - the public have heard of none. On our allies the Seiks we are not likely to play a shabby trick with & take their country from them, tho' many think that the troops are intended for the Punjab - I hear that my young friend Square is immediately coming out - By the bye pray send my best regards to Dr Cullen¹²⁰. I hope heartily that he is getting on well. I scarcely ever hear from his brother in law or Jane so I have nothing to tell him of them - I don't believe that Edlin writes often to Cullen - perhaps he has had occasion to be somewhat displeased with Edlin. He held out to him most brilliant hopes in a professional line at Hampton - Edlin and Jane are still at Meerut in enjoyment of very good allowances - they are very economical & laying up lots of money - there are 2 children now - as ugly as sin the only one I saw - Mrs Cullen in praising Jane must have

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have had in mind her real sincere goodness & piety for I really think of her very deserving of praise in that respect - But as a wife - in person face, understanding, acquirements she is lamentably deficient. So very apparent is this, that by mere acquaintances she is very seldom allowed to be a lady, none give her credit for being of a good family. Often I have enquired of friends if they know Mrs E. at Meerut & I have received such replies as have deterred me from repeating the enquiry. You will guess that I am rather hard up for materials for a letter, from indulging as far in scandal towards a good old friend - talking of old friends I think I ought to send a kind message to an old friend - by the powers I can't think of her name - Miss Poole it is. I have written by this mail to dear old Fanny, as you told me she was to be at home shortly. I shall get up a long letter, something like a Journal, for the Barattys - unless you have communicated to them the nature of my goings on & goings about. I wrote 2 or 3 weeks ago for the cones of the Pinus Diods. - & at the same time I begged for the seeds of 12 of the most choice plants in the Botanical gardens for you, unfortunately they have not arrived - The cones I believe will be expensive in sending - the others I could send in letters for nothing. None of these plants will thrive except in hot houses - so if you prefer giving them to those who have ho[torn] it will be q[torn] right - Tho' you should try to rear some of them [torn] You must tell the girls with very best love that I have made a discovery for them - at least for those who are interested in the life of John Merivell - from hearing a friend of mine speaking often of Dawlish & other dear places in Devon, I fished out that my friend knew Johnny - this I told you before - but I asked of my friend if he knew J's favourite song about "the cup of cold poison" & "you shan't reap the benefit of one single pin" - & he told me he & Jonny were together in a hay field & learnt it of the clods who were singing it - My friend too (Mr Mills) sings it in the style & voice of a Devonshire Clown. I was delighted at hearing it. I am ashamed at my neglect of the dear girls. I have not written to any of them - as if I had forgotten them - I need not be afraid of Netta's becoming melancholy on account of my neglect for she is too much occupied with thinking of her "young man" Oh Netta! how profane of you to use such a phrase. I ought to write to Sibella to say how I rejoice in the improved state of her health - I suppose the private contract between Netta and George puts life & metal in you all. The excitement and constant joy of those who are engaged, gives me an idea that it would be pleasant if I were to get engaged some 5 years before I intended to marry. I shall assuredly (here comes the eternal abominable subject of love again) commission my sisters to get me a wife. - they must begin to treat of the subject forthwith - as I know of but one young 'oman at home they will not be much troubled about choice - it will end in that most assuredly. Tell one of the girls to give a true and particular account of the

2v

progress of Helen (what a sweet name) in beauty, stature, accoutrements & her fortune! If you

speaking of the dear girl you will only abuse her. You must know that - but I must be mute as this is a public letter - I am very glad to hear that Bertram has returned to Mr Lambs¹²¹ - it's a pity the Oxford scheme does not go on thrivingly - dear fellow I wish he had a handsome fortune - he ought to write of it if it is but to mention of occasional pleasant meetings in London - one gets strangely estranged from one's friends by living so far apart - but then you may remark that unless you have something or rather something good to tell it is useless attempting to write. I leave writing to the glorious trio at Moreton & am getting stupid from

so much work. I have just paid 4Rs for the restoration of a stud - i.e. a new one of the pretty set Irene gave me - tell her that I have worn them nearly every day since I left home - & only lost one the other day - It is a specimen of Delhi work that certainly equals the other English ones - I wish it was safe to send some of their proper jewelry - the silver work which is exceedingly cheap is the prettiest - by the powers I will send some for the bride - at a venture - My friend tells me they would not steal silver work as it is of so little value - & yet it is bought nearly for its weight - for 3 or 4/- & could get some very pretty things. There are such temptations to buying some of these things - Diamonds & other jewelry are just half the price they are at home. I shall if possible speculate in them when I go home - there is no doubt about success - here's an end of my paper & pen - God bless you my dear mother your affected son J.H.J.

[addressed:

Via Falmouth

Overland Mail

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped:

DELHIE ? September ?
EXETER NO 13 1842]

1

Delhi - October 19th 1842

My dearest Mother

having at a late hour finished a letter to Tom I must shorten my letter to you & for the further reason also that I have scarcely a word to tell you except that about 3 weeks ago I saw in orders that the issue of Pay for the last month would not be made till November - this is the only thing that has prevented my enclosing to you an order in England - this was a most untoward event & necessarily prevented my doing as I should have wished - I cannot either get the seeds I wrote for from Mr Chaudy¹²² - It appears that the cones are too large to send except by ship - My neighbour tells me that quantities of the seed of diodoras¹²³ have been sent to England & that in many places the trees have become abundant. As you will see in Tom's letter I have been passing the last month without a jot of variation from the manner in which I passed the last - except that I am become somewhat of an engineer & brick layer - being much engaged & interested in the construction of a magnificent bath! 30 ft square I take more interest in its progress than if it were to be the house of my ancestors coming after me - Cricketing is also a new thing - but this is all repetition - I ought certainly never to give you the shabby sort of letter which I am now evidently

bent upon writing - for I invariably get from you letters chock full & so satisfactory & gratifying from beginning to end. It appears that I am likely to retain my present post. The number of sick here renders it impossible for one man to take the charge of his Regmt & of the Garrison at the same-time - I have not yet been warned for service, & it now is so near the time for the complete formation of the army that I do not expect to join it. I have now a great desire to join some of the troops going on service - shortly there will be so many with medals that it will be rather a distinction to be without one - Our recovering the Kabul prisoners - our successes in Kabul & peace with China will be splendid news for this mail. I will send you the summary of Indian news - it is much the best publication - & will give you an account of all Indian matters. I had a very short but pithy letter from Bertram. I rejoice to hear that he is going back to Mr Lamb's. Is there not a chance of his stepping into the old gentleman's shoes - & adding the dignity of an A.M. & a gown to the establishment - Thinking & thinking about as I have been for something to say, I am determined to give you a statement in full - the fact that George Harriots Regmt "the Lancers" is expected here in a few days on their way to Calcutta to embark for home. You may know better than me whether George goes home with it or not. I have not heard anything of the loss of any of the Ships that were bringing out troops - so I trust poor Miss Lancaster is safe. The dangers of the river are much greater than those of the boisterous sea. a few days ago at a tremendous storm overtook the miserable boats in which were a Queen's Regmt - 60 men were drowned besides Officers

1v

women & children - a fearful accident - It is strange that altho' casualties of this kind are constantly occurring the Governmt do not build proper vessels. The Govt. seem to be guided by the same admirable principles the Natives are - viz that our grandmothers did as we do No person who has been twice on the Ganges can say that he has not nearly lost his life or property - one or the other certainly - The native boats float like a walnut shell, altogether above the surface of the water - & beautifully adapted to be blown out of the river by the terrific storms that we have - but from some perversity they generally manage to sink - I am rejoiced to hear brother

George has made a decided beginning in life - I wish my dear sister was enjoying the blessings of the married state - or that she would bear this delay with patience & resignation. I hope Irene has by this time finished the Chutin!! I have not been in that way occupied by I fancy I have better apologies for my neglecting my correspondence with my dear sisters - arising chiefly out of the scarcity of events of an interesting nature - I think our Overland Summary will be a great apology for my omissions - it shews a zeal that almost equals that displayed when I was a little boy, hard up for subjects for a letter - when I offered to copy out a thousand lines to show that

it was not idleness that made my letters short and tedious - With best love to all at home - & their respective homes - believe me your very affectte son Juxon - God bless you my dear mother.

[addressed:

Overland Mail

Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: DELHIE 1842 October 19
EXETER DE 8 1842
HONITON DE 10 1842

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Delhi November 19th /42

My dearest Mother

here am I going on from worse to worse. I have actually in cold blood set about writing to you, my own mother, upon half a sheet of paper - I have written my fingers off & my time out, all but an hour - & every jot of intelligence, in letters to Miss L. Baratty, Bertram & Sibella & last not least a very long one to Netta - I have been reading a great deal of Hannah More's¹²⁴ works & have given the pith of it all to Henrietta, to guide her in her future career - My opinion is that its next to impossible to write two letters to same house - at least when there is nothing to tell of - The only incident of any interest that I have met with is that the pay if my present post is much greater than I expected, or have drawn - You know what a shy bird I am - I never called upon the Brigade Major here till yesterday, when he very kindly told me that my pay was 52£ a month instead of 42£ which I have always drawn - so that I have four months of this extra pay to draw - Hitherto I have remitted nothing home & every time I write home this is a very heavy burden on my mind - I heartily wish I had not so confidently asserted that I would do so 3 months ago All that I will now say is that I will do it shortly - & that is [torn] as I can - I have been obliged to lay out 30£ in things that I did not calculate upon. I had the misfortune to destroy the beautiful pet dog of my friend Wale which cost him 10£ - the animal had attacked with 2 other dogs, a beautiful spaniel lately given to me - & fearing that my poor dog was being killed I gave one and all as hearty kicks as I could administer - & one happened to hit this pet of Wales in the stomach which to my horror & astonishment killed him. I have accordingly been obliged to pay him the value (in cash) of his poor favourite. I have also had so much knocking about that I have been obliged to buy another horse for which I paid 20£ yesterday. The old rip I gave 15£ for to my friend Mr Glasgow not being able to draw the buggy at all - But I have a grand resource in my arrears of 40£ - besides my Cavalry allowances will most probably be given to me - if I make a stir about it, as every one recommends me to do - As you will find from Sibella's letter I have been jogging on in the old style. I trust that you got the Delhi Overland that I sent you last month. You mentioned in your last letter but one that the last you had recd was the shortest & least satisfactory

1v

of all my letters. I doubt not that this will shamefully beat all its predecessors - But in this instance you must attribute my brevity, the sole merit of this letter, to my having undertaken too much in the way of letterwriting. I must not forget to thank Tom for his great zeal in having written to me twice in 2 months!! You see how virtue has its reward. I had despatched a letter to him 3 or 4 days before his last arrived - How I love to have your letters of October - for fear of your not getting mine

of November I must here seal & sign my letter - this certainly looks more like a deed than a letter from a loving & dutiful son (as I am) to his affectionate good mother (as you are). Next month I shall be free to give you every word & thought that I could wish to send you - tho' I am now deprived of the pleasure of writing you a long chit chat letter - God bless you my dear mother -
Your affectionate son Juxon H Jones

[addressed:

Overland Mail

Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
[c.o. Ottery St. Mary]

Portland House
Sidmouth
Devonshire
England

stamped:

DELHIE 1842 ??

EXETER ?A 12 ???3

SIDMOUTH JA 15 1843

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1

Delhi. December 19th /42

My dearest Mother

here begins my last letter of 1842. I have no account to give of family meetings, festivities &c as of old, but I am much occupied with reflections upon your goings on, during this season - & in anticipation of the happy winter when I shall again join the family party - those two last months have a magical sound to me - but it seems as if I had only once dreamt of such a things - But don't think that I am quite disconsolate & utterly wretched because I am alone. I always consider that in anticipation we have most happiness in this imperfect world, & as I have endless anticipations I ought to be immensely happy. I certainly just at present at least, have nothing whatever to complain of - but being without excitement, either or pleasure or pain. I pass a sort of brute - beast existence. I have this advantage over my horses, that I have the pleasure of hope, in which I revel as well as Thos Campbell Esq. - I have not said "a merry Xmas to you" because by the time you get this Xmas will be passed & forgotten. But I beg you will excuse me prating about the subject as it is Xmas with me at this very time - In proof of which I beg to assure you that on Friday next I am giving a Xmas party at my neighbour's house. They have often heard of my wretched excuses for not going to balls as sudden indisposition, professional duties equally sudden &c - so Mrs Ross¹²⁵ said to me "you had better mind what you are about - I'll take no apology unless you are dead!" The fact is that a few days ago there were two sweet pretty little girls just come from school in the hills - I was the only stranger that dined there - & after dinner some how or other I proposed a dance - & we went at it with such spirit that we did nothing else all the evening. They both of them have carried away my heart to Misserabad¹²⁶!! Mrs R - was quite shocked at my

1v

glowing commendations of these young lassies - However I am in for a ball, 'will I nil'I' - whether I survive it or not you will hear. This is to be a regular Xmas party for there is not a single old gentleman or lady asked - it will be like our old children's balls - I'm one of the children (aged 27 years 4 months!!) There has not occurred to my knowledge a single incident throughout the whole of the British Empire in India, during the past month, worth relating - this is an unhandsome fix for the Journalist (monthly) your humble servant - One thing is certain that my calculations upon getting an extra 100Rs a month, were rather out - But if I did get them certain sure it is that I should be shortly turned out of so good a post. I am after all to get arrears of 300Rs (cut off the last nought and that leaves the pounds sterling) that I ought to have got when I was with the Dragoons - The army is perhaps by this time returned to Ferozepore it was expected about this day - but when the Dragoons have returned I write to the Coll. for certificates and then I get the Dibs. Do you talk slang much Mama? I have given it up quite - I am exceedingly anxious for this month's letters - thinking of Moreton Pinkney pray dont omit to send me a copy of the work of the spirited proprietor of the Parsonage - I got your last letter in a little more than 6 weeks. I am jogging on

much as usual i.e. rather exactly as I have been going on for months. No novelty of any kind except that I have not a single individual sick - except some in Hospital - clumsy carpenters, smiths &c who have hammered jammed & pinched their own fingers or rather toes for they all do more with their toes than with their fingers. Fancy a fellow holding a bit of wood with his toes while saying [sic] it - ditto a man filing iron - ditto a taylor at work on a coat - beast! instead of pinning it to his knee. I am reading Mill's History of India and it delights me to see that he does not speak of the natives as at all civilised. It drives me mad to hear of the harmless, abstemious Hindu there's no doing these miserable harmless criturs at any rate - & I blind as I am would tell if the abstemious individual had dined

2

or not a good 300 yds off - I was quite astonished the other day when talking "of things in general" with my Moonshi - (he's a clipping Munshi & educated at the English College¹²⁷) to find that he had not in the least a more accurate knowledge of the shape of the world than my dog. He had heard that it was round - but whether like a ball or a wheel he had no conception - tho' he was decidedly in favour of the wheel - The tire or tyre of which was the sea - the ocean!! When I explained to him the shape of the world & its dimensions and said that I could start off to go round the world from the front door & return by the back door - he said Oh no! I am sure I could walk straight on for a thousand years without in the least approaching the point from which I started. That's the Historical part of my letter - Now for the political - that egregious ass our G. General¹²⁸ is coming to Delhi for 6 weeks He has invited all the Rajpoot princes to see him here. He of course brings with him a large portion of the army & these princes will bring elephants, ragamuffins & savages enough to dry the rivers & devour every thing to the last blade of grass. [torn] have a prospect of famine in these parts for the want of rain - what we shall do with such myriads in this place I know not - This grand tamasha (show) at Ferozepoor is of no earthly purpose but to gratify the vanity of this chap - so all say - We are all anticipating an extraordinary sight in the inspection of this wonderful Govr Genl. - every one declares that he is cracked - & that he supposes himself an Alexander from his boundless conquests in the Kyyber pass & in China. As there is nothing of interest in the papers this month I have not sent you the Overland Sumry I hope you got it on two former occasions. War in Bundalcund¹²⁹ is the only matter of interest to us - Of course we want to see the heroes of Jelallabad & Candahar - My finances will receive a valuable increase from my arrears of pay & as I have now no prospect of large expenses I hope to make hay immediately on the receipt of this months pay - it will be stacked for exportation I firmly believe - I think I told you that I bought a most beautiful horse last month - I am now settled with 2 young

2v

and serviceable steeds - I have lost 50£ in horses flesh but I trust I shall not incur one shilling more of expense in purchasing horses for years - I made a great mistake the other day. I gave away a small horse that brought me up the country - it had been lame a long time - & I despaired of it ever being perfectly cured - besides I wanted 2 buggy horses for constant work. This pony has been entered for the poney races with large bets in his favour - & has been backed to beat every horse in the station in trotting. Several fellows

have offered 10£ for him. That's losing money - We are enjoying fires as well as yourselves - I have been out shooting - no sport worth mentioning on two occasions got some fine ducks - but the country about Delhi is so unlike the beautiful Dhoon. By the by Tom suggests that Derry Down is the origin of its name. Deyrah is a Tent - & Dhoon a valley - where our troops first encamped, near the hills, in the war with those fellows the Goorkhas - The Valley of Tents is rather more poetical than Derry Down. Here I am going on from worser to worser in my letters - Cant for the life of me help it. I think I shall send a "summary" once in six months. Give my best & dearest love to all at

home - & take it for yourself my dearest mother. Your very affectionate son J. Henry

[addressed:

Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped:

DELHIE 1842 December ?
EXETER FE 11 1843]

1

[end of letter written upside down: Best love to you & every one of you from your affectionate Son
Juxon H Jones]

Delhi March 18th 1843

My dearest Mother I fear that my silence for two months has caused you some anxiety either about my degree of filial affection, or about the worldly course I am pursueing, making you to fear that I am going the road to ruin, as in sickness or poverty, or dead or dismissed the service. In January I wrote to dear Frank & told him to send you my love, & to apologise for my being stupid lazy, procrastinating, & not having any thing to make up a letter with exceptg the pens, ink & paper - In February I did not write to anyone because I altogether overlooked the day - I must explain this most improbable fact by telling you that the Governor Genrl was at Delhi during the whole month. Such eternal hurly burly I never saw - with parties, dinners, reviews, Durbars, cricket-matches &c &c not to mention the 375 old friends of mine that came here with the G.G. - for he came with about 8 regiments, amongst which I found so many old friends that I was kept occupied by them day and night - We commenced the campaign in gaieties by giving a ball & supper to the GGl. - & all the people that came with him - The GG. gave a return match which came off splendidly - Then he gave two or three dinner party to the big-wigs & staff among which I was included; & so much was I delighted with every thing, the dinner especially, that I should have liked to have dined with his Lordship every day. I met G Harriot at the 1st ball, when he told me that he had not called upon me because the General told him I was a perfect hermit; however we were delighted at meeting & talked a great deal of former days - of Grand mama¹³⁰ & Aunt Jim. A great number of native (independent) Rajahs, came to Delhi to meet Lord E. & then I had my 1st opportunity of seeing these fellows in State - In every direction were to be seen these fellows going & returning

1v

from state visits (Durbars) to the Lord & to one another - The Rajah of Bhurtpore the biggest of the lot gave us a dinner in a style that I should think was never before seen in this country - The tents were of such size & extent as to astonish us all. The approach to the Tents was by two very large squares the walls & arches one blaze of illumination. In the outer square were drawn up the Rajah's Troops - & in the second our Troops - the Lancers & Light Cavalry - The dining tent was illuminated in a most splendid style with some thirty magnificent chandeliers - Picture & cheval & smaller looking glasses covered the tent on each side - The table the longest I ever saw, was laid for

more than 400. It is a remarkable fact that from no part of the table could both ends of it be seen. After the dinner the fire works commenced - in a way that would astonish you - You would have thought that the Rajah was giving an imitation of the Siege of Bhurtpore. According to the native custom about 500 different fire works were in a blaze at a time - an incessant hissing, roaring, bursting crackling, whissing, phizzing, fire & smoke enveloped us for a full hour. The atmosphere smells of gunpowder to this day - How I should have liked to have taken you from your quiet solitude at Ottery for an hour & have placed you on the back of an elephant amidst the throng of a hundred others - with hosts of soldiers & in the midst of a blaze that you would have thought likely to set the world on fire - The Jumna was boiling near Delhi - though not on fire I believe - The gaiety novelty excitement & champagne was very well for a time - but we were very glad when the G G went away & left us to our accustomed peace & quietude. It was an hour's work to get beyond the encampments in any one direction - I must not omit to tell you that I became acquainted with several of the Cabul prisoners - Capt'n Troup¹³¹ - poor Brydon the Dr - tho' not a prisoner - Capt'n Anderson his wife and two pretty little girls all prisoners - Jelallabad & Cabul & Ghuznee heroes without number were here - Officers & men were to be seen in every place decorated with medals. The races too came off while the Lord was here - & it almost resembled an English race-course - a dear sight to us - The resemblance was the result of there being 4 or 5

2

English regiments here. We had the bands playing on the course between the races - that is novel at any rate. You may by this time have been comforted in your uncertainty at my silence for so long a period. You will guess that I am still at Delhi, occupying the same post, of Garrn Assistant Surgn. & that tho' I have been drinking a great deal of champagne (not for my own pleasure or expense) I am very well - & that I am going on as steadily as a church - tho' to my constant shame and confusion I have never given you the best proof of my prosperity & my economy. Alas I do & must declare that for many months I have never begun a letter to you without my face or my conscience being disfigured with blushes - & tho' I feel cruelly the ill consequences of my promises & never yet performed, I have the consolation of knowing that it could scarcely have been otherwise. My expenses for horses & buggy are now over - they i.e. what I have at present have cost me 100£ & 25£ I have utterly lost by buying a horse not worth his salt & killing my friend's dog. As far as I can judge it appears that I am now settled [torn] certainly no heavy expenses before me - merely my living, [torn] & rent - and if I dont begin this month to clear off and scores [torn] don't know when I shall - I have not yet received my 30[torn] arrears of Cavalry Pay - I must add that your fears about the event of my delaying till too late the paying of this debt are not very just - as my property & arrears (in which we are always kept) would make up the sum - My past expenses have been unavoidable, for I cannot again brave a hot season as I did last year but one - with good pay, the possession of horses & buggy, & without any removals, & some small stock to begin upon I do not feel at all anxious about the prospects except for your sakes, for I cannot but feel that I have too often spoken confidently, to be able to give you any hope or conviction with any thing short of actual performance - I had is certainly a sad conviction - but it cant last long - For some 5 months I have been steadily paying 20£ a month for my cattle & buggy and find myself very little if at all inconvenienced by it - this month clears me - & then I start with arrears £30 Fred Wale £15 or 25 if he Intends the 10£ for his dog as only a loan - I have no other debts, except the regular monthly ones.

2v

My dearest mother I have written as usual - for so it appears to me a long-winded story of debts & debtors promises & what not - which you must keep to yourself as affording little of interest to any member of the family - I have been harrowed with reflections during the past month, upon a remark in your last - viz that if I had kept my promise I should have relieved you of a heavy burden in the

shape of the Knights bridge rent¹³² - Fool that I was in not knowing that my riches were all due -
with pay in arrears

my debts were in arrears - and on no occasion did I ever leave one station for another with anything but a trifle in cash. The clearing of all scores was inevitably the clearing out of me - Though I speak so dolefully do not think for a moment that I am not fully aware of what my deserts are - I am really lost in admiration of young Robertson¹³³ who has done so much with the apparently much smaller means. This determination I have come to - that I shall never again mention any of my wise intentions - When I have any thing to forewarn you of the approach of, I'll do it - & no other report of business will I make. So here shall be an end -

I find I must write another letter to some one - because this is such a whining sort of one - Upon reading your last letter I find you in much of the best spirits notwithstanding sickness - Tom's I mean - & troubles about money - money - money - Netta's prospects - Bella leanness - here's a go! my dear Bella - & Berty's loss of strength - what's mine I wonder I weigh 8 stone 8 - not so bad after 3 years of it - I remember that in a Pea Coat I weighed 4 lbs more when I arrived in India.

[addressed:

Via Falmouth

Overland Mail

Mrs John James
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped:

DELHIE 1843 March ?
EXETER MY 12 1843
SIDMOUTH MY 13 1843

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1

Delhi. April 19th. [1843]

My dearest Mother I am beginning on half a sheet of paper, & nevertheless fear that I cannot fill it with interesting news. I must not break thro' the rule of writing every month, however still, quiet, unmolested, & happy or well I may be - all these now conspire to render my report of this month any thing but novel - Still at Delhi - weather getting awfully hot - the bath near completion - that is the enclosure & thatching - A very serious row occurred at a place named Rhytul a little distance from Kurnaul - On the death of the Rajah, the territory reverted to the Company (Honble John.) An old lady his wife resolved to fight for it - & attacked with several thousand men the 200 Sepoys that were stationed there - 30 men & 1 officer were killed. A very large force marched there in 3 or 4 days & yesterday the news was (pleasant if true) that the old girl has given in. She entertained troops at a very inviting rate of pay & having a good strong fort, a good deal of powder was expected to have been expended - These forts require a strong force to take them & dreadful loss of life often attends the undertaking. So its a great mercy if the row ends here. Great alarm was caused at Kurnaul by the arrival of the defeated, scattered & wounded Sepoys. The station being very unhealthy is not to continue to be a Military Station, so there are only a few troops there. We have been very gay - a new Regmt has arrived, theatricals & balls are making a little stir, occupation & amusement. As you may expect I am in desperate love again. Isabella is the name I now worship. I should propose tomorrow if I were not shackled in the way you know. I dont know but what I shall

not be able to restrain myself from prudent motives or from regard to your cautions. But as usual it portends nothing. I insinuated that persons ever hankering after domestic (matrimonial) happiness never get married & you can well appreciate the truth of this. I am very sorry that George's speculations of the same kind are not much more happy than mine

lv

I am very likely shortly to apply for a permanent appointmt to the Garrison - then if Im successful I'll give you a Champagne tiffin - An established rule in this country on promotion or obtaining a Staff appointmt. You'll hear the accounts of the splendid triumphs in Scinde - quite a relief after Kabul - we are almost surprised at being victorious again. We are all chopping & changing here - some of our old & best friends are going to Scinde. one regiment has left for Rhytall - Julius Dennys is coming to stay with me for a week - he has been 2 years at Candahar.

Many thanks & dear love to the girls & Berty, for their last letters - I wrote to Netta & Irene last month. I have come into the 1st class of Asst Surgeon - 170th from the top - Which has cost me 75 Rs Donation & my Subscriptn to the fund has increased by 13 Rs pr mensem. Our promotions have been very rapid - in 12 years I may be a Surgeon!! Those lately promoted have been 18 years Asst Surge. I have not yet recd my Cavalry arrears. Goodbye my dear mother. Your affecte son Juxon
I could not get the seed of the Pine - I wrote twice about them in vain.

[addressed:

Via Falmouth

Over land Mail

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: DELHIE ??
EXETER JU ?9 1843]

1

Delhi June 6th /43

My dearest Mother

It was quite an oversight, my not having written to you or anyone else last month. The day for the starting of our letters having been changed from the 18th to the 6th & without my knowledge. This knowledge is to be obtained only from the Newspapers, but I, in imitation of my noble friend Lord E. do not read the papers. You will be surprised at seeing such a broad margin to the right hand side of the beginning - it was not made from any ulterior design or sinister motives, but simply because it was turned back and I did not see it. I have as usual no particular intelligence to communicate. I had besides your nice good long letter, one from darling Frank & his more "dainty darling" of a wife. I have in this last endearing epithet changed or rather substituted 'darling' for "duck" - as I presumed that the latter would appear familiar. I greatly rejoice at Frank's late acquisition (here I do not mean the baby) & hope it may be the beginning of a long trundle of fortune's wheel in his favor. By the by as I am not going to write to Mariann this time, I must commission you to tell her that her glowing description of the young ladies are the best things for making me very unhappy. Do you know Mama that she gave a most imprudent description of long

silken eye-lashes & auburn hair - It was baby tho' that she was speaking about¹³⁴ - But perhaps you could not scold

1v

one so good and fair. There's romantic language. Never mind my dear Mother, it is almost the last I shall use. I say this after reflecting upon my almost faded sensibilities & remarks - & not in speaking of "my new sister" - & I like that name immensely. No news - I always put that in when I come to a pause. Young Julius Dennys my old shipmate passed the whole of the last month with me. I did enjoy an old face - did we not talk over our accidents by flood & field - he took the field part, & I did the flood. He came with an old companion-in-arms, who staid here a week to see sights. Pretty comfortable weather for trips, either long or short. They talk of your buttons being so hot (during our summer) that you can't touch them - perhaps you could consider me a traveller if I told you that the thread, this year, has been burnt thro', & the buttons invariably lost. Its no use sewing them on. Talking of things which are wonders to you, but every-day occurrences to us, I must tell you that we had a hail storm a little time ago - the first I ever saw & I trust the last of such I ever shall see. The average size I may truly say (of the hail stones) was about that of a hen's egg - but several that I measured were $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter. Many persons weighed them - many stones weighed 10 Rupees & a few 12/Rs - that's at least 24 shillings - strange to say only 3 people & some few beasts were killed. The sound was precisely like what you might imagine would be produced by the hottest fire of grape & musketry against the wall of your house - just between the drawing room windows. Very few people even have seen such a storm - in some parts of the country masses of ice fell weighing more than a pound - so the papers said. The weather at present is brutally hot - a month ago it was very cool - most unusually & now we are being paid off for it. It is curious that people

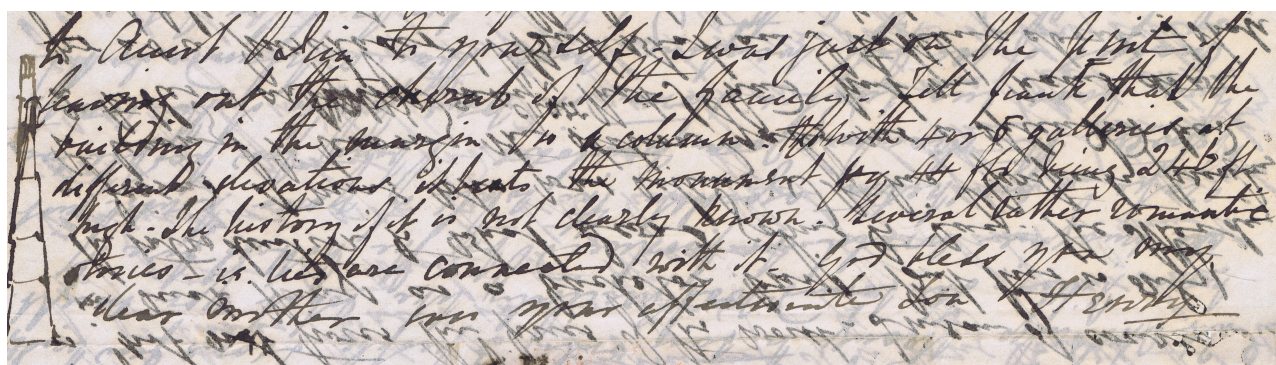
2

ie. the troops always suffer the 1st year they pass in Delhi - One regmnt has about 40 or 50 in Hospital & the one that arrived 4 months ago has 300 nearly. I was led to this reflection (very interesting to you no doubt) just as I was going to say that I had been at Delhi, now eleven months - & I trust I have passed the ordeal - for I am thank God very well, as well as I could wish to be - My affairs are looking up at last. About a week ago I got my arrears of Cavalry Pay. On the 1st of May my old chum Ross¹³⁵ went away to another station - leaving me with bare walls & floors - without tables, chairs, knives & forks - This has been a great haul upon my rupees but the 28£ (arrears mind you) have placed me above the world. In looking over my accounts I see that I have been paying 20£ a month for various requisites, indispensables that is, pretty steadily. This shows me what I can, must, will do when I have none of these to provide for as at present. It will interest you to see the nature of the things provided - Buggy 60£ horses 60£ furniture (that is every thing I have got except my trunks & marching bed-stead and chair) 20£ - bath 12£ - 5£14 for donation on admission to 1st Class Asst Surgn. An old Calcutta thief's bill & the Govr. Genl's Ball will be 10£ - total 167.14.0. I always act upon this best of principles - that what I get should be good, if not best - that it may sell again easily, surely - All furniture - the very worst even is dear, but the best is not twice the price of the worst - I mean of course such things as a bachelor buys. But this is only the introduction of what I was going to say - the other day a friend of mine who was selling off his property previous to leaving the station gave me a splendid bed 2 tables & an easy chair that I put my name down for as a purchaser! But what am I talking about. I shall tell you who was the last person who gave me a cigar. The thing is that when I begin to talk about earthly success or progress I go rambling or mumbling thro every thing as if all were of equal interest

2v

and importance. This is the place in which I always begin talking about brothers and sisters. I am very glad to know that Bertram has been enjoying himself in Paris. I have to thank him for a letter last mail but one, as also dear Irene. This hot weather does so incapacitate one for all exertion (- excepting perhaps mental - tho to shut your eye-lids in thinking will put you into a fever) that I am not able, positively not able to

write more to any one I beg you to give my best love to every member, from Tom to Irene - & I must add to Aunt Jim to yourself - I was just on the point of leaving out the cherub of the family. Tell Frank that the building in the margin



is a column - tho with 4 or 5 galleries at different elevations it beats the monument by 44 ft. being 246 ft high - The history of it is not clearly known - several rather romantic stories - i.e. lies are connected with it. God bless you my dear mother ever your affectionate Son Henry

[addressed:

Overland Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: DELHI 1843 JUNE 6
EXETER AU 6 1843
HONITON AU 7 1843

]

1

Delhi August 11th 1843

My dearest Mother I warned you in my last letter of the extreme danger there was of my being turned out of my present post. My successor (veritably in this case) coming before me wrote to tell me that he would be here on or before the 1st October. Now my ship is again "put about" & I must steer in some other direction- may fortune guide me into as good a harbour as I have hitherto always anchored in - then I set about the old story - 2 armies are to be assembled in October not for mere display or for the sake of any moral impression they may make, but for downright actual service. Bundelcund, that has given us so much trouble ever since I have been in the country, required to be settled by the sword - pardons and rewards have hitherto been tried without effect - except that of making them more troublesome. The Sikh governmt is rather in a mess & the powers of the King is

worth only a pinch of snuff. There have been disturbances in Mhow, a party of Sepoys have been attacked & cut up. Much as I have dreamt of peace & quiet, I have never had an opportunity of witnessing it - & as for the assembling of armies, I shall think no more of it than of the parades & reviews that take place every cold season - As long as we have held this country, I fancy no one year has ever passed without some shindy & I dont expect to see any year of a different character. As there is now no shadow of a doubt about

1v

my being turned adrift just at the hour of the assembling of these armies I may reasonably expect to join one force or the other. I am now getting a clearer view of the prospects before me in this country & begin to look only for comfortable shelter during the inclement season & for plenty of knocking about in the cold ones. With this arrangement I should be contented & happy if I could see myself clear of the world & you in a more prosperous & happy condition. I may as well mention that when I go from here I shall have many things to sell which will bring me a good round sum, which I shall be able to forward to you - I speak so decidedly upon this point because I have money in hand & no debts - & if I can sell my property - that is horse buggy & furniture I ought to get at least 120£ & a campaign I have not one shilling's worth to provide - I told you that I would not encourage your hopes, except when I actually sent you money but on account of the certainty of my having a great deal of money without any use for it - & from the great pain I always feel when I hear from you as when I write to you (from the knowledge that I am causing you an aggravation instead of alleviation of your difficulties - which of course I am thinking of when I am thinking of you) from these considerations I have now ventured to promise what I feel I shall perform - I wish this may be as great a relief to you as it is to me - You cannot conceive what a weight is always hanging on my mind whenever I am writing to you -

2

for I cannot write cheerfully when I know of your distress - nor can I dwell upon my love and duty to you, when actions ought to show it & not merely words. You must not show this letter to any one because I am disgusted & ashamed of myself after the perusal of your last letter, & consequently am writing in the worst spirits. In your answer to this dont attempt to comfort me or rather to represent the folly of being merely down-hearted because by the time I get your reply to this, I shall be lighter of heart & brighter of face from feeling that I have in some measure atoned for my past neglect. I have no news, every thing here is very quiet or rather quite dull - The illness here is awful - more than half the troops here are in Hospital - I have been worked & harassed nearly to death - My patients (Europeans) live in all parts of the city, & in every house father, mother & children are all ill from very bad fevers. The fever has carried off many of the natives in a few hours - & I have lost one European in the same way - I have been out to the city 4 times in the day - which in this weather is dreadful to man & beast - It is a curious thing that scarcely one servant in each family is free from sickness. I have been remarkably well - as well as I could wish to be - & this I attribute in a great measure to my taking every day a great deal of exercise - but where do you think? at the Billiard table a couple of hours each day - There is never any gambling there, so dont be alarmed at my playing at Billiards. There are seven tables in this little station & there are not 20 players. I constantly play by myself - the best way for learning by the by - this is a hint to you. There is a friend of mine of the name of

2v

Baugh - Bempde Henry B.¹³⁶ is he of the Mt. Radford family? I should have said he is an acquaintance - Another Baugh is in the service - Folliot.¹³⁷ the latter I fancy is the Devonshire man. How utterly have I neglected my dear Sisters in not having written to them for so long a time - but

letter writing is my abomination - at least a month after the receipt of my correspondent's letters.
The days that I receive

your letters I feel inclined to write at least 10 letters - By this time you have seen dear Fanny - that's a pleasure I envy you in - How is brother George getting on? not fast or I should have heard of it. I ought to write to him & to my other brothers - What dead cuts Tom & I are!! I want him to sell his fiddle or buy one for me - I am disgusted with mine & cannot bear to play on it. God bless you my dearest mother - & all at home - Love to all from your affectionate tho' bad Son J H Jones

[addressed:

Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: DELHI 1843 AUG 11
G.P.O. 1843 Aug 25
HONITON NO 14 1843]

1

[Delhi – September 18th /43]

My dearest Mother here I am beginning another letter without having any thing to communicate - I have seen nothing but sick people & heard of nothing but sickness - The latter still rages in a degree quite unprecedented - In one word I may say that many soldier is sick - We have 4 Regimts here; yet the other day a guard of 4 sepoys could not be procured for an escort! I have been worked to death - I am journeying all day from patient to patient - & living as I do quite alone I got so abominably in the dumps that I almost wish myself sick - that is, just barely laid up so that some one might take my duty - My old station Kurnaul & in fact all places on this side of the Jumna are equally afflicted with almost universal sickness. Our only hope is in the cold weather, which is approaching. the nights & mornings are now quite cold. There does not appear any immediate prospect of my going to Scinde & I do not hear that any troops are going there. The sickness there is very great - I speak of Sukkur¹³⁸ & there is only one (convalescent) doctor to attend upon the whole Brigade!! they are calling loudly for more Surgeons, but as the cold weather will have set in & the sickness greatly have discontinued before any one could get down there I dont expect to be sent there. I shall not even be relieved (in my present appointmt) till the 15th proximo - as all are uncertain of their movements in the cold weather. I was afraid that I should not be able to sell a single article of my furniture on my leaving Delhi - but fortunately my successor will prove an excellent purchaser. The property of 3 officers who have lately died here, sold most miserably. Even at this late time of the year we hear nothing of what is intended in October - the fighting & marching time of this country. Perhaps there will be no tamasha (displays vulg: a row) this year - There are to be yearly assemblyings of armies - that for this year is called the Army of Exercise - it tis to be assembled at Agra - This is I believe merely for the purpose of giving the Generals a little practice in managing large bodies of troops nearly 20,000 men will be assembled.

1v

The hero of Candahar Sir W Nott¹³⁹, is to have the command. This will be of great advantage to young Officers as well as old - It is expected by some that part of the force at least will be brought into actual service; for the Independent States Bandelcand & Gwalior, which are close to Agra, have been in a very rebellious state for a long time & may require our interposition. How I do jaw away to you about armies - troops - battles rebellions, actual service &c &c - But you must excuse this a little as they are matters of most engrossing interest to us - not you perhaps - We never meet but what enquiries are made about such things - every Regmt burning to be sent on Service - War is not a pleasant thing to be sure, but some how soldiers do seem to like it - particularly those who have tried it - A deal of this Zeal in some may be accounted for by their Regmt. not ever having seen a battle & consequently being without any insignia or honours either as to their dress or reputation - The Drs even have been making a great agitation to obtain for themselves the military honours that their military brethren get - it is but fair - How could you ever "seriously incline" to hear my stories of moving accidents if I had not a medal at my breast - However I have no wish to win any lady's heart Othello-like - or even to go to Sukkur¹⁴⁰; which may be ever so little in harm's way - But I must add that my reason is that it is ruination taking the field - I have a very fresh & striking picture of this before me - A young Civilian was ordered to Sukkur - he sold a great deal of property at about ½ its value - the things he took with him "went down" in his boat - he is ordered back having suffered a loss of many thousand rupees for nothing - but trouble and privation. You may see in Sir C Napier's¹⁴¹ orders that the Civilians the Governmt sent to Sukkur were of no use - but, he (Sir C.) would be greatly obliged by the Governmt. sending the same number (3) of good hard-working soldiers. In my last letter I talked to you about Mr Baugh he is son of our Mt Radford acquaintance but this man was not there. I have formed acquaintance with him

2

and of course we talked a great deal about Devonshire & its inhabitants his brother is out here - I mean the one I knew & who was at Mt R School - You will remember me on the 21st no doubt - do you believe me when I say that I had forgotten my age - having lived so long - fancy 28 years having over my head - it (the head) not high to be sure - I thought I was not 27! However its little it matters to me any how, how old I am - except that I'm nearer my promotion & my going home & to marriage certainly whenever it is to be. You see that I have some things to live for, though I am at times weary of this eternal round of visiting patients - But 1st & foremost stands my obligations - I like that word better than debts - though I speak of those to you. How little did I think that 3 birth-days should pass before I became independent Alas how much worse off am I than dependant - Well I shall have some consolation shortly, that will affect you equally I trust - & may you be the nurser¹⁴² at Xmas, and if you sorrow at all on my account I hope it may be for the feast & not for continuing the same thoughtless, improvident, shameful course - I leave out the hussler but more fitting terms - I wonder whether you will leave Ottery after all - supposing you are able to do so - How gradually I am dropping all correspondences with my family - It is truly shameful but can scarcely be helped. I can only write just after receiving a letter, as you shall see I can do when the intended improvements have been effected in the overland mail - We have been longing for our letters this month, expecting them to arrive before this mail goes - most likely they will arrive tomorrow - a happy arrangement is it not - They talk of 2 mails a month - I must say Adieu - with all loves & blessings to you & all our family

I am your very affectte Son

Henry

I dated my letter on the wrong side when beginning

2v

Delhi – September 18th /43

[addressed:

Via Falmouth

Overland

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: DELHIE 1843 SEP 18
HONITON NO 14 1843

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1

Delhi October 18th /43

My dearest Mother I have at last got my dismissal from Delhi though I have not hitherto received any account of where I am to go - It is certain that no troops will go to Scindh this winter so that there is little or no chance of going to that delightful country. It is a pity that I cannot tell you where I am going as I shall receive my orders tomorrow - I have told Berty that I had applied to go to Deyrah again, but I am told that the appointment has not become vacant. I am not at all sorry to leave Delhi now as, the sickness half the year is too great & the fatigue of my duties too great - my patients not having any hospital I am obliged to go to their various residences which are scattered all over the City. It is as bad as practising in London, for I have been for weeks kept out of doors nearly the whole day - which is not pleasant, or beneficial to one's health in this country - My taste for change has returned upon me and I hope it may be long before I look for happin[torn] only in being permanently settled. At this place I have lately found it very dull & were it not for my kind neighbours I should have no one to see within 2 miles of my house. I was yesterday relieved by my Successor & am now enjoying one day's respite from my labours. I have no news of any kind - Delhi has been most dull from the universal sickness & the not infrequent deaths among officers - I thank heaven that I have been all along in the best health - The Regiments that have been here ever since I came, are ordered away, so that my going will not separate me the more from my friends. The certainty of my not going now to Sindh will save me the unpleasantness of selling (at a loss) almost every thing I possess - Though I shall I [sic] not get the funds that I expected to arise therefrom, I am sure that I shall not disappoint you altogether - Some things I have to sell which will enable me to defray my usual expenses. I have been threatened with the retrenchment of 35£ on account of necessaries supplied to the sick on my first march - if I should lose this money it will be a heavy grievance to me - & a great shame on the part of the Military Board - I am becoming a most miserable corresp-

1v

correspondent - You see I am already approaching the end of my letter - I have written a sheet-full to Berty, in answer to his most agreeable letter. I was delighted at hearing that Netta & Irene were in London - I fully expect some letters from them describing the new things that they see in that Babylon - I also want to know the last slang terms, for the information of some lady acquaintances!! It is a long time since they were in London. I must not omit the expressing of my gladness at your account of your own & Bella's health. Your late gaieties at Ottery must make

you feel the subsequent dullness the more. I wish that I might have assisted you ere this that you might go to a pleasanter & more healthy place. Your most unsociable neighbours the Coleridges¹⁴³ you could leave without much regret - only fancy my dear god-father never on any occasion asked me to his house - Do you know that I should detest the coldness of my English friends should I return home to experience it - I scarcely ever knew any Indian who had been home & did not complain of it. It is a blessing indeed that I should have dear relations to welcome my return. What am I talking about - I am not going home for many a long long year but till I do I shall ever be your very affectionate son Henry

[addressed:

Overland Via Falmouth

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: DELHI 1843 OCT 18
 N 9 DE 9 1843]

1

Ferozepore¹⁴⁴ December 14th /43

My dearest mother,

At a late hour of the day I learn that the overland mail starts from this to-day & it is as well that my time for writing is rather short, as I am in any thing but happy spirits at the prospect that to day opens to my view. I have not recd your last letter, that is I have had none this month from you - this, & alas my ignorance that the over land letters were going to- day is accounted for by the fact of my having been marching for the last month. I have been here 3 days & from this I am going by boat (such a one) to Sukkur down the Sutledge & Indus¹⁴⁵. I had a very pleasant march to this place, but not a little anxiety about my servants continuing with me - & of the safety of my horse & buggy that I sent back from Kurnaul to Delhi. Till today I have been delighted at the prospect of a trip by water & at all my affairs having gone on smoothly & the hope that they would continue so; but this morning I received what is called a regular damper. Not one of my servants will go with me to Sukkur - all my companion's servants left him 3 weeks ago - What is to be done I do not know. How I am to go 400 miles without a servant I know not. I must wash my own linen & feed upon biscuits. The rascals who are now leaving me (some of them 3 years my servants) have got substitutes, that is 3 - who want an advance of pay & that double what the wages of servts in cantonnts are. Three servants that I had advanced money to are already gone off -

1v

But as I do not wish to be fleeced as well as deserted, I meant to try my fortune without servants, rather than to advance money to any of these scoundrels - for these fellows who offer themselves so readily, are a set of villains of the blackest character, who hang about these frontier stations, and get admitted into one's service & an advance of pay & then behold they are no-where to be found when

you are moving away. The sorest evil of this loss of one's servants, perhaps is, that I cannot take a horse or poney with me - At Sukkur horses are ruinously dear & bad - mine were cheap & most excellent. Fortunately the journey is to be completed in 18 or 20 days and I have a companion, perhaps 2, in my misery. I am this instant told that to-day's Mail is closed - tomorrow's then I must try - I at first thought I would not write this month because of my being in so desolate a condition, but as you were told in my last of my being on my journey to Sukkur I thought it advisable to tell you how I got on. My condition in a pecuniary point of view is very bad - I have now been nearly 2 months on half my usual pay 21£3!!! & the expenses of the march are so great, that with this small sum I cannot pay them. My servants, nearly doubled in number, receive double pay, taking much more than half of mine - the brutes (I must call them so) refuse to march if they don't get the usual number of servants together, because they cannot do half an hour's work if they have to march 12 or 15 miles. In cantonments their work is half nothing, they sleep away their existence & answer Sahib Sahib a few times a day - & a painful truth it is

2

that we are, when marching more dependant upon them than you can imagine - In this country you can do nothing for yourself I mean when moving about - there may be no well within a mile of the place you halt at - you can't buy provisions yourself - you cannot possibly wash or cook for yourself - though on the river I mean to try all of these, if I am so unfortunate as not to get a servant without an advance of pay. My servants to-day (15th) are changing their tone after my decided refusal to pay them a half-penny till we get to Sukkur - all but 2 and the grooms are a month and a half in arrears this they may whistle for if they don't go with me. The news of yesterday viz that the Bombay troops are to keep all Sindh seems to be confirmed - this is to me the brightest news. The heat & unhealthiness are unequalled in India - besides no houses, servants or supplies - most of the officers are living in Tombs! they are delightful in hot weather if there is no wind; but then the hot winds blow all the hot weather & there is no way keeping it out. The sickness that has been at Sukkur is not much greater than what we have experienced at Delhi Kurnaul & several other stations - moreover at this season there is no sickness even at Sukkur & I feel certain of returning very shortly, for I am the senior of all the Drs there, & I am promised to be sent back the 1st. All the Drs. there have been sick & 6 or 7 others have been sent there to take their places only temporarily. When they get well of course there will be more than twice the usual number of Drs. there & some must come back. As I shall be the Superintendg Surgeon(!) there I shall order myself to return the very first - I have been very much amused at the thought of my being in such high authority - all medical reports will be made to me!!!

2v

I expect some little flare up from some of them - as people don't like to be placed under the authority, in any way, of those only a little Superior in standing - at least I found it so when I once had an assistant of the same kind, in my first march - besides I must turn somebody out of their charges as all have got some 1 or more & I must be provided for - & I shall not take the worst! One of my horses I hear has been sold for 30£ & my buggy I fear must go for only 50£ it is worth 70£ tho' I did not give so much for it. The proceeds of these & my furniture, every article of which is sold, will fetch 100£ which I will remit to you as soon as possible. Alas this unhappy

expedition is filling me with anxiety about the unavoidable delay to be experienced in paying you. It grieves me more than I can express & troubles me whenever I think of you. What troubles me most is the uncertainty of one's life & that if I should not live to pay off my debt, what could be done. My property with the buggy &c will fetch 200£ I am sure. If there was now a possibility of borrowing it before going to Sukkur I would do so. There is no difficulty in doing this and as soon as I shall reach Sukkur I will apply for a loan of 300£ from the Bank. I must do this & trust to have

done it before you get this. In the course of a fortnight I shall be in the receipt of good pay & when I march back here, I am sure to have some Staff Allowce. I have often thought of this mode of paying you but never till I came on this long & dismal march did I think how imperatively necessary it might become.

I shall in my next letter I hope write to you an account of a pleasant trip & bright prospects of return to the Provinces my home - What a happy Xtnas I shall have - may yours be infinitely better - & may some be in store for me - tho' you may say I dont deserve - the only drawback to yours I think can only be poverty & that I might have relieved - at any rate ought not to have increased. It seems like hypocrisy, because I am always talking instead of doing - but I only can know the difficulty I experience [covered with stamp] raising money. [top of first page of the letter: Not till I have discharged this debt can I hold my life lightly, or not fear to die. But I must, & do pray God to preserve both you & me. your affectionate but not very filial son Henry my best love to all -]

[addressed:

Over land Via Falmouth

Mrs John James
Ottery St. Mary
Devonshire
England

stamped: FERROZEPORE
G.P.O. 184? Dec 27
EX ? FE 14 1844

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1

[Shikapore] March 11th (1844)

My dearest Mother two days after I commenced & finished the former sheet¹⁴⁶ I continue my letter, with the intention of giving you an account of my late proceedings, & endeavouring to make the best amends in my power for my long silence. My last letter to you was from Ferozepore, where I remember I was ill at ease at the prospect before me - a very long journey through such inhospitable countries and all alone - the certainty of being deserted by all my servants (all but the washerman did run away) , which I knew would leave me in a most desolate condition - but worst of all my fears & anxieties was the state of my pecuniary affairs; for my pay being cut down to half & my expenses doubled - nay, trebled; the journey before me being longer & more dangerous than one to England, the distance I was going from all civilised regions, made me feel that every day & every hour difficulties were thrown in the way of fulfilling my oft repeated promises to you - To explain my long silence I must tell you that I was on my journey when the January Mail started; & when the February one was going, as I thought, I found it had gone. Our letters at Shikapore are recd. & dispatched only every other day & some times 3 days elapse without any letters being recd. or sent off. I omitted to prepare my letter in good time as I was waiting for the answer from the Agra bank, with as I hoped & trusted the gratifying intelligence that a Draft had been sent to you - But at any rate I am now in a much happier condition than I have been for a very long time, not in the least on my own account, but as it will affect you. As you saw by the date of my letter I am out with the Regmt of Cavalry for the purpose of dispersing tribes of the Beloochees who are collecting for their annual excursions about the country for plunder. The Hill tribes of course are the aggressors

- they come down from their hills and cross the desert & rob the poor cultivators of all the fruits of their year's labor, & of course killing all that resist them.

1v

On the borders of the desert we have two little forts, held by some 40 or 50 of our Cavalry in each. When we arrived at the 1st of them we found the place filled with the families & property of the poor fugitives - a very painful scene - Since our arrival they have been galloping all over this desert-like country like Bedoin Arabs (Arabs of the Desert) but found none of these scoundrels who had been laying waste the country - Our force is now posted in 3 forts which command the approaches to this country from the Hills - We for the first week had beautiful marches at a pretty good gallop & across such a country for cavalry! We visited each of the forts for a day, & all the villages that had been plundered. We sounded "boot & saddle" half a dozen times when intelligence arrived that the Beloochees were on the side of the Desert - but this intelligence hitherto has always been false. The fact is, that they will not come when we are out here - & it is intended that we march back on Saturday next if we hear nothing more after 12 days of campaigning!! I am right glad that we have had this trip - it has been the most exciting, varied & agreeable excursion I ever had or am likely to have. We had lots of races amongst ourselves & between our people & the horsemen of the country - They are such picturesque figures & their horses little fleet animals that beat most of our larger horses - indeed I had heard that our cavalry could never get near them, if they had a moments start - & moreover that the former Commdr. of the Cavalry used to practise his horsemen to racing or rather galloping in bodies as fast and as far as they could go - The 1st races that we had, when we were returning from one of the Forts to our Head Quarters here, at Khan Gurh¹⁴⁷ - was between myself & 2 of these fellows 1 at a time - and I beat them without much difficulty upon a poney the same size as their little steeds - Another and to me the most rare & interesting scene was the watering of the Camels - This is a most

2

celebrated country for breeding camels - they are the chief riches of the country - There is but one large well which they all come to be watered - & during the whole day they were pouring in by hundreds & thousands on every side of us - The troughs were arranged in radii round the well, and all the Camels come & arrange themselves in order like soldiers, on either side of the troughs & go away in the same order almost, when they have done, without a soul attending to them - except to drive them back to their jungles - their homes. Here man is indeed in a most primitive state - they are not savages indeed, but they remind me of the days of the Patriarchs,. The eternal fighting that is going on, & the dreadful appearance of the desert dont induce us to wish to remain in this country - How little do the inhabitants of this barren country know of the comparative heaven we have in our blessed land. The only pleasure they know I should think was coming to the well. We could not help exclaiming this is indeed the "Diamond of the Desert". When I get back to the Provinces I shall indeed rejoice that I have been sent down to this country - barring the loss of dibs, which however may be repaid me for my great & gallant services by a good appointment. If the Troops - that were ordered to our relief (of all the Troops in Scinde belonging to the Bengal side) we should have been back in the Provinces by this time. You may have heard of the most terrible sickness that ever visited a country, having visited Sukkur last year - about a quarter of the people died & of the Europeans two thirds!!! Well when troops were ordered down to relieve those that remained after the cessation of the sickness, they all refused to come if they did not get extra pay - this they are promised if they cross the Indus or the Sea - This has been a source of great anxiety & alarm for these Troops are on the frontier - at Ferozepore - only a long day's march for Lahore - this question was of course to be referred to the Government at Calcutta, & all remains in the most unsettled state. The artillery & the cavalry have given in & have marched.

I hope the remainder may likewise give in; if so all will be well. The poor fellows that have braved the climate here for one season, will be the sufferers, for the season is getting too late for them to march with any prospect of advantaging their health by the change. In about a month from this time we shall be starting back again. We shall march instead of going by water - so I shall know a little of this country by the time I get back. I may as well now tell you that you must direct my letters to Loodeanah - Our Regmt is ordered straight there. Its the most beautiful Station as regards climate, filled with lots of Troops & altogether as good as any Station in India. You will see on the map that it is on our N. W. frontier - a few marches from Ferozepore. What will be my destination after my reaching the place I cannot guess - the Regmt has an Asst Surgn posted to it, or I would have applied to be posted to it myself - It is the best thing an Asst Surgn can get. About your remarks concerning applicatns for appointmnts you must understand that those I have mentioned, with one exception, were made to a private individual & friend - the Superintending Surgeon. Every body even the General at Delhi recommended me to apply for the Garrison. If you have gone through 3 years of knocking about & have any sort of claim such as mine was, the authorities will not bully you for asking at least. I have no doubt but that I should have been posted to Delhi if I had asked for it. In a short time it will become again vacant when I shall certainly apply for it again - and if nothing better turns up in the mean time I shall get it - For if nothing good turns up I shall not ask to be posted to any thing & shall remain afloat - so as to "stoop" upon any kind of prey. This phrase reminds me that I ought to tell you that we have the most delightful hawking every day - in all our rides & marches we take them out, and with a troop of 10 or 12 horsemen we ride like fun - Tomorrow, we have just arranged, is to be day for our return. We go back in four marches - & then I shall be able to arrange my affairs -

1 cross-hatched

Shikarpore 11th March /44. My dear Mother I returned here yesterday. I found upon my table the papers from the Secretary if the Bank requiring my signature before my obtaining the loan - In hopes of the papers being all ready by the starting of this mail they have sent them to me & but for my absence you would have received the Draft for Fifty pounds by this Mail. In the said papers they have stated that the sum is to be repaid in three months instead of one - on this account I know that my securities will not "cry off" and to-day after having signed them myself I forward them for my friends to sign - at least 12 days must elapse before they can be quite ready & returned to the Secretary and so will be too late for this mail. It is a very great disappointment to me to be obliged to delay this even one month. There is one consolation that after I have signed & forwarded the aforementioned papers, nothing can delay the Draft being sent by the next Mail to you - I only wish that I could have sent you one hundred instead of 50£ - Now I am bound by law to repay this money so if I dont begin to economise it will be strange indeed - After I begin my march I can receive no letters till I reach Ferozepore during a period of six weeks - but perhaps I shall hear from the Secretary that he has sent you the draft, before I march. If we start before the Mail goes I shall write a letter to say that I am off & leave it in the Post Office - & by the by the Draft is Payable at Sight - & on Mess Coutts - London.

1v cross-hatched

I have directed my Buggy to be sold. I gave 60£ for it - so I'm sure of getting 50£ for it. This I will remit as soon as I get paid & get back to the Provinces. What is become of my beautiful Mare I cannot find out - The Regimt that my friend at Ferozepore was going to send it by, has stoutly refused to march and I dont know whether he has or not sent it by the Cavalry that are coming to relieve me. I heard yesterday that my friend was ordered to Gwalior & if so I am floored - In fact we are such an immense distance from the Provinces that I can do nothing in the way of business

under a month or two. Letters take 8 days going to Ferozepore - & 12 to Agra & the [sic] a greater evil is that every one is so dilatory in almost all but businesses of their friends. This is the last safe day & I have much business to trans act - all to save money!! & a fortnights correspondence to get over - besides I have exhausted all my news & all my promises are shackled by this horrible business business business With my dearest love to you and all I am your affecte son

Henry

I am always so occupied with contemplation of my bad conduct & devising all means & contrivances for your relief that I never while writing think of mentioning my interest in the fortunes of my brothers - I am most anxious to know of Bertram's fortune as I feel how much greater his chance of success for which I would give my right hand, would be, if you could all go to Leamington

2 cross-hatched

I would do my utmost to assist you as if his whole success in life should depend upon doing so. If endeavours will lighten the weight upon my conscience, it will be lightened now - I hope & trust that I shall have no more just reproaches from my family they have been just indeed - but if any thing can alter one's character & conduct it is the change that I have experienced from comparative wealth & peace, to war and poverty - before I came here I felt that by any great exertion I could get my affairs into a proper state but now the fear is that I may not even live to perform what I have so long & earnestly wished.

God bless you ever my dear Mother

I do not enclose the letter I promised because my letter has reached such a size

[no address]

1

Shikapore 28th March 1844.

My dearest Mother

I am writing in good time this month, and chiefly because I have remembered that tomorrow is your birth-day, & to-day dear Berty's - I wish you many happy returns of 29th March, with all feelings & love that becomes the best of sons. I have just finished a letter to Bertram that I have been writing for several days past and I cant wait till tomorrow to begin my letter to you - but it will be continued tomorrow & indeed I shall keep it open until the last day, if I do not march before 14th. I can write to you this month without that eternal ding dong about my affairs the bright or dismal aspect of them & the long et cetera that I have for so long a time defiled my letters with. You will receive at the same time that you get this, a letter from a Mr Macgregor, The Secretary of the Agra Bank & a bill for fifty pounds on Messrs Coutts & Co. London, payable at sight - I desired him to send it as it might be lost if sent all the way to Scind & back again. Moreover I must tell you that I have sent this small sum only because of my not wishing to involve myself with the Agra Bank - for if I had borrowed a larger sum, I could not immediately repaid it - and should have been obliged to have insured my life - The difference in the rate of exchange - the Interest & Insurance for a large sum would have been ruinous I have already repaid this Loan excepting the Interst & other charges - & by this I escape the clutches of that Monster that seldom lets you go with your hide on - This little matter also I may mention - I did not borrow a larger sum to send, because there is due to me from the Honble. Company about 280£, 230£ I mean - this with what I have sent you & with the property I have, would most amply cover my debt. So that I am no longer dreading the disastrous consequences of my past misconduct with which my mind was filled when I was first

ordered down to Scinde. I'll now tell you how I come to be so rich - all the Army in Scinde have received 6 months Batta because they have suffered so much from the climate, & also because there was the most alarming mutiny amongst the Troops ordered down to Scinde, who all refused to come, so we have been handsomely rewarded, to show what they have lost - by their misconduct - the fact is that the Governmt behaved most shamefully in attempting to reduce the pay of the Troops, which is always increased on foreign service. This has been a sort of 'sop' to the whole army for at the same time that order appeared giving us this reward the same was promised to all the Troops which were at the battles in Scinde & Gwalior. I receive 73£ for my fine services in Scinde - and I have not yet received any pay this year, nor can I receive any till I get to Loodeanar, which will be in the middle of May - so that I shall have four months

1v

pay to receive, 150£ this with the 73 for Batta will enable me to get rid of half my debt at once - because I owe little & I have enough for the current expenses reduced as they are. I wont say anything more about what I intend; & only to relieve the fears and anxieties of my family have I mentioned this much - that I have this money due to me - I found my calculations about the product of the sale of my property rather wide of the mark For I have sold every thing to my name - I have nothing but my marching establishment and yet I have not had money enough to pay my way, in as much as I owe some 30£ now - But what I have mentioned above is "actual hard tin" as we say & due from the surest pay master the Honble John. Your letter - I recd it yesterday _ rejoiced my heart, beyond description. That you had really effected the removal to Leamington¹⁴⁸ was a great relief to my mind, for as I told you in my last I feared greatly that I was the chief obstacle to your effecting this most desirable change, desirable in account of the whole family - but chiefly perhaps as it will effect Bertram's chances of success in life - How nice it will be to be near dear Frank and his sweet half - and also near to our good brother-in-law - & so near to Tom even. I wish I could come and join you to help in the house warming. But I should not be happier than I am & have been since the recpt of your letter & Berty's. Oh I trust that every thing will now wear a brighter aspect. Of course my dearest mother you will consider this first Remittance as entirely due to you on account of interest in case I should be backward again; & another thing I wish to observe is that I should be happy indeed if my next remittance would likewise be considered as your own - or rather I should like to make a present of 20£ to each of the girls & let you keep the rest for bread & butter - but this rests entirely with you & the girls. Yet I tell you that I should exceedingly rejoice to be able to send them this. But they may think that the more prudent thing would be to get rid of the liabilities they (the girls) are under on my account. However whatever I send you below one hundred & one pounds I shall ask you to do exactly as you like with. But I am talking rather prematurely you may say & it's a sin I have been guilty of a long time - at least in business. You must see that I am giving you all this, merely from the exuberance of spirits arising from the improved state of my affairs, which are bright as I could wish almost, but which before were gloomy as night. I think I have written to you the most dismal & intolerably absurd letters for the last twelve months - I hope I shall improve upon them after this. The fact is that I was nearly beside myself with anxiety when I was ordered to Scinde - then came the picture with such strong lights of my folly in so long neglecting all efforts to free myself - or rather you & my sisters of your liabilities on my account - in fact by my utter wretchedness I have been fairly frightened into good behaviour. Hitherto I have always felt that I could relieve

2

you from your responsibilities, by a little perseverance in the effort; but when I was tumbled neck & crop at an hour's notice 800 miles, to such a country as Scinde, I began to reflect not only upon the uncertainty of life, but also upon the uncertainty of my opportunities of collecting money while alive - My pay I knew would be reduced by one half & my expenses exceed that pay. It was those

reflections that made me as melancholy as a cat, when I wrote to you from Ferozepore, & not the loss of all my servants - though that was a boor of no little consideration. But by the goodness & the providence of God I have not only arrived safe, & in good health, but all things seem to have turned to my advantage. I am returning from what we call actual Service, which gives me a claim for advancement; I have been already well rewarded - & I have learnt this piece of useful knowledge that what is to be done must be done at once, without the omission of a single opportunity. My dearest mother are not my letters always about as interesting and as welcome as Mr Smith's, when he talks of Chancery Suits? I need not repeat a word about my going back to the Provinces as Bertram has a correct account of every thing connected with my movements - Berty sent me such a nice letter - in fact both of yours did my heart good - I owe a letter to Irene - but I feel at present such a villain that I cant write letters. I owe aunt Jim a rap over the knuckles - Where is my dear Aunt? You do not mention her whereabouts. I did not understand that the girls had actually gone to Leamington; at least by your letter - from Bertram's I did understand so much. Fancy dear old Fanny writing to you again - I will send her a [torn] account of my late interesting proceedings & how I have fleshed my maids[torn] sword upon the Beloochees. You must tell Tom that the sword he gave me I regret to say was not the sort of thing for a fight. How well I remember Berty's looking at it, and observing that most formidable instrument of death. We look upon such things as scarcely fit to toast cheese with! The native sword is about 8 times as heavy & would easily cut it in two! I took a very different weapon with me when I went out to the Desert. Can you fancy your little naughty son, setting his teeth - his moustaches (for I have that ornament again) curling & his hand unconsciously grasping his sword in anticipation of a fight? We of course expected night attacks and that only - and one night just as we were going to bed, we (there were 4 officers) fancied we had got it - it was rather exciting, but as it ended in nothing of course it was ridiculous. In fact though I summoned up all the courage I have, on several occasions, I do not know yet what it is to face an enemy - We had one horrid piece of a baulk - we had several messengers arrive breathless with haste (leaving out the terror) announcing the approach of the enemy. This was in the Desert. Well we all turned out to a man, & of course felt that a fight was at hand - the troops went off, at a good rate, about 6 miles, then straight before them stood the enemy - every nerve was strung, & every bright blade was bared - the order to advance at a trot was given & bow wow the carnage was just about to begin, when the enemy turned themselves into a large flock of innocent sheep & goats!!! Here was a laughable sceen [sic] - the men were all old heroes of Candahar & were only sorry that we had been mistaken.

2v

Unfortunately I did not see this - I should have been "horridly afeared". One thing is certain that the men who have seen a fight seem to like it - Several heroes of Meanee & Hydrabad¹⁴⁹ I have known - some still at Shikarpore - & when the news came that a large force of Beloochees had come down, these fellows seemed quite happy. One of these men in that dreadful fight at Meanee killed 6 men with his own sword. Marengo¹⁵⁰ was not a more terrible engagement - excepting in the numbers - after the day was lost by the enemy immense numbers of them would not move a foot but fought & fell singly or in little parties. Coll. Waddington¹⁵¹ the father of Tom's pupil of that name, was in the fights. It is strange how one gets accustomed to such things. When I was first ordered out against the (imaginary) enemy my heart [torn] in my mouth - & I could not speak, but now I heard their guns close

to the Station I think I should take it as quietly as you would the announcement of a visitor at 4 Ranelagh Terrace - and I speak almost from experience - I mean that the alarums have been frequent - nearly all our force went out the other day Inftry Guns & Cavalry - & yet these announcemts of most dreadful proceedings do not quicken my pulse - it may be that I feel that the enemy will never make their appearance - & so the absence of danger makes me very courageous. I am sure that practise renders eels indifferent to skinning. I expect to become accustomed to grilling this march.

The Thermometer, in Tents, is often 135°!! One comfort is that we shall march before the extreme heat begins & we shall be marching out of the fire into the frying pan - of course it is cooler in the Provinces

10th April - My dearest mother I have little chance of leaving Scinde - direct to me at Sukkur. I am out of the Desert again from which I am finishing my letter - Great disturbances are the cause of our being here still - The Regt [] relieves us has long since arrived. God for ever bless you my dearest mother - prays your affectionate Son

[addressed:

Over land Via Southampton

Mrs John Jones
No. 4 Ranelagh Terrace
Leamington
Warwickshire
England

stamped: SUCKKER 13 April
 LEAMINGTON JU 11 1844]

1

30th March 44

My dearest Mother I did not continue my letter yesterday though I thought of you and pledged you in a "cup of ale" - I was too much engaged the whole day - I will tell a part of my occupation. I have before told you that I expected the Garrison Surgcy of Delhie to become vacant before a year passed - My successor in that appointmt kindly agreed to send me intelligence whenever he might be about to leave Delhie - I received this gladdening news from him yesterday - he has written to me long before the name will appear in Orders for another place, so according to his instructions I have written a letter to the Comdr in Chief which my friend will forward to Head Quarters just in the "nick of time" before any body else knows of the vacancy at Delhie. My having officiated there for sixteen months & my having now been on Service will greatly enhance my claims besides, what gives me most hope of all, is that he is going to ask a friend to 'back' my application - If any soul could be found to say a word for me I should be certain of getting the appointmt - All consider me to have been the most unfortunate of all the men of my standing - indeed most thought that for some misconduct I had been sent to Scinde! but the fact is, that no other person was available - they looked upon me as soon as I was cast adrift. The prospect, so fair too, of getting back to Delhie, will cheer me till I get to Ferozepore at least, where I shall learn my fate. Supposing that I clear myself of my creditors - I fancy you will find me committing matrimony because I shall become settled for years at that delightful place. I have one of the many strings to my bow at Delhie! I fancy it will be inevitable - What a different tune I have been singing to Bertram - The time is fast approaching for my departure - The Regmt that will relieve us will arrive at Sukkur in five days - The weather all of a sudden, as usual, has got very hot indeed it will be perspiring work during the march. The men that came down here last year tell us that they used to put on bathing drawers & lie in a hole dug in the sand! I wonder how much the sand flies touched them up? The people are beginning to enjoy the peculiar delights of Scinde - with one exception, my house is the only one with glass doors & windows; so that every poor fellow is afflicted with flies, muskitoes & sand-flies, which they have no means of keeping out of their houses. I asked one

of my patients if he slept well - his reply was "I can't sleep & don't expect to while in Scinde from these cussed flies &c." At night I suffer dreadfully - I am bitten all over & do nothing but plough my poor flesh the live-long night - I must get a suit of buckram to defend myself against these furious enemies. There is one thing that we in this country sleep on the tops of the houses when it gets very hot, & so as there are always cool breezes at night I trust everyone may get good night's rest. No one has a punkah - & there are no rains here; so how the poor fellows will stand a steady 7 months of hot weather I can't conceive. I know I used to be so dreadfully impatient for the rains that for hours together for days & days I used to watch the progress of the clouds when any provided a little rain. I have not

1v

yet said a word about our new niece¹⁵² - I think I must get up a letter for dear jolly old Frank - However I fully participate in the honor glory & happiness that thereby accrues to our jolly family. I should like to see a boy turn up! or how is our noble name to be kept going? Fancy poor Cecilia having 8 or 12 daughters! If things go on in that way we must have four wives at the least, or some other system which the fair may arrange, as they must ere long from their vastly superior number, have all the power in their hands, & doubtless will alter the present absurd system. You must have seen by the history of my loves, that I could be equally attached to half a dozen girls at one and the same time. You will I dare say observe upon this that I can never be properly attached to one. But dont alarm yourself mother - I han't a been riglure smit through and through - like yet! When I am "its gone goose with somebody" I really fancy that when I become fixed at Delhie, I must take into serious consideration the propriety of marrying. It must be done now or never. You see I shall lose all my youth, freshness & beauty if I wait until my furlough comes - besides I do not think that a man should marry when he is at the top of the hill or slightly on the other side. Physicians all agree that men should marry at 30 years of age - because then he is in vigour of life - both morally & physically - I quite agree with these fine fellows & to show how cordially I agree with them I think I will make arrangements to be married exactly on my 30th birthday. When one has the means and applyances for marriage you see one is kept in a constant state of uncertainty - and this and all other uncertainties are the greatest troubles of our existence - excepting, of course, some matrimonial connections. What chiefly induces me to marry is the wish to have a piano in my house & some sweet pretty creature to play it, & to teach me to play accompanymnts on my fiddle. I can't get on without some instruction & encouragement. But then I am forgetting the women always give up music when they are married - They think of nothing but nussing & baby cups & petticoats - bread & butter & those sort of things - You may tell Tom if you think it worth recording that I have now got a most beautiful fiddle - as good a one as ever I have seen in this country. I dare say he plays much better than I do tho' I play every day for I never practice properly. I get horribly tired of the villainous trash in Alexander's Beauties¹⁵³ &c and the tedious difficult exercises. What I should like are Operas or the overtures, they are the proper things to learn & it is delightful to practise them - tho' not to any hearers - We have no books here, so my intellects are going to the dogs - you may in my letters observe the gradual decline from foolish weakness to utter idiocy! If I were at Delhie again I should enjoy the great luxury of a book club from which I could get the monthly periodicals & all other works for the improvmnt of dried-up brains - like mine. My little Delhie friend Miss Ross¹⁵⁴ is just about to be married - How horrid it is that old George cannot make way in the world. I hope & trust that this present state of things will not continue. My dearest mother I have one great and ardent wish which now you may be able to gratify - at least you'll be able to (in the course of two months after you receive this - & that is that you could send me out in a letter a good likeness of your good dear old self - I mean to bribe all the Rest to do this gradually & by degrees - I should so much like to think that you were near or before me. I have long long wished for this & now you can gratify me. At Leamington you can have no difficulty in getting hold of a good miniature painter so dont be slack!!

[It appears from the fold that this was sent with the letter of 28th March 1844]

1

Not Merutt & the Lancers, but Alas! Shikarpore in Scinde 1st June /44

My dear Bertie this is for¹⁵⁵

My dearest mother I have but this moment recd yours of the 30th March & have for once the pleasure of replying to you before the lapse of more than one hour & I have taken the opportunity of preparing my letter 3 days before the last day - I was resolved to ascertain the day for despatch of English letters this month, by asking every one I met every day "When does the over-land go? I trust you received my last letter enclosing the 2nd of the order on Messrs Coutts. This time I enclose the 3rd - But I trust that long ere this you have recd the "actual hard Tin"! in vulgar phrase - the money. I explained to you how pressed for time I was when writing to you last month - my courier waiting booted & spurred [sic] & cap in hand while I was giving you an insight into the perils & fatigue that I had so recently experienced - I need not revert to them in my letter tho' I gave so short & imperfect an account - I should be afraid of repeating some of ye interesting details of thirst, & mud to allay it (not to mention gun-powder which many chewed -) of fatigue, heat & cold, &c &c.¹⁵⁶ Tho' I do not undertake a more ample detail of these adventures they are not the less permanently fixed in my recollection, nor do I omit them amongst the mercies & providences for which I am daily thankful. Your referring to a scene that happened not far from Piccadilly gives me more pleasure than I can describe. I wish it could happen again. Scarcely a Sunday occurs, at least a quiet one, in which I do not bring that scene most vividly before me. It is the brightest & gives me ye most pleasure to contemplate of all my associations with home & you, my dearest mother. My occupation for a Sunday morn'g is, as I have often told you, to think of you all & of every pleasant scene that I can call to remembrance. Now dont you attribute this to the ardour of the moment - any sudden burst of filial or religious feeling, for it happens as often as I think of dear old Ottery - I have ever borne in mind of one of the objects you had in view in distributing amongst the scattered members of our family Keeble's Xtian Year¹⁵⁷ - & I have accordingly got into the "trick" of thinking of you at stated times. You ask me of the opportunities I have of attending the Sacrament as we have no clergyman in Scinde! Every thing in our mode of life, as a bachelor at least(!), tends to the decrease of every thing like Religion - Without any observance of the Sabbath - without any companion that thinks

1v

of Religion - the difficulty, if I may so say (for so many of us fear more the disapprobation of man than of God) of performing the duties of daily prayer & reading the bible in the presence or in the house with your companions, who utterly condemn such observances - All these things influence me in a way that I am ashamed to confess. The companionship of a good man or any striking instance of God's providence, or as I must confess the long contemplation of any danger, immediately recalls me to a sense of my duty to God - so that which should be burning brighter & stronger within me from day to day, sees alternately every change - & sometimes is nearly altogether extinguished - though I have some trust that such fickleness may be lessened in degree of frequency - I do not know whether other people act thus or not - I fear I have been writing what I had better have left alone - at any rate it must be read by you alone my dearest mother - Your own question led me to these thoughts, & I always see your anxiety to know of my spiritual welfare, which I ought to be only too happy to communicate, if it were better at least; but I cannot but often

think of meeting you again, & if it be not in this world it will I have every hope be in the next. I dont know if I gave you an account of my prospects in my last. We, that is - I & my Regmt must remain here, till the cold weather, which is infinitely preferable to marching in this dreadful weather - letting alone the painful uncertainty that we were troubled with for 5 months. One thing that I have much to fear, is that we may be ordered to a place called Larkanah¹⁵⁸ to spend the remaining 4 months of the hot weather! I have not a tent that I would put a dog in & there is not the least approach to any shelter there it is situated in a plain and as free from vegetation as a billiard table and as smooth & positively it is hotter than this place or Sukkur. This place is very much improved in every respect - the number of houses & inhabitants has been doubled. I have a very nice house & a nice chum -

2

one of my old ship-mates is in one of the Regmts here - I have no doubt of being able to keep my promise of sending you 100£ shortly, that is as soon as I can get my next pay - I have been keep in arrears to a most unpleasant extent - On the 7th May I recd in one lump 4 months pay My bills now in the office of the Pay Master amount to very nearly 200£ half of which I do not owe - besides I have been obliged to lay out 80£ upon my house all of which I have paid. I have not yet heard about the money for my Buggy having been paid - with that was to have repaid the loan from the Agra Bank. We are so far separated from Delhi that we can exchange letters only once in a month - nor have I heard about my horse having been sold - tho' I wrote 2 letters about it a month ago & it is only at Ferozepore. Speaking of Ferozepore reminds me of the certainty of our marching into the Punjab in the cold weather - the whole frontier is kept in a constant state of alarm by the unruly or ungoverned Seiks - On more than one occasion have all the troops been beat to atoms in expectation of attack. The other day a great battle was fought between two of the rival chiefs of the Punjab & it took place on the other bank of the river, so that from our Cantonments the firing was heard as plainly as if it had been on our own side - our cantonments are 2 miles from the river side. Immense numbers of the Seiks were driven into the river and drowned - Of course this state of things cannot be allowed to go on. The report is that Sir C Napier will march up from Scinde with an army to co-operate with the army at Ferozepore. Immense preparations are being made for a grand campaign. We fully expect to join in the affair. Did you ever know a country so continually involved in war? Many more years of war must necessarily result from our entering the Punjab. When shall we see peace? & when shall I cease to alarm you with the mention of wars & rumours! of war? There is one comfort - that we have got entirely used to it - nay more, we all are constantly wishing for the continuation of such pretty exciting scenes. I consider myself fully qualified in my constant longings to know how I should feel in a fight - I mean as far as being under fire is concerned - I may almost say that it is of no concern to me - & without boasting I felt somewhat curiously when I thought that the hand to hand fight would

2v

commence in a minute - I am much distressed at 2 things you mention in your letter - our dear new sister's indisposition & Berty's not having as yet met with any success. May these troubles shortly cease. Dear Berty has lots of time before he should think of being depressed in spirits from such a cause. I am sorry that they at home do not speak well of their new house & locality. How I should have liked to have accompanied you to Pertersham¹⁵⁹ - I very often think of them; but strange to say, most of poor Miss Maria¹⁶⁰ - perhaps only because she is gone. The ill success of dear old George P. is another source of unpleasant contemplation & to fill up the list the final misery of selling Terrington¹⁶¹ - But as you say

others have worse troubles than these - & strange it would be if we were to be without them altogether - I have made acquaintance with the most excellent warm hearted fellow with whose

name you & I are very familiar - it is Radcliffe - he has relations in Devon & he lives there but not in Exeter. During our long long march to Poolajee we had so pleasant a chat that he refers to it with pleasure now. I never saw him before this. It is so hot that I can scarcely proceed with my letter - I have neither punkah nor tatties (a frame work covered with grass & kept constantly wetted & fitted in door-way to the windward) or I would give a line of some of my dear Sisters - Give my very best & dearest love to all including Berty & not omitting yourself. I am your very affectte Son

J Henry Jones

Dear Bella asked me for & receipt a sort of Rowland Calydor¹⁶²

I don't think it a good one & must certainly be bad for the skin - however I feel that I ought to comply with her request & let her try the Effects - Corrosive sublimate, 2 grains - Almond Emulsion six ounces Mix them ere things - Since reading your letter it has appeared to me that the question of the portrait must not be broached for a time. It seems wrong for me to spend money upon things not necessary while it is so much needed for you one an[torn]ll

[addressed:

Via Southampton

Overland Mail

Bertram Jones Esqre
11 Portland Street
Leamington
Warwickshire
England

in pencil: 61 Brunswick Street

stamped: BUCKKE?? 10 June

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Shikarpore - Scinde 1st July /44

not with the Lancers but "Irregular Cavalry"

My dearest Mother Your last letter gave me inexpressible pleasure. I dont remember ever to have been so rejoiced at any intelligence, as this of Bertram's great good luck¹⁶³. I should think that he would feel himself a different man - all his painful uncertainty altered for certainty (humanly speaking) his being able to enter a profession so much more congenial to his feelings, tastes & wishes, & under such hopeful auspices too, must have made him happy above any degree he has hitherto experienced. The thankfulness that you all felt for this change of prospects for dear Berty was felt in an equal degree by myself I can assure you. At the same time that I rejoiced at your beautiful news I was made uneasy upon a subject that I must explain. In April (the beginning) the Secretary of the Agra Bank sent you an order on Messrs Coutts & Co for 50£ by the same Mail I sent you a letter & both were addressed to your first residence (tho' I believe none of the family entered it) at Leamington - 4 or 5, Ranelagh Terrace. In the beginning of May I sent you the 2nd Copy of the Order, but fearing that you might have given me the number of your new abode incorrectly I directed my letter (for you) to Bertram at 11, Portland Street - My letter to you of June also I sent to Bertram with the 3rd Copy of the order or Draft. Now I have been fearing that not even the first of my letters together with the Secretary's, enclosing the Draft, could have reached

you & I am in despair about the 2nd & 3rd of that Draft, because you told me that Bertram was to sail from England on 4th June¹⁶⁴, so that he could not have received them before his departure & the 1st may have arrived too late for him. Not only on the score of the money that may be lost, am I anxious, but because you will not have received any letters from me for 3 months. You will perhaps say that I was very wrong in addressing your letters to Bertram, but I was afraid of the mistake I mentioned above. Bertram told me that you had taken No. 4 and you told me No. 5 Ranelagh Terrace - Moreover I have an idea that to mistake the country or even the kingdom, would not be worse than mistaking the number of a house in such a place as Leamington - I have great hopes of hearing by this month's mail that you did receive my letter & the Bill - If you did not receive it or either of the 2 following ones, I don't know what will become of the money - Will the letters be kept in the Dead letter Office? or will they be sent after Bertram to Newfoundland? Or will some body bone¹⁶⁵ both the letters & the money? In every way it is unfortunate that the money should be lost - that you should think that I had not sent it,

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that I should suffer all this anxiety about it & that you should have any trouble about it &c. I told you in my last letter of the troubled state of this country - it has since by no means improved - but I have not been exposed in any way to the consequences. You will understand that we are here in as much a state of war as we were in Affghanistan - Sheer Mahomed the only one of the Amerrs that did not give in after the 2 battles is about 26 miles from us with a pretty decent force - I said he was near us - I mean that he is 26 miles from Khan Gurh the principal of our outposts on the very margin of the desert. I have very often been there & I fancy have written to you from there - It is most humbling & shameful to allow, as we do, this fellow to collect his followers under our very noses & beard us as they do, without our attempting to drive the fellows away even - A most shocking & most disastrous business occurred about a fortnight ago. I should tell you that at Khan Gurh there are one thousand Cavalry, 4 Guns & 2 Companies of Infantry. The grass cutters went out about 7 miles from the Fort to get grass & they had a guard of 50 horsemen. The Belooches came upon them and in 3 separate parties & nearly annihilated the whole of them. One hundred men were massacred - Our cowardly hounds of the Cavalry galloped off as hard as their horses could carry them - without hurting one of the enemy - they did not draw a sword!! Of course there was no Officer with our men - They might have licked the Belooches as there were only 150 of them & they would never await a charge from our troops. This is not all even for on several occasions parties of 6 or 7 of our soldiers have been nearly cut to pieces by the enemy - All this distressing state of affairs arises from our unfortunate expedition to Poolagee, than which as I told you, folly, ignorance, presumption & conceit never continued & executed any thing so utterly miserable - disgraceful even to a civilian would their proceedings have been, who conducted or rather totally misconducted it - I have been constantly under orders to go out to Khan Gurh but various things have prevented my going - For instance the Mutiny of the 64th here - They were in open mutiny for 2 days, pelted the General the Colonel & their Officers - however after 2 days they returned to their duty, were marched into Sukhur, & paraded with 12 guns & an European Corps - & on peril of their lives were ordered to give up their ringleaders - which they happily did - 39 men were handed over as

2

ringleaders & thus a most threatening & alarming mutiny crushed. You may have heard of the Ferozepore mutiny, in which the whole native army seemed inclined to join - & which brought about the 6 months Batta¹⁶⁶, which was given to nearly 60,000 of the army. All the Native Corps here were the first to show this mutinous spirit, so as you may suppose, we were very anxious to know whether any would join the 64th. If they had -? with an enemy within a couple of hours ride of us. I begin to sigh for a quiet life & by the same token I have applied for a civil appointment,

which, if my applicatn should be successful, I must wait till I get back to the Provinces to enjoy - in other words till the winter. I only hope we shall have no campaigning here in the winter - merely because I want to get to my new appointmt, for I should like to see Mr Sheer Mahomed & his murdering plundering crew licked out of this country & into the next world. I should like very much to do it now. Just fancy! the force at Khan Gurh is kept all night & every night under arms to be prepared for Shere Mahomed's long threatened attack. This is the heart of our own newly acquired country!!! Sir C. Napiers opinion of the late massacre came yesterday - in the same letter with it, our expedition was mentioned as having at least the merit of "daring and enterprise"!! What think you of that? It is said of us as much of any one of us, you will be pleased to observe. Oh dear I wish I had something of a civilised nature to talk to you about, I cannot think of your quietly safe & peaceably walking to the Springs &c at Leamington, meeting with pretty girls, having chit chats, & other things which I have long since forgotten, without picturing to myself the differences of our lots. Fancy having to keep your ears open to understand every bugle call to know whether the enemy are upon you or not. Habit is second nature most assuredly & most happily for us it is so, for otherwise how could I possibly live on in this most disagreeable, most painful existence - without the pleasure of books of friends - of occupation even - We are very much like dogs chained to a kennel - dinner & sleep are the only things we have to enjoy - an occasional run puts us in ecstasies - though it be after these fierce Belooches - I only mean that I don't like being in Scinde, because I came here furnished only for a campaign, & have therefore no books or any occupation or amusement -

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All of us are similarly situated & disgusted - One evil which you will say I ought easily to overcome, is that I am constantly wishing to go back in the Provinces - From Lord Ellenborough's recall¹⁶⁷, every hope of marching into the Punjab is at an end - I did not think that I should be so pleased as I am at this prospect - War is certainly a disgusting barbarous business - the life one leads during a campaign is no better than that of a brute - no rational employment can be found - beer drinking & cutting throats are scarcely the only purposes for which we were born, yet they are the only things done during our wars - I don't care who knows it, I would rather be a Civilian than the greatest hero!!! What nonsense I do

write to you my dear mother - but I can't help myself - I never get a new idea into my head so I write a different account of my situation circumstances, hopes & wishes - though I am pretty considerably in the same fix continually - but my sapient lucubrations are excellent. I wonder that I get no letters from other members of my family. I rejoice to find that Frank is so very near you - give lots of kisses to his dear bairns for me - Will you send me Franks Sermon's & Keble's Xtn year - I fortunately have the whole of Paley's works - I have read nothing else for 2 months - how I do like his sermons. If you have not lost the 50£ I sent you, you can spare a few shillings for these books which I am most anxious to have. Another book or two might be agreeable and instructive not to mention its being a mother's gift -

Give my best love to all not omitting the M P - party God bless you my dearest mother,

Your affectionate son

J H Jones

[addressed:

Via Southampton

Inland postage 12rs

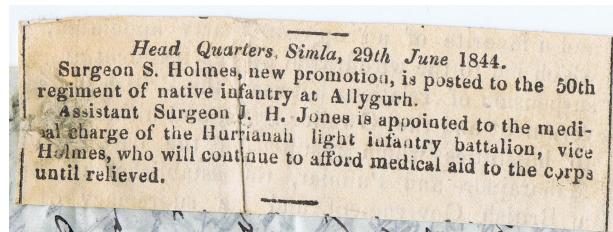
Mrs John Jones
61, Brunswick Place
Leamington

Warwickshire
England

stamped: BUOKKE???? 3d July
LEAMINGTON SE 17]

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[cutting attached to first page]



[upside down top of page] God bless preserve & bless you my dear mother
Yr affectionate son

Henry

4th August /44 Larkana - 60 miles from Sukkur on the banks of the Indus

My dearest Mother

Unfortunately I have not recd your letter yet - & though I am expecting it every hour I fear it will arrive just too late for me to reply to any of its contents. Since I wrote last we have had an active life of it - The place from which I wrote my last letter lies about 60 miles north of this. The Belooches have made several plundering expeditions on this side of the frontier, & as there were no cavalry here, they made them with perfect impunity & repeated their visits every week, till the whole of the country was in constant terror & alarm. There was no officer with our Detachment, so I was directed to take command of it & march over to this place - my force consisted of 3 troops of Cavalry. It was the most piteous sight seeing the inhabitants of the villages that had already been plundered & those that were in hourly fear of being plundered coming out to us & begging to stay for their protection or to send some other troops to defend them. But I have not only had command of this force, but I was seriously engaged in putting our Fort at Khangurh in a state to resist any attack, pulling up gates making all sorts of beautiful dispositions of the little force left for our protection. I should explain - about a fortnight ago, all the troops that could be spared from our force at Khangurh - 400 Cavalry 2 guns & 70 Inftry with all the Officers but 1 Artillery one & myself, went on an expedition against a force on the other side of the Desert. We had 30 Inftry & a few Cavalry left with us to defend the Fort in their absence. Like all our expeditions it was mis-managed & as I fully expected that they would meet with some difficulty & perhaps a reverse & knowing that if they did so, we should be attacked; you may guess that we were not idle in making our very best dispositions - My taking a great interest in all that was done, gave rise to some amusing stories about my so called gallant defence of the Fort of Khangurh. There was no gate when the expedition started & of course I made the fellows work hard at getting one up 'slick'. To follow the

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expedition - they went about 18 miles, when the Major commandg the party fell sick from a coup de Soleil¹⁶⁸ - a council of war was immediately held by the remaining officers, and finding that the water was nearly expended & that 22 miles remained of their journey; that the party was so small that if any misfortune or even delay occurred in getting possession of the Fort, that the whole party would perish from thirst & what is considered a greater disaster the loss of the guns would ensue, they determined on returning to Khangurh, which they reached after an absence of three days On their return I gave up commd of Khangurh!!! This was a most unhappy affair as of course it would greatly encourage the Enemy and discourage our men, who were already sufficiently afraid of the cruel ferocious Belooches. But I must tell you that we have had some success, & every moment are expecting accounts of more. The Belooches, I suppose not knowing of any cavalry having come over here, have entered the country here in two or three parties. Yesterday they came upon a party of the enemy, & though the men themselves escaped (for it was quite dark then) we rescued all the plunder - 400 head of cattle & all the other things that they were carrying off - for the Belooches always completely clean out the villages, carrying off even the grinding stones! Yesterday the 3 troops of horse that I brought over were ordered out after the other parties of the enemy. We have now 4 parties after them, & it is fully expected that they will at least recapture the plunder, even if they do not catch any of the enemy. Our activity, on this side will I think make it too hot for the enemy to come over any more. My Detachmt will be stationed out along the frontier, in villages & miserable little forts so I shall again be exposed to the dreadful heat, with no better shelter than a small tent. I am sadly tired with this work but I hope to escape these chases after the enemy which are made at any hour of day or night, & always end when every man & beast is nearly dead with fatigue, heat & thirst. You cannot conceive the amount of fatigue & suffering we endure - Why marching in the hot weather is considered a fearful hardship in the Provinces. Now I must tell you a bit of news - a few days ago I saw my name in General Orders, appointed to the Hurrianah Light Inftry. without having made any application for it or having any idea how I got so good an apptmt. However there it is enclosed. This appointment is as good as anything that I ever hoped or wished for. it is the same in every respect as my Delhie one, inasmuch as I get the same pay & am equally stationary, for it is a local Corps

2

i.e. always remains in the same place - which is at Hansi not far from Kurnaul and Delhie. The houses there are exceedingly cheap ($\frac{1}{4}$ of what they cost in building) there are nice gardens, the canal runs through the Station in short everything is very nice & now I am settled for life. But I must get there first before I can say any thing about my settling or my comfort & peace. Sir C. Napier is coming up here for certain, to make a campaign against the whole of the tribes of the Belooches - he is expected early in October. I do not know in the least what my chances of escape from Scinde may be - if we have little sickness this season (& the time is near at hand, when we shall know all about the sickness) my chances are increased. 8 Asst. Surgeons are now on their way to Scinde in anticipation of extraordinary sickness If my Regmt or Detachment is allowed to go in October there is not the shadow of a doubt of my going with it but if they remain till after the campaign I may not be allowed to leave then. However as soon as the detachmt of Doctors arrives I shall apply for permissn to join my appointmt. Never did tempest-tost sailor more long for a haven than I do for the quiet retirement of Hansi - It is a very small station, there being no civilians & only one other corps there & that like mine with only 4 officers. Perhaps I shall like the [torn] better. One thing is certain that with the medl. care of only 3 off[torn] & the sepoys, I cannot find much work. One thing I deeply regret & that is that there is no church in the Station - fancy remaining till my promotion, some 12 years, without being able to go to a church. I did not know I should so long for one till I came to a country without one. My present life is not one to be desired by a Xtian, excepting that the uncertainty of life is more constantly presented to one's mind, than in scenes of peace and quiet. When I left Shikapr last, exactly one month ago, I knew that I should not be able to return there, so I sold my house for 75£ for what I had laid out upon it. I hope with this to lessen

some of my burthens - I have not yet recd my 6 mos' Batta 75£ more. I have managed pretty well with my miserable pay & shall leave Scinde without being minus in cash. The history of my buggy I have never heard. My successor of Delhie has left for another station (almost as far from me as Madras is so that we can scarcely interchange letters once in two months) without telling me whether it has been sold or is rotting in some coach house at Delhie. You remember that I intended to have repaid the Agra Bank with the produce of the sale. I am exceedingly anxious to get a letter from you this month

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First I am very much afraid that none of my letters for several months may have reached you. I cannot express my anxiety upon this subject. The loss of the money if it has been lost, will be a grievous thing you [sic] & not entirely indifferent to me. I hope you lost no time in applying at Bertram's residence or the Post Office for my letters. I think I told you that I sent all three letters to Berty. I know that he must have left England before the 2nd arrived - but having found one of the letters for you sent to him, my hope is that he left instructions to his landlord about what was to be done with his letters. If I get your letter of June I am sure to get something that will assure me whether or not you recd my

letter and the enclosed Draft. I must try some other way for sending you Drafts for I was charged 7£ for the fifty I borrowed - that is at the rate of 50 per cent per annum!!! You dont yet seem to know my Corps - it is the 9th Irregular Cavalry - Sukkur - for while I am out on the frontier my letters should be directed to Sukkur. I am expecting several letters this month in answer to mine of March or April last - from Berty, Tom & I forget who else. I am now picturing to myself the difference of the strain of my letter of April & those I have written since - Then I was full of the hope and joy at the prospect of returning - Oh dear!

I wonder when I shall have a letter from one of my dear Sisters, they never write to me. I want to write to dear old Frank but there is no time - for our earliest and latest safe hour are one & that is almost immediately - Give my most affectionate to all & tell Berty to let me have a letter as soon as possible - &[torn] a Newfoundland dog - for both of mine [torn] died in Scinde -

[addressed:

Overland Mail

Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61 Portland Street
Leamington
Warwickshire
England

faint pencil: Brunswick Sq

stamped: ???XK 8 Augt

LEAMINGTON OC 9 1844

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Shikarpore 14th September [1844]

My dearest Mother The day before yesterday I wrote a long letter to Frank from Sukkur, and at 3 o'clock PM of the same day I received an order to proceed immediately to Shikarpore, on account of the excessive sickness there & because the Doctors also were laid up - The next morning I started at 4 o'clock to ride 26 miles to this place. I had the most abominable journey you can conceive. You may not know that the road between this & Sukkur during the rainy season is perfectly impassable. I am the 1st officer that has crossed it this season & pretty work it was - I rode at least 8 miles in water up to the flaps of the saddle, so my legs were in the water for more than 3 hours & my head exposed to a broiling sun - a most unenviable situation for anyone in this country, and at this unhealthy season. I expected to have reached this place at about 8 or 9 o'clock - but I did not till after 1 o'clock p.m. However a bottle of beer set me all right on my arrival & I feel none the worse for it, though I have not been a week off the sick list - I had only a slight attack of Ague which kept me to my room for 4 or 5 days - I am glad to find that the two Doctors here are convalescent, so that I shall not be worked to death as I expected, for every officer & man here is sick & there are 2 Regmts. & a troop of Horse Artillery & numbers of officers. Another gratifying piece of intelligence is that none are severely sick now - though two officers have already died. I am very uneasy about one thing, which is, that the Doctor at that vile hole Khangurh is sick & I may be ordered out there again & so I shall be kept going from station to station all the way round upper Scinde - This is terrible work, & I being the only Dr without a Regiment, come in for all the dirty work. Agreeable to the usually beautiful arrangements, the Drs (five) that were ordered here in anticipation of such a sickness as we had last year, cannot arrive till the beginning of October, when the sickness always ceases. Within the last two days my hopes of getting away from this vile country, have been quashed - for the Drs are already becoming scarce & if the sick do not get proper attendance, the same interminable sickness as we had last year may be the result. Two Drs here are on the sick list besides the 2 that are convalescent - At Sukkur there was very little sickness - in the European Artillery only 2 men who were in Hospital

1v

The sickness was beginning amongst the Natives, arising, as it always does, from the drying up of the whole country after the subsiding of the river, which inundates the country, to a most extraordinary extent. The great & most serious evil of this is that sick people cannot get away without the risk of getting a jungle fever - Even yesterday, upon the beginning of the drying up of the inundation I felt at times suffocated with the dreadful exhalations. I suppose it will be a month or two before the country gets properly dry. Oh this is a beastly country - a confounded hole - Pray excuse these impolite expressions for I cannot help making use of them. Fancy there are not 5 men in a Regmt fit for duty & every officer sick. Though after all this terrible account I must tell you that the sickness is by no means fatal - not a native has died of it & the poor officers who perished suffered from a kind of fever found only in the hot months - What a wilderness this is compared to Sukkur, the latter is a paradise to this. Last night, though overcome with fatigue & not much enlivened by a glass of beer, I scarcely got a wink of sleep on account of the mosquitoes & sand flies - This is the season for the latter - & hitherto I have laughed at the idea of their being terrible foes; but such they are. I feel very tired to-day & quite out of the humor for writing, chiefly from mere disgust at being sent here & the bright prospect of taking my old round along the frontier posts. I have one, more pleasant piece of news. I have sent you another order for Fifty pounds - the Secretary of the Agra Bank will send it to you, for there was not time for me to receive the order & dispatch it myself. My six mo's Batta 73£ I am expecting every day & that I shall dispatch next month - I recd 44£ arrears the other day which I never expected to get & I have two months' arrears of pay due, besides this month's - so you see I am in a fine way to get rid of my debt. I have no doubt of being able to send a sum of 100£ next month, that is if I may get my 2 months' pay in time

for which I have not yet forwarded my Bills. However a steady fifty at a time will tell in the long run; & besides I had better not promise more than I am sure to perform. I wish I was at Hansi saving about 30£ a month & living in peace & quiet - with a nice house and garden - only 3 officers, instead of 20 to attend to & the Native soldiers. I am getting very tired of being knocked about, for of course I have to run about the country with a shirt or two, not sufficient servants, nor proper establishment of any kind; besides the real fatigue of very long marches. I have scarcely ever made marches of less than 30 miles, in Scinde I mean - & crawling along the whole night is

2

not so pleasant. I have this great consolation that many & many have had more troubles & more lasting ones without being so well rewarded as I have been. I look upon myself as lucky as anyone I know - at least I shall think so when I reach Hansi. Some body in writing to me some time ago, to congratulate me upon my good fortune, concludes with "but, I wish you may get it". After this you had better direct to me at Hansi, for before 4 months have passed I shall surely be in my way there at least. A day or two ago I was in such spirits that I intended to have written to each of my much neglected sisters, after having finished (for me) a long letter to Frank - but now I am disgusted [sic] & in despair - one minute ago I returned from a visit to a sick officer - all in the sun and at this cool hour, 1 o'clock in the day! Besides I am all in confusion, writing when I can scarcely keep the paper clean & on a most painfully rickety table. But I am very fortunate to have found a roof. The day before yesterday I wrote to an old friend of Netta's, Henry Square - At Sukkur I fell in with 2 fellows who knew him at [torn]mouth, where he has married & set up in practise - You may hear from Frank of my having made acquaintance with 2 brothers who came from Daventry - Rattray¹⁶⁹ by name. They remember Frank very well & were in love with the Misses Veysie¹⁷⁰!! Many a pleasant chat have we had about those parts Daventry, Moreton Pinkney &c. The elder brother was at Jellallabad & his brother in the force that went to his relief - Just fancy, they had 2 other brothers at Kabul at the time of the insurrection & one poor fellow was killed. Two are mentioned in Lady Sale's work - I hope Bertram has gone out to Newfoundland. Whatever may be his unpleasant anticipations maybe they ought not for a moment from securing some employment or independence - I don't think he can ever have to suffer what I have undergone. Climate & want of society I consider as trifles. Cold and fogs are infinitely preferable to intense heat & as for society one friend or acquaintance is enough - at least my mind is happily constituted as to make me believe so. So Berty has been reading about Newfoundland _ so have I - But he should read about Scinde to enjoy the former place. Besides I hope that he remembers that the Bishop has to suffer all the unpleasantness of climate & solitude & fogs, wooden houses &c.

2v

I have not your letter, nor any thing else, by me to refer to, so I do not remember if Franks destination will be settled so soon that I may receive intelligence of it this month - I only can hope so. I have told of my hearty wishes that he may get lots of tin - & more than I get - I must I think keep a wife & babies on my allowances by and by. I shall remain at Hansi for the next 12 years if I don't take my furlough & in what other way am I to make life more than a mere existence? I was gladly [sic] disappointed about the loss of the 50£ I sent you - My last letter was mis directed - I directed it to 61 Portland St. There was nothing important in it, so its no matter what became of it - Indeed I must say that of all my letters, which are the rummiest concerns I ever saw. Give my most affectionate loves to Bella & Irene for their dear letters and - I excuse Netta for the

present but when she is married she of course will write very often. The little rogue she knows well enough that she will never write at all then. I am truly rejoiced to hear of Bella's complete recovery - but what work she undergoes for it. However there is no blessing like health for which I am daily thankful - & in this country we have great inducements to be so. Pray do not forget to send me your

likeness - & it must be a good one - none but an expatriated poor fellow like me can feel the value a lock of his mothers hair as I do. I am glad indeed to hear that the sale of Terrington so far is good. I don't know how much your income will be when it is completed - I fear it will be much reduced. What a shameful fellow Tom is that he never writes to me - I have not had a letter from him for years! I'll serve him out by sending fair sheets of paper every month if he does not improve. Tho' I behave equally to my dear sisters -
God bless you my dearest mother - I am yr very affectionate son Henry

[addressed:

Overland Mail

Via Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Place
Leamington
Warwickshire
England

stamped:

??KKER 15 Sept
LEAMINGTON NO 12 1844

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[top right corner torn off so no date or place

Shikarpore - October 1844]

My dearest Mother I trust you received the [torn] for 50£ last month - as I told you, it was [torn] Secretary direct from ye Agra Bank. I am deligh[torn] you that I have sent another sum of one hu[torn] Secretary. I sent it off only yesterday, so that [torn] you by this mail. I should not have sent it as this was [torn] whole month too soon or too late but for the gratification afforded me by being able to say justly & truly that I have sent you another order for one hundred pounds. This bill also will be sent direct from Agra as my movements are very uncertain & delay might be occasioned by send-g it to me in Scind. Thus far I have done instead better than I could possibly have anticipated - it is very likely too that I may have another 50£ ready to start with the 100£!! I may be excused dwelling on the subject a little more, before it will be finally set aside, just to remark that my coming to Scind for a long time alarmed me with the prospect of poverty & insuperable obstacles to my paying off my debt; whereas it has afforded the opportunity to saving money beyond anything I could have hoped for in Hindustan. By having only one horse or poney rather, only four servants, no house rent to pay, no possibilities of spending money, or giving a glass of Beer to a friend, of procuring decent clothes, boots or shoes &c &c, no mess Bills to pay, have enabled me to live on very little & therefore to save a great deal. I am certain of being able to send another 50£ as soon as I get my next month's pay (September's ie), as I have at present 60£ in hand. I shall thus have struck off 250£ from my debt in the course of 8 months or 200£ in 3 months. Judging from my letters of the present year, you will well understand the light heartedness, the growing

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[torn]dependence that I am enjoying - to let alone the comfort [torn] consciousness that, at present at least, [torn] to extricate myself from my own difficulties & [torn] on my account. Do you feel

yourself safe [torn]ther? We'll call it for the present 250£ paid! [torn]that the 1st 50 was all your own. You have no idea [torn]wing money has sprung up & fixed itself in my very heart. I [torn] become a jolly miser - I have fully made up my mind to send 30£ a month to the Governmt Savings Bank after I get a little settled in Hansi. I want very much to send you the remainder of my debt to Stowey before I leave Scinde, as I have certainly some heavy expences coming. I must buy a house for I cannot get one for rent - & I have a complete new uniform to provide - even my classical cocked-hat must be exchanged for a schoolboy's cap, covered with dark green braiding - indeed my whole dress will be braidg, braidg, braidg, but henceforth there will be no upbraiding, though methinks I have decorated myself pretty well with it lately at least. Well, having put the business in a fair way for proceeding well we will, we will drop it. I have this moment re-read your last letter, which was in reply to my account of the Poolagee business. There are several things that I dont like to hear in your letter - first that you are not so well as you have been for a long time - 2nd that Frank has a formidable opposition to overcome - 3rd that you from sick servants, and I fear, too, a deficiency of them, suffer great inconvenience. Now before I go onto the 4th 5 & 6th I want to suggest to you my dearest mother that the money I send home, is, as much of it as you like, entirely at your service - that is, that you must appropriate any or all of it, when you are at a pinch, or when you require anything that may be a comfort or luxury to you. Will you promise to do this immediately, and tell me in what way I have been blessed with an opportunity of affording you any comfort or necessary Let alone the miniature for the present, as it [sic] expensive, & I would infinitely rather see you gratified in any way, than that my utmost wish should be granted. There is one matter in particular which

2

I am anxious about, it is that you should provide yourself with a sufficiency of domestics. At your age you surely need some nice attendant, & as I know the sad deficiencies you have experienced in this respect, I hope you will not think me romancing, when I promise you that you shall not be put to one rupee's expence by providing yourself with a number or kind that would be a comfort to you - I know you will refer to my great promises from month to month & year to year - but do look upon my reformation as a reality. You must see that I have saved 250£ since I have been in Scinde, I must have saved nearly all my pay, retrenched as it has been & most sensibly. Besides, will you reflect upon the fact that last month I sent you the where with to carry the thing, (not as we did Poolagee) & that next month a large reinforcemt will arrive. I have arrived at the respectable age of 29 & therefore I may insist (gently) that you tell me next month that you have gratified me in this little matter. Here am I a little worthless fellow almost rolling in riches, with the comfortable assurance that my dear dear old mother is luxuriating in poverty! I shall give up correspondg with you if you obstinately refuse my request. Now that possibly [torn] little pay & [torn]llowances may be cut, we will & we must share our poverty in [torn] way. Now I must tell about my prospects, not omitting my present position. I am still at Shikarpore with the 7th Lt. Cavalry - The sickness has greatly subsided - not an officer sick & the nice delicious cold weather has set in - the north wind having established itself regularly, with the purpose of driving away the sickness, as well as making us bright & cheerful. The natives are not well yet - we have 800 men in Hospital, none having been discharged; but the fever is now slight and less p[torn]nent, & one week of the North wind will set all to rights. Of course my vi[torn]ts to the Hospital are very long and wearying, something like my Ham[torn]ul work in /41. At first I was excessively fatigued - as I have to administer the physic to half the men, or rather it is done before me; but now the work is a trifle. I regret to say that I have no idea when I shall be allowed to leave Scinde. Sir C Napier is to be here this day next month & the Troops have already been warned for service against Poolagee & some Forts in the Hills, as well as several in the Plains. Possibly I may have to join the Force. It will be a long job if they go into the Hills - but in the plains they will knock down a fort before breakfast. At Sukkur guns of all descriptions are being got ready. I don't at all wish to see the campaign, for I really hate fighting - & seeing poor fellows shot like dogs -

Besides I really abhor the Surgical part of my profession - in anticipation I should say, for when mischief is done, I have only to think how it is to be repaired - I understand that six Asst. Surgeons have arrived at Sukkur, in expectation of sickness like that of last year - they have arrived when it is all over! At Sukkur there is very little sickness - Were it not for this campaigning, I should be allowed to go away immediately - Still there is a chance of my going - The General I know will let me go if he can possibly, for I do not think he has any prejudice against me, as he thanked me for the alacrity I displayed in coming out here from Sukkur the other day - & that's worth having - tho' thanks are not often worth much. I am glad to say that in the Punjab affairs are quiet - we evidently want to keep the peace for the General at Ferozepore will not review

the Troops for fear of alarming or exciting the Seiks on the other side of the River. We got a Billiard table over here the other day, so that we have a little recreation of one kind. There are only 2 ladies here & we have no society or dinners or parties - in fact every man sticks in doors, only taking rides morning & eveng, this latter I can never enjoy, as I go to my Hospital at sun-rise & come away after 3 or 4 hours' work. I have not mentioned my fiddle lately - we have had some trios!! & before my friend Campbell left this house (a week ago) we had duets every day - big fiddle & little fiddle - the music of course was very easy, but a delightful treat. indeed you have no idea how I enjoy music now - but not my own - for I can't play, never practicg - At Hansi, if I ever get there, I shall have plenty if time to practice. We hear that Meru[torn] been as dreadfully unhealthy [torn] Kurnaul - hitherto it has been the best place in India - & Hansi which was the worst is now given a healthy one. Hurrah!

Yesterday we heard that some serious rows had taken place in the Madras Presidency & that troops are ordered from Hydrabad even, & possibly Sir C Napier will not come here - so my chance of going away has somewhat increased. I heard from one of the Drs newly arrived that only 2 as yet have come & that the other 4 will be at Sukkur in a few days. The man I speak of [torn] got leave to come here for his own amusement there being [torn]rk for him at Sukkur!! so they cannot now keep me here - I should think.

[upside down at bottom of first page and along one side]

I am going to write letters to all the girls and to Aunt if I can find time & matter I have enclosed No 2 of the Bill for 50£ The other bill (of 100£) is to be at three months sight. the rate of exchange causing me a great loss. Would you think it that I have already paid 22£ for the Bills of 200£!! God bless you & preserve you my dearest mother I am yr affectionte son

Henry

[addressed:

Overland Mail

Via Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61, Brunswick Terrace
Leamington
Warwickshire
England

stamped:

PUCKKER 16 Octr
LL 10 DE 10 1844
LEAMINGTON DE 10 1844

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[Sirsa November 1844]¹⁷¹

I am writing at a late hour, but cannot refrain from adding to my letter the mention of my exceeding joy at the happy contents of your letter & dear Irene's (I don't forget Aunt Jim's truly wonderful performance - bless her old heart & eyes -) Bertram's prospects have filled my head ever since I heard the joyful acct of them. Frank's uncertainty is painful alike to me & to himself dear fellow. There's familiarity towards the master of a family!! I wish Tom would write to me - I must tell you that my old chum Ross¹⁷² will be here tomorrow - he lives only 40 miles from here with 2 civilians at Rhotuck - a nice distance & place for me to take a trip to

[Fragment of a letter] Delhi is 90 miles off I am going there at the beginning of next month for examination in the Colloquial. I dare say you have heard of the death of poor Henry C Reynolds¹⁷³ - I told you of his unhappy marriage. He took to drinking! & died from the effects - I heard of his unhappy fate only a few days ago, tho' he died on 12th September, from a person who knew him & his wife - he assured me that she gave Tiffin (Luncheon) parties during his illness & the day after his death!!! Every one here even knows of their happiness - So much for the chances of being happy in wedlock - How I long for the arrival of your box your present. God bless you all prays your affected son J.H.Jones.

[inserted upside down at top]

Thank dear Bella for her good and kind letter - I promise an answer soon -

My first letter from Hansie - 17th January 1845
may there be many to follow from the same place.

My very dear Mother Here I am at last, luxuriating in the peace, comfort & happiness known only (in perfection) to those who have experienced the blessed change that I have. Your letters have filled up the measure of my happiness - what became of the overflowings I cannot here describe. I shall write to you an unconnected strange sort of letter - strange in matter and also in penmanship. The cause of this I must explain here, because it will enable me to overcome the difficulties of choosing the matter with which I am to begin my letter - for I have a thousand things to talk to you about - Now for the explanation - you must know that I am an interesting convalescent - not invalid only but distinctly convalescent - obliged to walk with the assistance of a "fin" from somebody, swaying, swerving & rolling about (when walking) like a little drunkard, & moving my emaciated legs as if I was practising the goose-step &c. I wrote to you a short and sorry epistle from Sirsa 5 marches from this - I was then very unwell & became that day very bad - we were obliged to halt there 3 days

on account of my severe indispositn. I was unable to ride & was therefore carried on my bed on the heads of coolies - these fellows shook me to pieces; in fact I suffered as if I had been at sea in a heavy gale for I did little else than vomit the whole way from Sirsa to Hansi - The marches being very long I never got to my halting place till 1 or 2 p.m. half grilled by the sun - After 2 of these trips I was obliged to take half the journey in the mornng & half in the eveng having got so desperately exhausted that I could scarcely speak or move, & the way I fed myself was by putting my face into a dish & sucking up its contents. In fact my life was at its last flicker - if I had had another march to have made I should not have reached my destination alive - On my arrival here I was taken great care of by the Dr and his kind wife - mulled wine, eggs, tea &c every hour or rather every 5 minutes restored me to something like life; at any rate restored circulate, for on my arrival the Dr (Nightingale)¹⁷⁴ could discover no pulsation at my wrist. After 10 days feeding & petting I got out of bed - I should have mentioned that I came here on the 21st December. Well, too eager to enjoy my new existence, for such it really was to me, I overtaxed my strength by sitting up late & dining in the evening & gadding about, so that my restoration to strength has been very slow - I have suffered ever since from Dyspepsia which is very distressing as while

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I have an [sic] food in me I suffer from the most annoying giddiness. However I am rapidly recovering from this & have been into the Hospital the last 3 days - my strength improves too, much quicker than my stomach. Writing makes me so giddy that I am continually obliged to stop & clasp my hand over my eyes reading does the same so I am compelled to pass my time in chit chat, fiddling & crawling about the house. I trust that in a few days I shall be able to take my ride and stroll out with my gun. I must pass over the occurrences of our march through 250 miles of Desert where the road was marked out by pillars every [torn] of earth (2 or 3 shovels' ful) every 20 paces [torn] of the road - where not a particle of veg[torn] be seen during 14 long marches &c &c [torn] Hansie - What I have seen of it please[torn] description - The houses & gardens ar[torn] we have a large piece of water nearly a [torn] across, affording fishing, boating, bathing Otter hun[torn] &c the canal (Dehlie) comes close to the station so we have abundant cultivation & conseqtly lots of shooting - The floricun, the finest & rarest bird in India, is by no means rare here, the bustard is also sufficiently abundant. My commandg & brother officer, the Adjutt (for there are only 3 of us) are such as few corps can boast of - The 8th Irregular Cavalry are here

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extending & improving the life of the community - I have bought a most beautiful house, the cheapest & nearly the best in the Station for 80£! it cost 300£, but it has been long empty & there being no chance of selling it to officers of our Corps I have got it dirt cheap - 15£ repairs being or rather having been necessary - My pay is only the same as I had at Delhie after all - I

wish people would not tell such horrible lies as has been told to me about my Pay. Of course you have by this time recd the Orders for 50£ & for 100£ which I sent from Scinde - I now enclose the 2nd of the latter Order. When I shall send the remaining 150 I dont know - I have incurred nearly 100£ for the house & much more with furniture - about 60£ for uniform - 50£ for 2 guns - there's extravagance!! but I cant be witht

If I can't shoot I shall get ill. You see I am writing better than when I began - Marching &c. have occasioned me great expenses - But I have formed some thing of a habit of economy & I promise myself the pleasure of saving lots of money while here - though I must mention that in all my outlays ie - house & guns I have [torn] exceeded my means or dibs Thank dear Bella for her good

and kind letter - I promise an answer soon -

[addressed:

Overland Mail

Via Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Place
Leamington
Warwickshire
England

stamped:

HANSI 14 Febry /45
WL 10 AP 10 1845]

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[written at side of page]

I am your very affectte. son Henry. Despatch the enclosed to Bertram soon. I hope I shall have 1 from him.

N.B. The Hurrianah Lt. Inftry is my Corps. - Hansi - India.

February 14th 1845

My dearest Mother I have just finished the enclosed letter for Bertram & Sibella which will give you all the Hansi news, I mean the former will, for in the latter I fear there is no news. I give you now a shabby half sheet just that I may despatch the above to-day being the 1st & safest day; tomorrow I shall send letters or rather a few lines to the remaining inmates of your dear family, & then I may add another half sheet for you. I wonder that I have not heard of your receiving the Order for 100£ though I may get an acknowledgement by your next, that I expect in a few days. By Gods blessing I have quite recovered my health, nearly all my strength & substance. I experience a joy in my new life & health that passes description - without occupation even I can be supremely happy though I have scarcely tried that, as I am always very busy & the days fly faster than ever they did. Your letters, with those of my other darling correspondents are chock full of satisfactory intelligence & love & comfort. I wish the Belati Buxs (English box) would arrive - I cannot thank or love you enough for sending me your likeness. Never lover so fondled, caressed, sighed & wept over the picture of his adored, as I shall over the dear resemblance of you my mother. I hope you will have something (comfortable) to remind you daily of me - something of the nature I suggested, & call it my offering to you! I cant send you a present from India at least such as I would choose for you, so you must get it out of some shop & send me a Bill of the damage. I shall not be sending you any money for some time as I have incurred furnishing myself with a house &c as described in Berty's letter - but all, excepting the Guns, which are paid for, are unavoidable expenses & in the end will save me lots of money. I have not a stitch of clothes of any decent kind which will be a further delay to your remittances though I mean to wait for the clothes & Uniform till I get rid of the greater part of my present liabilities which will not take long, not above four months -

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You must know that vast preparations are being made for a campaign against the Seiks - & the whole service is astir with it. I hope we shall not be sent to any other Station while fighting is going on, for we have no chance of being employed otherwise than in taking care of some evacuated station - (some one is constantly talking to me, causing me to make such blunders) All people at home are so jealous of our annual acquirements of new territory, that I hope that the war will be delayed as long as possible - It will be no child's play when it comes - Some one observed to me the other day "what a precious lot of fellows will be knocked over, before the country is taken!!!" So I should think. Is it

not disgusting that we should have wars continually on our hands. One comfort that I have, which is that I am not likely to join in them - unless it comes to our own doors at Hansi. I am very anxious to learn Frank's destination. I only hope that he was not disappointed in his last effort to better (& butter) his bread & condition. I suppose too that he has an addition to his family by this time. I got a letter from him that would have distracted you if it had been addressed to you - I suffered no ill effects from it as I had finished an excellent "tiffin". I'll send him a reply that he'll require some brandy to enable him to get through it - he had been swiping small beer, when he wrote it -

Well I have little to add except that I am happy as a man can be - in good health & such excellent spirits. I want a wife mother - I do indeed. "Don't be in a hurry my son," you'll say. I wish I was out of debt - I wont be in much longer. Have you Stowey's Receipt for the 150£ I hope so, all right legal & proper - the paper ought to be in my possession. You will not be in want of the interest I su[torn] God bless you my dearest mother.

[addressed:

Overland Mail

Via Southampton

Mrs John James
61 Brunswick Place
Leamington
Warwickshire
England

stamped:

HANSI 14 Feby /45

WL 10 AP 10 1845]

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Hansie 17th March /45

My dear Mother

Here's writing time come again without the occurrence of any important or interesting incidents since my last letter. I am getting as strong as could be desired and my spirits are of the 1st order of excellence. Since writing last I have been very gay, and our little community assemble every day at tiffin & dinner at each others' houses with delightful regularity. Our commanding officer¹⁷⁵ & the Adjutant¹⁷⁶ are the only persons I used to see; besides they were such close allies that, as between lovers, the presence of a third party was not desirable - I began to find it precious dull, till the return of Capt'n Becher¹⁷⁷ (who by the by once lived at Sidmouth & knows all my old haunts along the coast). Things have altered much for the better since his return & we have a great deal of "sky" in various ways. Our Adjutant is going away in a few days to my great regret - for not

only do we lose a very nice fellow, but we get none in exchange - for his successor is a perfect savage - & to us he's a perfect nonentity - i.e. of no use in any way, except as a great nuisance. Becher is about to marry & my commdg officer will have his wife here in the course of a month, so that I shall again be left in the lurch. There is

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however one prospect of fun, entertainment, love or sentiment just enough to keep me from hanging myself - The two sisters of the lady are coming to stay here during the hot weather & the mama stays away! They will be living next door to me. Don't you dread the consequences? They appear inevitable. Every thing appears to encourage matrimonial prospects. You see the sisters would never separate or be separated - the continuity of our estates would be most convenient. I & my future brother in law would get on capitally together; we should never be separated either; in case we should leave Hansie for a time our wives would be quite cosey here &c &c. You see at least my dear mother, that I have examined, sifted, liked & determined upon the whole affair. The lady is very pretty - I mean the one I have determined on getting - there is one dreadful drawback which is that she has never been in England. She is the daughter of a Colonel who died some 3 months ago. I suppose that in the next letter but one I shall announce my engagement - So you may make up your mind to the infliction the mean time - My relative that is to be, already evinces a great interest in my affairs - I mean as far as regards the decorations of my house & estate - he gave me about 160 yds of chains & posts to adorn the garden or rather the carriage drive - Well I'll [sic] wont bother you any more at present, though I could go on for a week talking on the subject. I am horribly in debt, that's one comfort - I have bought my uniform of our late Adjutant for 50£ - I was very fortunate in getting it as

2

if I had ordered it in Calcutta it would have cost 150£ & even at home much more than 50 - besides I can get unlimited 'tick'. I shall not get out of debt, that is, all - at home & abroad, under 12 months. Fortunately this is the best place in India for living cheaply, as Campbell¹⁷⁸ (my Commdg Officer) says. I think I shall save about 30£ a month, till I get clear of all claims upon me. By the bye what arrangemt will Frank make about Stowey's claims - I suppose that our mutual understanding on the subject is enough - that he will pay Stowey part of my debt when he has dibs to spare. I hope he'll get on like a house on fire at Uffculme¹⁷⁹. I was so glad that my Remittance arrived in the nick of time for the darling - I want much to hear how he has got on thus far. Berty has not written to me yet since he left you - as for Tom I give him up as a hopeless correspondent. I shall not be able to write to him this month because I have my list already filled - I wish the letters were - Aunt, Frank & Miss Louisa Baratty¹⁸⁰ & jolly old Fanny Bent I must write to this month though, I have not a syllable to say to any of them. I hear no news of the approach of my box of treasures. You will be glad to hear that we have no chance of a campaign this year. Mr Goolab Sing¹⁸¹ seems to be ruling the roost - he'll get rid of all the Seiks as fast as he can & then if we have a war it will not be a long bloody one. You know perhaps that he thirsts like a tigress for the blood of all the Seiks - the soldiery of the plain country that is. His soldiers are all Hill people - the Affghans too will help him in 'whapping the Seiks. I have on the strength of this state of affairs completed or nearly so all my arrangements for the hot weather. This I trust will be my coolest season.

2v

My house is infinitely better than any I have ever lived in. We have laid in abundance of ice too - I have only once enjoyed that luxury for the season - with ice & lots of it, the heat is very bearable. What do you think of my going out Hog hunting? I went out a few days ago but unfortunately did not find - A very lively & refreshing scene it was - we went out to the 'meet' in a dray & mustered

altogether about 20 horsemen - fellows on Camels, lots of beaters, & dogs - all but Campbell & myself armed with spears - stretched out into a long line

We beat the jungles for miles - I am going out the day after tomorrow again, better luck then I hope. Captn. Becher is one of the best riders in India & we ride out together every day & have a great deal of fun - at least I have. He's in love & sentimental & disgusted with Hansie, perhaps because his wife is at Merutt. This cannot be very interesting to you - but you know that I am an awful gossip by nature & talk of anything that is uppermost in my head. They call me "gossip Jones" after the heroine of a popular song. When we have the bi-monthly mail I dont know what you will do with my letters - not read them certainly -

Your letters continue to be most satisfactory & my loving sisters are capital correspondents - I can only thank them & tell you to kiss them for me. The loss of Frank must be greatly felt by you all - I'm glad he is in Devonshire though. Why dont you go there too - & leave that dismal place Leamington? What new descendant have you - grandson or grand-daughter? & I, nephew or niece?¹⁸² God bless you all - my dearest mother I am yr. affectte little boy Henry

[addressed:

Overland Via Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Place
Leamington
Warwickshire
England

stamped:

HANSI 17 March
LEAMINGTON MY 16 1845]

1

Hansie April 16th 1845.

My dearest Mother Here we are again and nothing new have I to tell you. I received your letter by the Calcutta mail just two days after our last safe day. The 2nd letter via Bombay arrived 12 days after it was due - all parties were much afraid that some accident had delayed the Steamer; but we heard of none. What a cheerless state of affairs at Frank's new place. It makes my blood run cold to think of it - one pupil! Oh deary me! It reminds me so strongly of Tom's incipient condition at Taunton where the two little Waddingtons and myself constituted the ACADEMY - in plain characters - Academy. Oh I hope he may not be long in finding lots of pupils and lots of money. I shall be continually anxious till I hear of having his house full though I fear that he must succeed some day or other - but his is an awful undertaking. Of coarse your next letter will bring tidings of an increase to his family, "T'is only once a year" as Punch says - You will be delighted, tho' perhaps not surprised perhaps to hear that my matrimonial speculations - my last I mean, are knocked on the head - never mind dear Mother I'm just as happy as before - The young ladies a'nt a coming at all at all - and I fancy Captn Campbell who is now at Deyrah will quietly walk up the Hill to Landour instead of coming back to Hansie - So much the better; for he has an infant¹⁸³ that if brought here

would occasion me a world of trouble - by no means desirable

1v

in hot weather - Putting on clothes and trudging through the sun would half kill me in a few days. What a shame it is that you have detained the box of my treasure so long - Till I received your last letter I thought it had at least come as far as Calcutta - however the pleasure of eyeing it for the first time can only occur once. I am disgusted at finding how many months must elapse before I get an answer to my letters - I refer to the dismal fact of your not having recd any notificatn of my arrival at Hansie when you wrote last. Not that it much matters, seeing that you have by this time lots of assurances of my safe and happy location at Hansie. I fear that you may have been very anxious about my safety after my letter from Sirsa & the 1st from Hansie. That was my last & greatest preservation & when I think of it I cannot help summing up the whole of those I have most mercifully experienced. You may guess by this time I am perfectly restored - as strong as ever. We had a few days ago a glorious expedition after the Pigs - We went with our tents Elephants &c &c to some splendid jungle & stay'd there 3 days - we killed no pigs, though the excitement the freshness & liveliness of the scene was not by any means diminished by want of success - A griff, an officer of Harriotts Corps, killed a sow which was deprecated by sportsmen as much as murder. I then was invited to go to Hissar whither the Pig stickers went after this expedition - but I think it is getting much too hot for sporting - besides having only one horse & half an establishment of servants I can't do things comfortably - and I must continue as economically as I can for a long time - I have by this time paid 80£ for my house & its repairs, 19£ only remaining - & my other debts are diminishing by nearly 30£ a month - I sold one of my guns for 30£ so I keep the other which now has cost me only 20£. My debts still are nearly 200£. Never mind they will soon be cleared I guess - I wish that I was as clear of debts as I was at Delhi - One thing I fear

2

is, that we may be moved away from Hansie next cold weather - When once we enter the Punjab there is no guessing even at our destination. My house in such a case would be a fearful loss, as with furniture & other necessities belonging to the house I have laid out 150£ - rather an extensive rent for 8 months' occupation. But we wont anticipate such evils - My hourly wish is that we may let the Punjabis go on as they like. You know of course that Sir C. Napier's campaign against the Belooches has ended in the capture of Beejar Khan and another chief - but we could not get at the rascals to punish them for their plunderings & murders - It's a question whether or not the Beloochees will annoy our frontier next season as before. Even after the capture of Bejar Khan when the campaign was considered over, some fool-hardy fellow took some Infantry to attack a Fort well defended by the Belooches, & got half his men shot & was obliged to retreat - so that when our troops returned to Cantonments the Belooches only had had a victory - Oh dear! what wrong-headed jack-asses some of our officers are. The taking of Ghuzni, which was quite a 'crow', has caused us 20 defeats since - People will never learn that a Fort cannot be taken without guns, and lots of men into the bargain. I have not yet received any letter from Bertram, nor have you mentioned him in any of your last letters - I mean your last 2 regular ones. Tell him to write to me by all means. Tom has not yet written to me - I think I must enclose a letter to him this time - The sinner - I sent him a long letter last August or September to which he ought to have replied - Is he so fully occupied & so confoundedly dully that he cannot have time or matter for a letter. I have not the slightest idea of his ways or pastimes or pay or profits or pupils - I don't even know his address - unless it is simply Upper Clapton. What a thing it must be to work all the day & every day. I have exactly nothing to do - or rather do nothing. My professional labours are of about 5 minutes' duration every other day.

2v

It is reported that we are to have an increase of 12 or more Surgeons - if so I shall get my promotion in several years (2 or 3) sooner. We are preparing another means of getting on - you must 1st know that before we can claim the benefits of our noble fund we have to subscribe a certain amount of money - but according to the fixed rates of subscription the sum cannot be completed in 17 years - the period of our service before which we cannot retire - so those that wish to retire after 17 years' service have always 500 or 600£ to pay to make up the necessary sum, subscribed to the Fund.

We are getting up a fund for the purpose of paying a good portion of this to each person wishing to retire after 17 years service. Amongst so many as there are of us, the subscription for each step will be very small - so that I could in one year be repaid if I purchased out every one above me - 137 - I have had a 100 steps since I came out. I was stopped here by hearing a stealthy pit-a-pat & looking over my shoulder saw the grinning countenance of the dak Hurkaru, who with the strong presentiment of the joy he was about to communicate put into my hand your dear letters

of the 19th February. I can't tear up what I have written because I have nothing particular to talk about except the great joy I feel in getting your letters just before I am going to despatch mine - & that all your letters bring me such inexpressible joy - I have only room to say God bless you all & continue my letter in the names and under the ad[covered with seal] of sisters Bella & Irene & into their letters you must look for further news.

God bless you my dearest mother.. Your affectte son - Henry

[addressed:

Mrs Jones]

1

Rotuk - 40 miles from Hansie
May 25th /45

My dearest Mother

I have been spending the month with my old friend & chum - young Ross, & do not return till 30th, so as to be in Hansie just in time for the muster. I've had a very pleasant visit indeed & am very sorry to have to return so soon - One evil consequence of my trip has been the missing - passing by or over, or the not availing myself of the last despatch of overland letters. The day of despatch was changed to the beginning of the month & my travelling & change of scene put the matter entirely out of my head. I am horribly annoyed at these occasional omissions on my part. There is one comfort - that you have, ere this, been well assured of the restoration of my health & that you have seen that I am trotting through the days & months in my old Delhie fashion. I got your dear letter 2 days ago & also letters from Irene & Susan - Irene asked me to get her a little paltry ornament - a silver Elephant. I have with much joy done the commission & really have an elephant executed in most superior style but

1v

so slight & frail an object that I fear it will be beaten as flat as a sixpence - though scarcely so valuable as that rare coin. However I'll send it to-day - but in a separate letter lest it should be stolen & you go two months without a letter from me. Talking of silver Elephants, who do you think is at Delhie? General Hodson [sic] with Matilda & the two Misses Hodson¹⁸⁴!! The Genl Commands the station - I heard some account of the ladies from the wife of a civilian who had just come from

Delhie. Matilda is said - on all hands to be 31 years of age - or as it is otherwise expressed, she was 8 in '22!! She will stand little chance of being married in this country where the female charms are so exceedingly shortly disposed of. I should like exceedingly to go & see my old friends - What changes have happened since I saw them 5 years ago - I wonder I should get spooney if I were to see them - I remember certain pit-a-pats in Calcutta - The lady who furnished me with the little accounts of my fair friends said that no one of them would go to Hansie, for that they are exceedingly fond of gaiety & dress, far beyond what Hansie or I could afford. Talking of expenses - I am getting rapidly over the ground that keeps me from ease & competence - for I am clearing off at the rate of 30£ a month - I have paid exactly one hundred for my house, i.e. the whole cost of it - in 3 or 4 months I shall renew my promises with you. I have not yet spoken of the interesting matter contained in your letter - the further increase of the daughter¹⁸⁵

2

of our house - I wish though it had been a son - but better luck next time. I hope our family is not doomed to become extinct with the present generation. I have not yet heard from Bertram, perhaps he does not know my address - The good account of his happiness & success content me indeed, but I should like to have a letter from him, if only for its salutation. Did you not say that he wd be ordained this month? You ask me about my dear old friend Mrs Ross - I told you in my last that she had undertaken a strange duty - supplying me with clothes of every description. She has just sent me the Elephant for Irene. I grieve to say that there is little chance of its reaching you. I have therefore merely enclosed it to you without any letter. They are dirt cheap, [torn] it would matter little shd 20 of them be lost. By the by [torn] should tell you that you must not expect 2 letters a month from me, when nothing of interest occurs, for the letters by the 2 mails tread close upon the heels of one another - I shall follow the practise of answering yours by the first opportunity, passing over the 2nd. I have never experienced such pleasant weather at this time of year as we have. The nights are quite cool & the days are not disagreeably hot, the thermomt. was only 74° three days ago. You ask me in your letter about my examtn at Delhie - It is not necessary for me undergo any - nor can I get leave to go to Delhie this year I fancy having to get some Dr to do my duty during my absence - besides Drs seldom are allowed leave & twice in a year is too much.

2v

You ask what is written on my seal - it is my name, with the cart before the horse - Jones Henry Juxon. I wonder when I shall get your box of presents. I rejoice indeed that Frank has made a beginning - may he flourish. You must thank dear Aunt & Sibella for their last letters - I have nothing to write about - I had a letter from Edlin a few days ago - I got no news except that Dr Cullen was getting in well at Sidmouth, I hope so, poor fellow. I wish you could live in Devonshire again -

it is really painful to hear of your solitude at Leamington, Netta must now be in Exeter - My letter to Fanny will arrive about this time - she will also see George Harriot - About the 2nd and 3rd of the orders they may be destroyed of course - I have destroyed two myself. When I have cleared off my debts in Hansie I shall establish a plan of sending you 20£ a month - that is request the Secretary of the Bank to do so & leave me to pay him on such days as I may get my own pay - fancy my being in debt for another 12 months.

God bless you my dearest mother - Give my best love to Aunt & Sibella - I am your affectionate son Juxon H Jones.

[addressed:

Prev paid

Overland Mail

Via Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61, Brunswick Terrace
Leamington
Warwickshire
England

Via Calcutta

stamped:

ROTUCK 25 May
DELHIE ???
CALCUTTA JU????
PAID 26 JY 26 1845]

1

Hansie 8th June /45

My dearest Mother I write to you the second time this month only to ask you the name of the agent to whom my long long expected box was directed - for unless I write to him & request him to pass my box through the custom house, pay the freight & despatch it towards Hansie, he or I shall never see any thing of it. Could you also tell me the name of the vessel & the time it sailed from England, it would facilitate my getting it - in fact I should think that the naming of the vessel to be the most necessary part of the business. It seems very odd & yet 'tis true that goods must be searched for by the persons to whom they are directed. I was told the other day by a friend that some packing-case for him remained for years in the Custom house, from his not knowing that it was necessary for him to get some one in Calcutta to pass it for him. You told me to whom you directed my box but I forget the name - you mentioned him as my agent, but I have never had occasion to employ one, so I have none - I wrote to you last from Rohtuk where I passed the whole of last month & most delightfully - Sorry am I to return to Hansie for it is exceedingly dull and dismal. The married people have their wives with them & stick in-doors like household fixtures - Of the two Bachelors one is away in the Hills for the whole if the hot weather. One great relief is that the weather is most delightful & except in the evenings for an hour or so

1v

we can keep ourselves delightfully cool - The weather is most favourable both for our present comfort i.e. coolness, & for the promise of proper rains on which everything depends from the middle of this month till October - I wish the cold weather was come again - for the days are so terribly long & tedious. we have no amusement of any kind - no books even - & no visiting. Dear Irene suggests the improbability of my reading the books that you all have contributed to make up the little store - I think she says it must be too hot to read - bless her heart it's the only time of the year that one is inclined to read & in fact we must read or sleep through the whole 5 months - I have already read & re-read 20 times my store of books - some 5 or 6x!!! & am reduced to borrow some sickly novels that I can scarcely get through - If the wind of the Punkha chances, as it often does, to turn over half-a-dozen pages I am seldom at the trouble of turning back to where I was reading - but go on where the wind has opened the page. If that is not a dreadful picture I don't know what is. I am at present engaged on one Lady C. Bury's¹⁸⁶ novels - "The Devoted", the Disgusted", the

Delighted," The Detracted" the De.... something or other, all equally instructive & amusing! I doubt if I shall have one single idea in my poor head or any informatn on any subject whatever by the time I return to England - except that a Rupee is not equal to 2 shillings, though they always say that it is. What my learned & grave brothers will think of me remains to be seen. As I am slick & I am I must "get on my Elephant" & tell a most an awful lot of _____. When I get a little money I shall get a nice library from England - I shall ask Tom to make a selection of books for me - he knows best the great extent of my knowledge & reading - besides living near London he'll have little difficulty getting books cheap - Alas! it will be a long time before I get a halfpenny to spend

2

in that or any other rational way, that is to say in about a 12month I shall begin giving you all commissions - at least I hope so. As my monthly letter always contains my monthly accounts - personal, pecuniary, confidential & sentimental, I must not omit here to state the amount of my present debts - or to copy from my acct-book "All debts on the 1st June 1845. 2,015 Rs" Anglice 201£.10. Six months will clear that finely - In the cold weather I shall with a fine atmosphere, clear sky, joyful heart & good health I hope, begin to render my monthly accounts more interesting, at least more satisfactory. You can scarcely conceive my longing for that time - I shall if I think much more of it relapse into my groaning & howling that marked my career in Scindh. Will you tell my "love mine" (vide Lady C. Bury's novels) Irene that I did her commission with much pleasure & good grace. The Elephant howdah & pad were despatched last month - but there is no hope of their getting to England so everyone says - the letter will reach you - empty of course - but the Elephant will adorn the black throat of some infamous D[torn] runner - (Dak means the Post - but not of a lamp) I felt inclined to send a barrel of them (Elephants) as they are almost as worthless as perriwinkles - Irene asked me a question to which I entirely forgot to reply - It was "do mosquitoes bite in the daytime"? You may safely tell her - reyther! I told you in my last I think that I had had a letter from her while staying with Tom & that Susan had written me a short note. Now I have not time or matter for a letter but I must write soon to Tom & Susan also or it will appear that we have 'cut' each other in earnest - Dear Frank is now my only correspondent amongst my brothers - for Bertram seems to have neglected me. Well if any people don't care for this wonderful & glorious privilege of holding communicatn with each other, whatever the distance that separates them - for my part I now always look forward with pleasure to the time for writing, without one thought about my letter being amusing, funny, interesting or stupid - so that it is not unhappy. I have here no associates or friends - i.e. not such as I have had, so that if I had no one to love - to chatter to at home I should be lonely indeed - I told you that I had found

2v

out my long lost friend Henry Square - We have taken to corresponding regularly to my great delight. I wish my dearest mother that you partake of the pleasant changes of scene & the view of old friend's faces with my sisters - Netta & Irene - Why dont you go to Devon & see Fanny Frank & others so dear to you? I fear that you are uncommonly dull in that abode of yours at Leamington - We never had much visiting I fancy, but to be quite alone, is horrible. The solitude of Hansie is nothing to what you endure. My conviction of the infelicity of the marriage-state I think will be weakened at Hansie, till it is again confirmed by actual experience. I was struck with a remark I lately met with "that the 1st year of marriage is by no means the pleasantest" and I quite agree in the opinion!

- I have been wondering whether she has had the curiosity to learn my whereabouts?! I hope to go & see them in the winter. She (M) is looking very ancient I hear - will that soften her heart towards me. A lady of Rohtuk maliciously said that she was a head taller than me - You will be glad to hear that the prospect of a war with the Seiks is small - this season at least - they have been & are still

being destroyed at a fearful rate by Cholera this will tend to keep them quiet - I rejoice because I want one years rest to recruit my fallen fortunes & for many other reasons as you may suppose I hate war -

I must put off replying to Sibella to another day- to Aunt Jim too I owe a letter but now I must send only my affectionate loves & to you too my dear mother.

Your very affectte Son Henry.

Tell me every month how Frank is going on. Tell Irene that Tom Rattray¹⁸⁷ staid with me a day at Rotuk on his way from Scindh - God bless you

[addressed:

Overland Mail

Via Bombay & Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington
Warwickshire
England

stamped:

HANSI 8 June /45

PI 7 AU 7 1845

LEAMINGTON AU 8 1845]

1

Recd yours of the 2nd May yesterday - Hansie 23rd June [1845].

My dearest Mother your most welcome letter tells me that you have not recd two letters a month from me as yet - I dont know when you will. In some of my last I have explained my intentions of writing twice when I have anything particular to write about - but yt I should always take advantage of the option of replying immediately to your dear letters, which I have done ever since the 2nd mail was started. It is now the 23rd June and we have hitherto had no rain - the heat is most oppressive as the hot winds have ceased - we have no means of keeping ourselves cool - having no society - not a soul to speak to; makes the time pass very slowly & very dully. I am almost - sick at heart with constantly watching for the beginning of the rains - as it was during my first season at Merutt - my whole soul - all my hopes & fears, thoughts & dreams are centred in the weather. I watch for & enquire about the clouds every hour of the day & night - But this is an old story & tedious withall. I have one piece of news tho' for you - Matilda is engaged!! Mrs Ross told me of it - she is engaged to a Mr Saunders of the Civil Service, a young fellow of 24 yrs of age - I have heard him spoken of very highly - so I trust Matilda will be as happy as she will be rich - you know that the civilians are immensely rich & retire upon 1,000£ per annum! I sent my kind regards to the Genl. & lassies through Mrs Ross & got a kind reply - a hope that they should see me at Delhie. I wonder the Genl. does not assist

1v

George Harriott - he must have lots to spare, as I heard that he gives many parties & that the young

ladies dress like winkin - though this may be matrimonial policy! besides their repeated trips across the seas must have cost a mint of money. You warn me against a hasty marriage in vain my dear mother - for I don't mean to marry at all at all - Its much too expensive for me with my funds - babies, bonnets, voyages, education &c are things to be dreaded by one of my timid disposition - to let alone the chances of an ill-sorted union - and a domestic quarrel would kill me dead. I would not have my equanimity disturbed for worlds. I had a delicious long letter from Berty a few days ago - & we have established that we shall interchange 2 letters a year at least - He seems to be dreaming of matrimony - he talks of a certain fair one with certain incumbrances - not of children, but of pounds sterling - He grieves at our declining in years without any descendants to bear our noble name - & vows he must marry some widow with ready made heirs! that is if things don't improve. In his letter he talks of sleet & slosh & snow & ice as rather distressing - he should try a few hot days here - with lots of prickly heat, mosquitoes & sand flies - a heat without mitigation day or night - too great to allow one even sleep. Berty asks if I have ever heard of Frank Reynolds¹⁸⁸ - No. but I know a most excellent & pious man who was for many years the constant companion of poor Henry - he also told me that he obtained for Charles the splendid appointmt he now holds, or rather got the one that led to his present appointmt - I speak of Capt'n G. Thomson,¹⁸⁹ - he lives at Hissar 15 miles from this - I spent some days with him in April last. By the by tell Berty that I am not now Garrison Surgeon - there is no Garrison at Hansie. I told you in my last I think that I had had letters from Susan & Irene - glad am I to hear that the latter is still at Clapton instead of that dreary dismal Leamington - Bella too I rejoice to hear has had a delightful visit to the Veysies -

2

You ought certainly to accept one of your invitations - Why don't you go to Mrs Norris George¹⁹⁰ always of such sincere affection towards her that she must be good & kind though I fancy that the chilliness of the Coleridges kept off all intimacy between you while at Ottery. Poor Mrs Chandy¹⁹¹, I hope she benefited by her visit to you - I remember my surprise at seeing their small abode after having all my life fancied her such a grand rich lady - I remember the vision as if were but yesterday, of a very gaily dressed lady paying you a visit at High Row¹⁹² - I was at that time vegetating at Xts Hospital¹⁹³ - cultivating ignorance, leanness & starvation - What little affection have I for the scenes of my school-boy days! If I had fifty sons I would not send them to that place, even for food. Talking of visions I dreamt last night that Netta was married & that I was at the wedding! You have not lately mentioned George's prospects or present state - you must give him my love & thanks for his present to me - the box I have not heard anything of - I forget the name of the Agent to whom you addressed it, so you must remember to tell me again - If it should by any chance, reach the hands of the Agent, he very likely will write to me to ask what is to be done with the box - I wish I had it now - Oh it is so hot that I can scarcely write. I wish it would rain - it will some day doubtless - It is so horrible to sit in-doors all day being stewed like an over-boiled chicken & then for a change, in the evening, expose yourself to an atmosphere of 106° - the breeze laden with no small quantity of dust too - If I had a companion this even would be tolerable - but I have none - for though there is one near at hand - our Adjutt. - he is the greatest bore, nuisance brute & idiot that ever I heard of - I sometimes pay him a visit just to look at him - at a white face - though I never open my lips - My friend has two subjects on which he discourses - sickness & its remedies & Arracan¹⁹⁴. Did you ever hear people rattling for hours & hours without a pause If you have you will know pretty exactly the enlivening nature of my poor friends conversation - mind when both dice are rattled -

2v

By Jove its cloudy! I must out & see if there is any prospect of rain - Yes! it is a little cooler - there's a breeze too springing up. We must have rain to-day. So I have said daily for the last 3 weeks - However I'll open the doors just to show the rain I'm expecting him. Did you ever know excessive

pleasure in a shower of rain? The result of the last 3 weeks' baking will be rapturous delight - almost worth purchase - when the rain does come - I shall begin gardening then - I fear I am getting as tedious as my friend the Adjutt. - Oh deary me!

About my Agent, are you sure there is such an Agent in Calcutta - some Agent or another dies - i.e. becomes insolvent every now & then till at length the race is nearly extinguished. We have Banks now instead of Agents for running away with all the money people save in India - Two or only 1 year ago there was only the Agra Bank - now there are half a dozen - one to each of the principal stations or Divisions - They spring up really really every week & are become a standing joke - no, not a standing joke I fear but evanescent as the institutions themselves - "Dont put your money

into any of them"" I fancy I hear you saying - When I do get any money we'll see what is to be done with it One thing is certain that I must save nearly 1,000£ before I can retire that is if I wish to retire after 17 years service - I can only add - my love to you & all my dear family. When the rains come I'll write you a better letter - God bless you my dearest mother Yr very affect. son J H Jones

[addressed:

Overland Mail - Via Calcutta & Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Place
Leamington, Warwickshire
England

stamped:

HANSI 23 June
CALCUTTA G.P.O. SHIP ??? 1845
LEAMINGTON AU 27 1845]

1

Hansie July 23rd 1845

My dearest Mother I have received your two letters of June the 2nd, one via Marseilles only yesterday afternoon - enclosing one from dear Sibella. Oh how I did laugh at my having "sold you a bargain" about my matrimonial speculations - My dear, can you suppose me so rash as to encumber myself with a wife while I am over head & ears in debt - When I have lots of dibs & when I am desperately in love - far be the evil from me - I may think about it. You speak again of my not writing by both mails monthly. As I have told you before, in the absence of important news - i.e. in the absence of misfortune, war, marching, matrimony or sickness I shall make no other use of the Calcutta & Bombay mails than to reply to yours by the Bombay one immediately - as hitherto I have always done. You surely cannot want more than one letter a month, while Hansie remains where it is & what it is. When I wrote last I was undergoing the operation of stewing - now the weather is delightful, we have had a nice supply of rain - the days are always cloudy & coolish, so that I kick my heels about the garden for as much of the day as I can - jumping over the chains - pelting crows & my servants! somt. taking my chair & book under a tree. I take pleasure in viewing the green grass as great as if it was a splendid view. The only thing I want besides rupees is a nice acquaintance - the only bachelor is reading the - so called - black languages all day - our adjutt. I leave out of the question - the savage; so I am left all alone - I am obliged

in my own defence to read Hindustani. I am going up for an examination at the beginning of the cold weather with t'other chap - We intend marching together to Umballah - this necessity of going for examinatr to the Hd Quarters of the Division is a great bore, because one month is spent on the march, which might otherwise be expended in a trip to Delhie - I should tell you that by the regulation that came into operation last September every one in the Services must pass an examination before getting any Command or Medl. charge - Though perfectly prepared for it I have not been able to go to Umballah for the examinatr. & am somewhat anxious about the consequences of my unpassed condition fearing certain retrenchments of my Staff allowes. - Talking of retrenchmts my debts are undergoing such a process - 120£ now remain - 4 months will see me free of debts altogether here - I wish the time were come when I shall be again be able to remit money home - With the new year I shall begin. I trust the year /46 will see me without a single debt. Why my dear mother do you talk of legal forms and all that? I defy them - hate them - will not have them - I tell you that I shall go on paying Stowey till a new & entire 300£ is paid - When Frank has paid off his debt to Stowey & becomes very rich he may then consider himself indebted to you - but not till his other debts are paid - I had no idea that he owed such a fearful sum. I quite shudder at the thought of it. I will have a race with him in settling with Stowey. If I can send Stowey 300£ next year, Frank need not trouble himself about me. I shall have no occasion for the money & shall not consider it as mine or due to me - at least until Frank has lots & lots of monish & then he may pay it to you or the girls reserving 1/6 for the porter or conveyance that sets down me & my baggage at his gate one of these fine days. For once & for all I pray you to consider me free to pay to Stowey the whole of my original debt - Now I shall have no difficulty in paying him - The only use of money to me, i.e. of spare money is to save a few hundred pounds - say 5 - for my retirement from the service - Truepenny is not in our Service, at least I cannot find his name in the army list - he is most likely on the Bombay side - I think you will always find the Officers of the

2

Indian army like him in the warmth & freedom of manner - I have never known such a thing as coldness, distance, or any thing of the nature of hauteur in any one I have met with in India - but altogether the contrary immediately displayed - He talks of the Desert of Scinde - It's is a flower-pot -ful of desert compared to the one between Bahawalpore and Sirsa, which took us 17 awfully long marches to cross. The Scinde Desert is as free from sand as the corner of your eye(!) whereas the other frequently when viewed from a magnificent sand hill presented a perfect picture of the Atlantic, with something of a breeze blowing on it, all done, and most exquisitely too, in sand. I have not heard any thing of the box - I am beginning to despair of getting it at all - It was unfortunate that you too forgot the name of the Agent to whom it was addressed. In a month or so I shall learn the name from you - but so many months will have elapsed since its arrival at Calcutta, that perhaps it will be lost. I wish I had the books now. I have read every book in the station being obliged to stay in doors so much the quantity of reading one gets through is enormous. At least 8 hours a day have I been reading during the hot weather. When I can save a few rupees I shall get a good library - We may, as the question has often been mooted, get up a library amongst ourselves; but we should get only journals & periodicals which get very tedious after constant reading - the subjects being eternally changing - I am rejoiced to hear that Irene has had such a very pleasant visit after the dismal life of Leamington. If Sibella could have a change of scene I fancy she wd be happier for it - not that I think her unhappy, but her life is almost a monastic one in monotony, though not by any means in uselessness. I am much distressed to hear of the ill health of my dear sister Marian - I suppose Netta is as jolly as possible with her little charge & Frank's sweet society - in Devonshire too. You may guess how I long for the time that I shall return - 500 a year with your income would make us very jolly. The old maids (as Bella loves to say) & the old bachelor may jog

on pretty merrily I dare say - I hope we may all live to try it. You see we are to have Railroads

2v

in India - wont that be fine? Fancy going 100 miles in less than a month! The last Mail reached Calcutta in 39 days from England! It will astonish the Natives They wont believe our statements about travelling 30 miles an hour - Even when we have railroads here the Natives a mile from the road will never know of their existence - They never stir to see any wonder - though a nautch or festival will send them from one end of the country to the other - I was much amused the other day with an acct. of a Rajah's travels - he lives forty miles from Agra - he said he had never seen Agra or Delhie - or been more than 5 miles from his own house. On being told of the death of a neighbouring Rajah & asked if he had ever seen him, he said No - Why should he have ever visited him - If the

deceased Rajah had left him any thing he would soon hear of it. What a shame it is fête to honor and reward that scamp Mohun Lall¹⁹⁵ - fancy a common baboo or Moonshee being at the Palace - that attention to fellows without rank or power does no good - on his return to India he would squat on the ground with my servants & try to pass unto them what they would consider his admirable inventions concerning his travel - Even an educated native will not believe one's accts of London of ships of war &c &c or any thing they have not seen - I think I told you of my Delhie moonshi who had learnt a little Geography & "the use of the globes", telling me that the shape of the earth was evidently flat - & travelling round the world was all a fable - unless it was done as a flie would walk around the rim of a plate i.e within a circle of impassable mountains - the border of the plate -

I have no matters for a letter to dear Bella - thank her very much for her letter & say that her words are the very echos of my sentiments - I have no idea of tying myself down to India for my life which would be the inevitable result of matrimony - However I must not be too firm - These matters are in the womb of time & beyond our power to determine - Give my affectionate love to all & each of my loving brothers & sisters - God bless you my dearest mother Your [torn] son Henry -

[addressed:

Via Calcutta & Southampton

Mrs John Jones
[c.o. 61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington Warwickshire]
England

Revd. T.T. Jones
Priory Clapton Mi.

stamped:

HANSI 24 July
CALCUTTA G.P.O. SHIP LETTER 1 AG 1 ??
LEAMINGTON SE 29 1845
PE 1 OC 1 1845]

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Hansie August 31st 1845

My dearest Mother I received your well filled & happy letter of the 2nd July about a week ago. I

greatly envied you your pleasant trip to Kenilworth &c; but, Oh fy! the pic-nic was pronounced to be - I wont say what - I wish I could send you accounts of equally delightful excursions; but barring the want of any of my dear family I may have some jollifications in the cold weather to tell of. The weather is getting very pleasant already owing to our having had the most tremendous lot of rain - but alas! I am slightly bothered with fever & ague - I have had 3 attacks within the last 5 days - they make me very weak & miserable for one day but I think nothing of it the next. You may ask again about my digestion - I think I told you that I had happily quite recovered - I never suffer now in the slightest degree & if I do not again fall sick I expect to be as strong & in as good health & condition as ever I was, during the approaching cold weather. The hot weather relaxes & reduces every one of us, so that it is not favorable to convalescence. You talk of marching as if I was sure to march. We shall not leave Hansie unless we have a war with the Seiks - & then we should be sent only to some near Station to take care of it, in the absence of the Troops - perhaps to Umballah or to Kurnaul - If we were to march I should leave my house just as it is, as if I were going away only for a day. There seems a great chance of a war, but I wish it may be averted - Unless we should unfortunately get licked, the war will only last a short time - There may be perhaps 2 battles; but there is little chance of any thing important being done after our decisive blow has been struck - from the divided state of the country we expect assistance from one party, at the same time as their own resources are considerably crippled - Our Regimt cannot be sent on actual service because there are only 3 Officers with it - as is the case with all Local Corps. Nearly every one wishes for a campaign & every thing is ready for one

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A pontoon bridge has been constructed that will enable an army to cross the river as easily if it were dry ground - it is so contrived that between 30 & 40 pieces of cannon can be placed upon it as batteries. This will astonish our neighbours considerably - Two principle parties are formed in the Punjab of nearly equal power so that if either can subdue the other there is every hope of our men being able to rule the country - that is the army - If this should take place we shall have no war I fancy, for our only reason for entering the country is to make our own frontier secure, without the presence of an enormous army, & this would be accomplished if our man was to secure himself on the throne & be able to rule the country in peace. You are quite startled at my talking of silk sofas - I fancy the commonest printed cotton would be more expensive than this Indian silk - it looks very well but it is very cheap. Your fears regarding the "extravagant rebel" will speedily subside my dearest mother, when I tell you that the whole of my furniture - carpets, tables, chairs couches &c cost me only 197 Rs. i.e. 19£ 14. !!! & the carpets cost one half of this - & they are of the only material used for that purpose in India viz. Cotton. Dont for a moment think that I have forgotten to be economical - I pay my servants & then my debts without reserving a halfpenny to myself - The only things in which I have spent a half-penny beyond my food & servants, has been a saddle & a cap during the last six months - The 1st of January 1846 will find me without a single debt - or a very trifling one. The cause of my being so much in debt now is that I overstrained my powers last year - that is I left myself without a halfpenny & was very much reduced (one half) in my pay for some 3 months afterwards. I sent nearly every sliver of my pay for that year - for 5 months I recd only a 1,000 Rs. i.e. 100£ & 20£ & more I paid for the exchange altogether about 223£. By these sweeping measures little matters were overlooked, besides I left myself penniless & altogether unprepared for the outlay necessary in procuring a house & every necessary. While in Scind I had a house - had no necessity for clothes or boots because I couldn't get them - had 4 servants only because I couldn't get more - Now I have 12 & cannot diminish them by one - I have a Moonshee too. I must dress here as neat as a pin - my house too must not be like a stable as in reality was our abode at Khanghur for months - My fears while I was in Scind arose from the fact of your being called upon to pay a sum for me that you could not afford

2

& from the circumstances of the whole of my debt being unpaid, while I had not a single earthly possession by which in case of my death, any portion of it could have been paid off - & the whole dreadful infliction would have fallen upon you - But now thank God the aspect of affairs is changed - & should my life be spared I trust to become of some assistance to you instead of a burthen & trouble - When the new year begins I hope to send you some chits (letters) for Mr Coutts, & to keep the pot boiling steadily - How I have run away with this subject - you must excuse me for I wished to impress you with the truth! Matilda was married on the 21st at Delhie!¹⁹⁶ I was much amused with an account of the courtship & of the declaration received from our acting Adjutant who has just come over from Delhie - a Devonshire man by the by acquainted with Hatch¹⁹⁷ and the Rabans - young Raban¹⁹⁸ is in the same corps (at Delhie) & sent a message to me by him claiming acquaintance &c. You know that great difficulties lie in the way of gentlemen becoming intimate with young ladies in this country, particularly if there are 2 ladies in a house. Till the moment of declaration, says Mr Stafford¹⁹⁹, the ladies [torn] two of them M[torn]da & Miss H. were not at all decided as to which of [torn] was the object of Mr Saunders' devotion & the declaration of his passion was most painful & surprising to one of them. There is no chance, at present at least, of any one but a Civilian being accepted by the Misses H. & I am told that their attentions to 2 of that class are so marked as to be unkindly remarked. Young Civilians are very scarce - but such a prize when caught. Young Julius Dennys is married²⁰⁰ - the one that I came out with me. Every one seems to be marrying. Of 20 that came out with me 10 at least are married & 3 only dead. His 2 brothers & himself have married within the last 6 months - I got a letter from Miss Louisa Baratty this month - she wishes that Bertram may be a Bishop before I'm a General - I was much gratified at hearing from "my Fanny-Bent-the-2nd"! though by the by Fanny has not yet written to me. How glad she must have been at Berty's success. I have heard nothing of my box yet - I am anxiously waiting for you to tell me the name of the Agent in Calcutta - as well as the ship in which it came. I am fearful lest it should have been lost or disposed of in any way but the right - Thank Sibella and my dearest love for her letter - & tell her that it would

2v

be a fruitless labour to endeavour to explain all the various pots & pans in which the Natives put water - to explain 1 or 2 questions of the cummerbund [note above: the loins to tie] is a cloth tied round the waist, which everyone wears - grandees wear a Cashmeer shawl & poor people the commst cloth - a doolchie is a pint pot made of leather with which water is taken out of the naund (an earthen vessel) to sprinkle the Tatties - a dekchi is a cooking vessel. As for learning the language it is impossible without a Moonshi, for you cannot read a word without one. I cant learn the language or read a page of any book without a moonshi. I am forgetting that some absurd characters are printed for the Persian characters; but its more like Arabic & little like either - not at all indeed - besides tell Bella that as there is not a book to read except our translations of the Bible &c in that language it is of marvellous

little use learning it. Bella was saying that she should like to be able to read Hindostani. The Persian is a different thing - The Bagh O Bahar [written above: garden Spring] by the by is the only Native work in Hindostani - it was translated from the Persian that Europeans might learn Hindostani - The pronunciation is much more difficult than yt of German- 3 ts 2 ks 3 Os 3 ts of totally distinct pronunciation. I think I mentioned before that my name is engraved on my seal - you perhaps know that the short vowels are not written in Persian - the letters therefore are Jns Hnry Jxsn - rather difficult to read or understand - there is no X. The Natives always pronounce my name June exactly as you pronounce the name of the month - It is quite absurd to hear them speak our names - they never come near the mark. I think thats enough for Hindostani. I yesterday wrote to Tom - but then as now I felt stupid, heavy, prosey - all the effects of ague

I must write to Holberton - indeed I must appear very ungrateful not to have written - for much do I owe him - but I fancied that he wd not care to hear from me. I remember Major Deringie very well. Tell Frank that his old friend Twisden²⁰¹ who looked well in spurs, is figuring away as a sporting character here in India - I see his name in the papers as gentleman jockey now and then - Talking of Frank, well do I remember our delightful trip to Kenilworth our delightful walk from Leamington thou[torn] every memorable drive - Give my dearest love to all - Yo[torn] you my dearest mother -

[addressed:

Overland Mail

Via Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington Warwickshire
England

stamped:

HANSI 31 Augt/45

LEAMINGTON OC 30 1845

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1

Hansie 1st October. [1845]

My dearest Mother It seems an age since I heard from you - I suppose your letter that should have reached me in September, was among the unfortunates that were lost in crossing the Desert from Suez - for you may have heard that two boxes were lost by the scampering off of a rampageous Camel. However I shall enjoy your next letter the better as it must be full of news, after one whole month's silence! Failing the interruption of our intercourse, on the 15th ultimo, I commenced a letter of chit chat to you but could get no further than the 1st page, so I tore up the interesting production. From this, as I have remarked about 50,000 times, you will know that I am in health, peace, happiness & a slight degree of solitude, though I should add that I have enjoyed myself immensely during the last 6 weeks, having had increasing engagements to eat & sleep & sleep and eat and sleep - The fact is that I have had somebody to talk with, walk, ride, shoot and dine with - our new Adjutant I speak of, who is as nice a fellow as I could wish to have as a companion. Steady, studious, well informed, & chatty, having tastes, sentiments, & pursuits harmoniously agreeing with mine - the only discord or want of concord is our statures, he being a little fellow of 6ft 3in. & a trifle in his stockings & pretty considerably stout in proportion. But alas! he is going away on the 5 or 6th - the case of the "young gazelle" again. Indeed I am distressed beyond measure - I shall be as solitary as a hermit - Thank the fishes though the cold weather will be in this month. Our friend has applied to be appointed to this Corps so possibly I may see him back here in 3 months - I told you of his being in the same Regimt as Raban is & of his enquiring if my name was Jones, the Jones. Their Regmt arrived in Delhie only 6 mos ago & it is ordered to march to Ferozepore on 10th - A pleasant thing for the married folks - for there are no houses to be had there for rent & few indeed for sale. Well, Miss Hodgson²⁰² is engaged - has got a Civilian & strange enough she is coming to live at Rotuk 40 miles from Hansi, where I passed a month with Ross - Her name will be (pretty?) Mistress Ford. Now if the 3rd young lady gets a civilian they'll be pretty jolly!!

1v

I hope by your next letter to learn something about the names of the Ship & agent who were instructed with my box - Alas! the white annts [sic] must have destroyed it & its contents - There cannot be a doubt of it if they were not enclosed in tin & that they were't I'll be bound. Is Bagshaw the name of the Agent? I am reminded of this, the Box, by having before me Dickens's Xmas Carol which I purchased a day or two ago & still have the pleasure of being ignorant of its contents!! or the pleasure of reading it before me. The best bit of news I have to communicate is that there will be no war this cold weather. this is an inestimable blessing. The Relief - i.e. the changing of the Corps at the different stations, has been very limited indeed so that the greater part of the army is left undisturbed - There is little chance of a renewal of the alarming mutiny of /43 or the Troops being ordered to Scinde, for in addition to the punishmt inflicted on 2 Regmts. the Governmt have granted the men the extra Pay that they wanted - the order for the increased Pay was published one day & that appointing certain Regmts to go to Scinde immediately after. So by the blessing of God we may have peace & a merry Xmas - The same to you - one and all my dear mother. I thought of you on 21st ultimo, indeed I do not know the day on which I do not think of you, but on 21st I did it in a special manner & degree. Thirty years of age Eh! getting old getting old. Dear Nettas birthday was on the 27th, was it not? At any rate I'll drink her health to-day with all the honors for I forgot it on the 27th. Talking of Christmas I have just been reading the Pickwickian Xmas to make my heart ache at the difference between its celebration at home & in India. Last Christmas day I was not very jolly - we may be better this year. At any rate the cold weather is to me a season of continual feast, hilarity & pleasure - its much better than plum cakes & much more digestible! If we could get a nice Adjutt & have down the 2 absent officers of the Cavalry we might do very well indeed - As it is I'm very jolly, for I read Hindostani every day until 2 o'clock & anything is pleasure after that - I have now been 2 months at it, in real earnest. Talking of Hindostani I should tell you that I am seriously alarmed at the prospect of a retrenchment of my Staff allowance for the last 8 months for not having passed my examination before - The order

2

was that those who were posted to Corps after September last should be required to pass the examination before they recd any Staff Allowance, which is 16£ 10s a month - Now I was posted in June - but they read the order a different way, saying that the posting means joining! & I did not join till December. I thought the order did not affect me in any way, but if it does I'm "sold" indeed - 132£ I lose by their trickery - More than half the men in the Service I fear will suffer, for it applies to Officers assuming Commands as well as to the Drs. I hope my alarm may be groundless - but if not I still may still escape by clamouring about it a great deal. Its time that I got another letter from Bertram. I want much to know if he has any matrimonial speculations that are promising - I want also to know how Frank is getting on - one month may have produced some important improvements - I sincerely hope so. Is Netta still nursing the babbies? When will our good friend George be a thriving man? Patience, the end will show", you'll doubtless say. How's dear Bella & how's Irene? but what's the use of asking? I wrote to Tom last month so I hope he will write to me about Xmas. I suppose he will pay you & Frank a visit during the holidays - I shouldn't like to join you - Oh no! certainly not. Do you remember my beautiful representation of the delightful prospect of a "joining of hearts & housekeeping" with a young lady related to the Corps? because its all coming over again - not the representation, but the prospect; as we fancy Miss C. is coming down from the Hills soon. Don't be alarmed mother. Did Irene get my Elephant,? You see that I am staggering at little questions & little sentences as if I had nearly come to an end. I'm thinking of opening out upon matters of pounds & rupees to carry me on to the end of the page - but I wont do so, though I know I'm surprisingly eloquent on the subject - The great secret of letter writing is to make people wish there was more of it, so I think I can stop here with great effect - Yet - no - I think I've come a leetle too far but I'll try it another time. I'm waiting for another fortnight to elapse before I commence shooting in earnest - I must record the number of deer, pigs, otters, quail, snipe, partridge &c &c that I kill this year, of the pigs don't kill me

I have furnished myself with all the paraphernalia for pig-sticking, barring the pig-hunting cap & jack boots - form the most prominent features in the costume. They an't regular jack boots being huge gaiters, performing an office similar to that of Berty's shoes - looking very much like boots! Is Bertrams fine weather beginning now? I mean the fogs & seal skins & slosh. At any rate I suppose he'll have a very tolerable sort of Xmas party at St John's. Didn't Jones tell you that my poor old

friend Major Skinner made the Xmas days his land-marks in his life - saying that he never from his childhood passed 2 consecutive Xmas days in the same place - mine are something like this now - my last in England, with you - the next with the poor Major near Sheerghatty²⁰³ - 3rd with him at Landour 4th at Delhie, 5th on the Indus 6th at Hansie & God willing I hope many more at Hansie - This will reach you somewhere about Xmas so I may now wish you a happy one & many more till I can join you - I'll wish you a happy new year in my next - God bless you my dearest mother - Yr affecte son Henry

Give a jolly lot of love to all - brothers sisters

[addressed:

Overland Mail.

Via Bombay & Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington. Warwick
England

stamped:

HANSI 30 Septr
OZ 25 NO 25 1845
LEAMINGTON NO 26 ??

Hansie 15th October /45.

My dearest Mother though I wrote to you 15 days ago & though I have nothing new to tell you I must write now from the fulness of my heart and not head! It is, or rather - was last night, at least six weeks since I had received any letter from you. The letters for my neighbours, by the last mail, had been delivered 4 or 5 days ago, & finding that there were none for me I was feeling very uneasy. My fair friend Mrs Campbell told me, when I entered their garden yesterday afternoon, that the postman had just gone away. I said, in a tone of deep despair "no letter for me of course" "Oh yes, there were 2 English ones for you." "Really?" says I. "Honor bright" says she. After offering a bet, which was accepted, my joy was complete; but instead of rushing home to fetch my letters, I remained there chatting till dark; for being, as I said before, full of joy I was contented, not wishing to burst with it. After the lady had entered the house and I was taking leave of the gentleman, I said "Well, I have got everything jolly for supper" What? says he. "My English letters" replied I. "Oh dear, Mrs Campbell was only joking! You're rather sold I think!! If ever I felt 'floored' I did then, and walked away melancholy enough - down in the mouth & 'no mistake'. When I got near my door I shouted "kooch chitti hi?" [below: any letter is] "han sahib - do Ungragee chitti hien" [below: yes

(you know) 2 English letters are] In other words, one from you my dear mother & one from Irene. Ask your friend to translate this extract from my manuscript - I will translate it for you, telling you first of all that I was extremely jolly at this being no "sell". I hope Irene may be at hand to interpret all the slang & to put you up to the beauties of the above brilliant dialogue with the lady - perhaps I should have called it "flash" rather than brilliant, as more elegant, expressive & appropriate. Having at length - in both senses of the word or rather words - given you to understand that I received your letter with much joy I will enter upon my reply.

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I feel more than I can say for poor dear Frank's and Marion's loss²⁰⁴. by the time this reaches you their affliction will be long past I hope, though not forgotten perhaps - so I need not awaken the recollection - my deep sympathy dear Frank knows he has, and consolation he receives better than any we can give him - With this one drawback your letter gave me inexpressible pleasure - perhaps I should rather say comfort, content and serenity - it's more like ease after pain, better than pleasure. You speak of my being solitary as if I felt it - I don't now at any rate - On this day we commence cloth clothes, and of course I dress by the General Orders! This is the source of joy to me day & night - I have taken down my punkhas, discharged the punkha wallas & my moonshi (it's too cold to read now, besides he costs as much as 4 common servants) I keep my handkerchief in my pocket - wear gentlemens trowsers instead of ladies - I'm speaking of Native ladies, mind, so don't make any remark. I sleep in a bed instead of upon one, take long constitutional walks in the morning, & wish very much that my hospital was empty & that our Adjutant was not always on the sick-list, that I might go out shooting - But without going into all the particulars of my change of life, clothes, feelings, occupations &c &c you may understand that the cold weather commenced (according to Orders) this morning & that our particularly jolly hibernation is begun. No news of the box & as I calculate, there never will be any - I expected to have got your reply to my enquiries about the name of the Ship in which it came, the Agent to whom it was directed &c - but alas! I found none - So the little elephant has arrived all safe - it's more than I reckoned upon - I'm so happy at the thoughts of there being such a memento of me in the family - Its easy to get more, so I'll increase my pleasure by several mementos or ti or toes - I really don't know how to spell the plural - The difficulty is to make a choice of these things as some are pretty & some very bad - & my friend Mrs Ross tho' possessed of a very good heart, I think has a taste differing perhaps from mine - for at such a distance from Delhie I must trust to her altogether. I told you in my last that the eldest Miss Hodson [sic] was to be

2

married this month & is coming to live at Rotuk where I had my holiday last May. Perhaps I may see her - I have not the slightest recollection of either of the Misses H - Matilda of course I remember - I am very much amused at dear Bella's & Irene's remarks upon her good qualifications for a wife - of mine too! after she has been married some months! Tell them I'll take the matter into consideration without loss of time. We are too far apart to give each other advice in worldly matters I fancy that if I were to propose to my dearest love ____ in England that before I could get an answer I should have given up all thoughts of the matter _ have entirely forgotten the subject. Or what is equally likely that when I am reading with intense interest some glowing account of some young lady you intend for me, though I may be ravished with the description & very anxious to make her mine, yet a little obstacle may interfere with my wishes - an obstacle in the form of a fresh -putty complexioned young woman calling herself Mrs Juxon Jones, & me - "her own sweet love"- or "you brute" according to the taste, temper and perception or perceptive powers of the young lady. The distance between you & me is an obstacle to something else - your understanding the nature of the Natives of India - Some people do say that they dont think any of the great number of the Native Christians to be sincere Christians - the Natives are so insincere, such flatterers, such mercenary

lucre-loving, sensual fellows; such fearful liars - they lie as if it was their greatest, sweetest enjoyment to tell an untruth - they have no perception of pleasure or relaxation except in the gratification of their appetites - Though they may receive some little education, they resolutely ration their own ignorant notions of things - they say they are told in their books such & such matters & they must be true - Their prejudice blinds their reason altogether - because they consider it as bad as apostacy to believe any thing contrary to their own books of Religion - which are their only books - My Moonshi who is a very superior sort of fellow, told me that the Prophet Isiah lived in the jungles or wastes or forests, to show wanderers their way. In the Koran and their traditions they get acquainted with the names of Moses, Jacob, Joseph, David Isiah & a few others mentioned in the old Testamt & have as many absurd incredible

2v

fables about them as the Hindoos have about their nice Gods. They are not open to the influence of argument - cannot feel conviction (except the Magistrate's villainy) Their pride too is admirable - a fellow says, when you question the truth of his assertion - "I'm a Mussalman - I don't tell lies" - a Hindoo says the same thing in his way "I'm a Hindoo &c". I always reply "If you don't lie, who does? or "If you don't there's no such thing in the world" - They are in every way unapproachable, too - In this lies the great difficulty of doing any thing with them. They imagine themselves very learned if they can read Persian or Arabic, tho the works in these languages afford them no instruction in any thing - they call one another "The learned so & so" on the strength of knowing these languages. My Moonshi amused me much by telling me that the Natives concieved that the cotton goods imported from England were made - not by the hands of men, but of images, Idols or any thing of that kind - Jihotili they call them which means such things - Though in all their Cities a very great number of deaths from Small-pox occur every year, they wont consent to vaccination for all we urge in favor of it - but dissuade one another from submitting to it by representing the object of vaccination to be to fix the Company's mark upon them!!! But then in these matters they are perhaps not more prejudiced and ignorant than we were not many - but two and three hundred years ago. The worst feature in the natives - worse even than lying - is the universal absence of every thing resembling Charity - Christian Charity - they have no mercy, pity, compassion, benevolence, generosity, not even kindness - Self is every thing - every man robs his inferior under the name of "dustoori" - every man dependant upon another in any way, must pay "dustoori" - If any situation is obtained, never mind by whom or with whom, his superior in that situatn receives dustoori - if any purchase is made or payment of any kind is made the receiver must pay a portion to some dependant of the payer - To receive a bribe is as lawful as to receive one's well earned wages. If I have a poor miserable looking - I say looking, for certainly they are infinitely better off than the poor in England - looks to pay a penny to some servant of mine gets his share of it, though that servant may every now & then send to his home remittances such as would be acceptable to you. Kings & princes do the same thing - take sums from the meanest of their subjects - Who has a coat & is clean enough to be brought into the awful presence. You seem to think that the Natives are not well treated but that is not the case except amongst themselves. They are as independent of us as they could wish - go or stay as they like.

3

My dearest Mother I must finish my elegant discourse on this scrap of paper. I should have said letter instead of discourse, as I think we have had enough of the interesting subjects of this Empire - though I cannot conclude without referring to the commonly recd opinion that Blackie is very much oppressed, particularly our domestic servants. They don't care two pinches of snuff about us - and in case of any ill treatment or injustice they can complain immediately & reparation is granted them without delay. Some Officers certainly 'lick' their servants unnecessarily but they have always a remedy at hand - taking service elsewhere or complaining to the proper authorities &

if they take neither of these measures you may be sure that they don't care about it. They never regard a box on the ear when they deserve it. As for the general population I fancy that under our rule they are more happy & contented than in most countries. I read in a work by an American that no country in the world is better governed than India. "There that will do Henry", I fancy you observing. This will reach you about Xmas, a remark I made about my last letter - but this is the one - so I will repeat my good wishes that you may have

3v

a merry Xmas and a happy new year - that /46 may witness our enjoyment of health happiness & prosperity as that of the past year - This time last year I was waiting with the greatest anxiety for a favourable answer to my petition to be allowed to leave Scinde. Little did I think then of the pleasant termination to my march, that was in store for me. I am indeed thankful that I am able to say that I am in splendid health now - I am as fat and as hard as an indigestible plum pudding! I rise with or rather before the lark and sleep like a fox-hunter - I have quite a color again but I am afraid that you would call it black instead of red & say that it was not by any means confined to the cheeks. There is no doubt but that I am much handsomer than when you saw me last! Campbell said to me the other day that he had lately wished to have a good pull at my hair thinking that it must be a wig, for he said that for the 1st six months I was here, I had every symptom of being bald in a month or two, but that now I had my head well covered. This is a fact for six months ago I had a patch of baldness as large as the palm of my hand & now positively not the slightest sign of such a thing. This must be very important & interesting to you, no doubt - but to me its a sign of health, & that I have not yet commenced the hateful transformation into something like wash-leather, which most of us come to. I shall write a note to Bella & to Irene to clear off my little account with them. With regard to Tom & Susan you must give them by my best brotherly love with all the complts & good wishes of the season God bless you my dear mother.

[no envelope]

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Hansie November 18th /45

My dearest Mother I have just received your's of the 8th September Your letter is not comforting as regards the affairs of dear Frank, for I am waiting for the announcement of a tremendous increase to Frank's school, which does not seem to be coming - You talk of his having to pay the interest of his debt of 450£ Surely you do not mean to say that that sum is exclusive of the 150 that he got from me. If his debt to Stowey is only 300 it is not so dreadful a business, for my 150 is a loan that need not be repaid under 20 or 50 years & as for the Interest I will pay that, and no mistake! In January I shall begin to pay you by monthly instalments. I have too a prospect of increase of Pay - but it is only a prospect. The Asst Surgeon at Hissar, 16 miles off, is about to be promoted, when he leaves that appointmt. There being only two Europeans there & a small Jail it is exceedingly unlikely that another Doctor will be appointed there & if there is not I am sure to get the superintendce of the Jail &c - for such a duty an allowance of 100 Rs (10£) a month is always given. I wish I may get it!! The Post Office too is sure to come into my hands some fine day when the Irregular Cavalry here go away; for the Dr always gets the appointment & I am the only Dr here that is stationary, which interesting particular I shall take care to tell the Post Mr. Genl. in my application for the post - in a double Incse - 60 Rs a month for the latter & 100 for t'other will make

1v

my pay 580 Rs (58£) a month - if I get these sums added to my present allowances - In your letter you speak of commiserating my sufferings from the heat - but I beg to assure you that the cold is rather severe just at present & in a few days we shall have fires. I am as happy as a prince in the simple enjoyment of the fine weather - I have just returned from a long ride all about the country. I intended to have had a long day's shooting but my servants mistook my directions and went - I don't know where - I went scouring about hunting for them for a couple of hours, quite in vain & yet such was the beneficial influence of weather, that instead of being in a furious rage and very illtempered all day, I have never thought of my disappointment - but only of the delight of my ride - I must often have mentioned our society being rendered null & void by having a poor miserable, cross tempered half cracked fellow for an Adjutant. Five days ago he died here after a sickness of about six weeks. He was quite hipped upon the subject of his family having consumption & the necessary consequence of his having it. I was kept in constant attendance upon him during the whole 9 months he was here - We shall get a new Adjutt. in a few days & one comfort is there is not in India another man of poor MacGregor's²⁰⁵ stamp - The poor man died of a Liver complaint. He kept a journal in which he records with great exactness the most paltry & insignificant occurrences & nothing but such - The almost daily entry was "Dull, nothing unusual" "Very

2

dull - tiffed with Jones" - "Ate a tough fowl & my poor stomach suffered accordingly!!" "Dont think much of the new horse galled my knee in riding him! "Galled more to-day, as if I had been rasped!!!" About the transactions in the station, the character of the Officers here & many other matters of local interest his remarks were the most silly I ever saw recorded - "Becher is one of Campbell's darlings (!) & allowed to do as he likes." So poor G. Harriott has turned very strict - but (for the individual only) its better than in difference to religion - But strange it is that people who have never thought of religion, know nothing of its nature & its doctrines or uses should invariably, as soon as they turn their attention to it, deem the rest of their fellows perfectly unacquainted with religion & often too, to be beyond the pale of salvation - & what particularly breathes of the spirit of Christianity is the idea that they must break off all communication with their sinful neighbours, of their own household particularly. I have no news to give you - All is peace & quiet on the frontier - & people seem to be decided that the Sutledge is our safest boundary. The innumerable Hill tribes to the North & N. E. of the Punjab appear to be slight obstacles to our quiet enjoyment of the Country. My debts are reduced to 100£ payable at any time - but I am going to make some purchases on the score of economy at the sale tomorrow. I have not a single coat or cap to my head or back & our poor Adjutt. has left some that have never been worn - they are of course Regimental & enormously expensive when got from the Tailors - The eldest Miss Hodgson is living at Rotuck - of course married - I was sorry indeed to hear of poor Miss Poole being in such a dangerous state but tell her with my love that I rejoice to hear of her recovery. I am glad, too to hear that you have at length found some friends at Leamington - horrible place.

2v

We are all prepared for a happy Christmas - We shall have an addition of 3 permanent members of our society & two during December. My nice friend Becher has bought an Elephant which will make our sporting excursions very delightful - I had my first ride on her yesterday to my great delight. I have not heard from Bertie yet - he promised me a letter at Xmas & I him one - I have heard nothing of the box yet

& of course never shall - except its mortal remains perhaps - The White ants must have destroyed it & its contents long ago - I am afraid that the study of economy has 'dished' the business - its a great pity, for I would give a month's pay for any part of its contents - particularly for your picture, which

would be a source of continual pleasure to me. I am writing in some haste as this is the last safe hour of the last safe day.

Give my dear love to all - brothers and sisters & Aunt I shall go to Delhie this winter when I shall choose little presents for my loves (my sisters) myself. God bless you dearest mother

Your affectte son J H Jones

[addressed:

Overland Mail Via Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington - Warwicks
England

stamped:

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Hansie December 2nd 1845

My dearest Mother I got two of your letters within two days of each other, though there was a difference of one month in their dates, I forget whether my last was written after the receipt of yours of October, tho' there is nothing particular in it to remark upon in the way of business I mean - My last few letters have given assurance of nothing but peace - peace; but I regret to say the country is ringing with nothing but war, war. On the 24th ultimo an order came for the Irregular Cavalry here to march with all speed to Kurnaul; at the same time rumours reached us that the Seiks had marched on Ferozepore & many other places where there are fords in the Sutledge. Great numbers of troops from Meerut & other places marched immediately towards the Frontier stations, Umballah Loodeanah & Ferozepoor - the troops on their way to Scinde were ordered to halt wherever they might be when the order reached them. I hope they'll be somewhere between us and the Sutledge, for this is the nearest road from Mooltan to Delhie & is quite open to any force above 2,000 men. Sirsa is our outpost in that direction & we are momentarily in expectation of an order to strengthen it - There is some talk of our having to march in that direction; but as we have only 600 men, with a very strong fort & an important post to guard I don't think that we can possibly be ordered away from it. The Irreglrs being gone & our poor Adjutt being dead, Captn Campbell & I are the only people left in the Station - We are bursting with impatience to learn what is really going on - whether they are "at it" hammer & tongs at Ferozepore, or whether this warlike attitude of the Seiks is assumed only for the purpose of getting money out of their Sirdars (chiefs) and that they have no intention of actually coming to blows with us - If they cross the river anywhere we are sure to return their visit - but if not it is generally thought

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that we cannot venture on a war in their country from an insufficiency of our army. We have plenty of Troops to "wallop" them, close at hand: but we cannot detach a large force from our provinces on

account of the host of uncertain friends (or rather certain enemies) around us. All around about the Frontier is the protected Seik country & it would not do to leave them in our rear. I have not put a date to my letter yet, as I do not intend to despatch it till the day after tomorrow - I am writing now on the last day of November, Sunday. To-day we should have some further intelligence in the Delhie Gazette, & if it brings no accounts of any thing having taken place, I do not fear the Seiks having crossed the river, as we have had time to assemble nearly 50,000 troops. My "Military Intelligence" I will leave till I have something more. You must remember my having told you that we all in the Service who did not pass the Colloquial Examination on the 1st of September 1844 would be retrenched all Staff Allowances until they did pass. I did not pass until the 4th Septbr this year, so that I am to be retrenched from the 21st December /44 (the day I arrived here) to the 4th Septbr /45. The sum to be retrenchd amounts to 1,130 Rs 113£ !!! Last Pay-day they retrenched my Staff Allce for December as a small beginning. People do not give me any hopes of escaping this fearful infliction, but as soon as affairs on the frontier are again rather quiet I mean to begin a series of letters to Governmt on the subject. The words of the order are - "those posted to Corps after Septbr shall receive no Staff Allce until they have passed the Examinatn" &c Now I was posted on the 29th June - If that is not a strong argument, in this country, I don't know what is. As a little amelioration of my poverty at present I am, as I prophesied in my last, Post Master of Hansie - Officiating only at present, but doubtless I shall be permanently appointed, as there is nobody else here but the Comdg Officer & he can't hold it. The Asst. Surgeoncy of Hissar will be vacant in a month & if I should get that I should be rich indeed - even with the retrenchmt I should receive 30 Rs a month above my usual Pay. My Post Office Allowce is 60 Rs (6£) a month - that's 6£ off the 13£ - But I think I have a great chance of escaping the Retrenchmt altogether & if I do you'll be overwhelmed with remittances of Rupees. In pecuniary matters our family seem to be on the decline - & its unpleasant to contemplate,

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I suppose that Tom is too well known & established to fear any loss from his giving up his post - but any thing uncertain makes me, at least, very uneasy Frank too is not exactly flourishing just at present. I wish he could get such a Post Office appointmt as mine, 72£ a year & nothing whatever to do for it. Bertram seems to be getting along finely - you do not say that he has been ordained yet, but I suppose he has been. His familiar acquaintance with Royalty itself, puts my much boasted shakes of the hand with simple Lords, completely into the shade. It is a source of great gratification to see the dear fellow living amongst gentlemen, in all the independence that one would wish to see, instead of in the vile subordination & subjection that he has passed his life hitherto. I well know the oppression it was to him. Should'nt I like to see him now? Oh no! certainly not. I shall write to him on the 18th December, by the next Mail. I wish to do so now, but our uncertain position is an unpleasant one in which to send news to the other side of the globe.

3rd December - I am delighted to be able to assure you that all war-like preparations & sounds are at an end - All the Troops have returned to their old quarters & in the papers & in letters not a syllable is breathed about war - We have heard nothing about our friends the Seiks, so I know not whether they have returned to Lahore or are wandering about the banks of the Sutledge. The only symptom remaining of the late hubbub - is that all Regmts are to be kept in readiness to march at any moment - Our very state of preparation will keep all safe doubtless. We have however to my great regret lost the 8th Irregulars & my good friend Capt'n Becher, for it is reported that they will remain at Kurnul. We know for certain that they intend making the experiment of keeping Troops there again to see if the unhealthiness of that beautiful station is gone. You know that for 2 years no one has lived there - scores of beautiful Bungalows, Barracks, a beautiful church & delightful rides, drives & walks have been deserted, to the ruin of house-holders & the grief of many who lived there formerly. Its situation is important as a frontier station. My only consolation for the loss of Becher & others is in the possession of the Post Office, which I shd have to give up, if their Dr should return. The consolation is very comfortable in the present state of my affairs. In one of my letters I

must have mentioned our having a Mr Stafford as acting Adjutant - as nice a man as I could have for a companion

2v

To my exceeding great delight he has been posted to our Regmt & we are expecting his arrival every morning - With one nice, chatty, well-informed companion I shall not in the least care about the smallness of our society at Hansie. This is the man that I mentioned as living near Hatch - his father is a Major General in the Queen's Service - It is reported that we shall have no other Regmt of Irregulars to replace the 8th, so we shall be in solitude - We intended to have got a Billiard Table for the Station, but the march of our Regmt & our Retrenchments, which have visited nearly every one of us, have rendered it a matter of impossibility now, I fear. It is much to be regretted, for it is the chief source of relaxation & healthy enlivening exercise during our dread

ful hot seasons. We three are going to establish a mess, which will be very agreeable indeed - besides being cheap, for Governmt allow us 60 Rs a month for a Mess - this will pay nearly our expenses for the table. Mine are generally 30 Rs. Mr Stafford is a very steady & economical fellow & almost the only man I know that is not in debt - but he must be in the same case with me when he comes, for he must buy a house, uniform & furniture which will cost half a year's salary. I had a delightful day's shooting yesterday just to get my hand before performing in the presence of Stafford - but I cannot go out again for some days as Mrs Campbell's baby is very ill. She said to me yesterday "Ought'nt you to get your patients well before you go again?" Her sister is coming here in a few days & I fully expect some misfortune to Stafford in consequence. It will be dreadful for me if he marries - I shd have no companion

If he marries, as I know he wishes to, I must try to do the same that I may have some one to speak to - Till lately Campbell & I were not good friends, but we have become great ones now - I pass nearly all my time with him & Mrs Campbell pays me visits & once lunched in my house!!!. Only think! She is very different from the generality of flirting, giddy, pleasure-hunting women of India. A happy new year to you all & every blessing & happiness I wish you all, while I am yr very affectte son Henry.

[addressed:

Via Bombay & Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington, Warwick
England

stamped:

HANSI 3d Decr/45
YZ 25 JA 25 1846
LEAMINGTON JA 26 1846]

Hansie 1st day of the year 1846.

My dearest Mother A happy new year to you all, and often & often may I have the happiness of saying the same, as this day comes round with the whirligig of time - "A merry Christmas" was my salutation in my last - & no doubt in your hearts you wish me the same. I grieve to say that we have had a Christmas attended with anxiety & alarm seldom, if ever, exceeded in India, & concluded with accounts of losses in our army that almost exceed belief, & have filled the country with sorrow for the deaths of so many brave fellows. In my last I told you that we had been threatened with invasion by the Seikhs, but that shortly the alarm passed away. However on the 11th December an army of 60,000 Seikhs began to cross the river between Ferozepoor & Loodheanah - Our army had not been assembled; the troops in the 2 above mentioned Stations had not been increased & only at Umballah was there any considerable preparation for war. The news of the Seikhs having begun to cross the river, caused the Umballah force to march with all speed to Loodheanah & on towards Ferozepoor after the junction of the troops of the 2 stations. At about 4 p.m. on the 18th while our Officers were at tiffin & the men cooking their dinners, an immense cloud of dust was observed at about a mile's distance from our camp & in 5 minutes 30,000 Seikhs were seen approaching - A terrible conflict began which lasted till 9 o'clock at night - the Seikhs were driven back & all their guns taken - 19 in number; but they recovered 2 of them next morning - The Seikhs having discovered the position of the Governor Genl's & Comdr in Chief's tents, in the middle of the night brought down many large guns and opened a terrible fire upon them & before our men could get at them & drive them from their guns, they had inflicted a fearful loss amongst the Staff. The Comdr. in Chief had a horse killed under him, 2 Aide de Camp were killed & two of Govnr. Genl's Agents the Military Secretary & many others about the Govr General were killed - The next morning our army advanced towards the enemy's intrenched Camp

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where they found 60,000 men & upwards of ninety guns, many of them of immense size A fearful conflict began & continued the whole of that day, the 21st and nearly the whole of the 22nd. The hard fighting of those two days lasted 22 hours!!! The enemy had been employed 10 days in strengthening their position & had made great numbers of mines in every direction by which our army were likely to approach. The jungle rendered the march of the Infantry exceedingly difficult which exposed them a long time to the most terrible fire, & the mines, constantly exploding in every direction, caused a fearful loss of life. However the enemy were driven back with terrible loss of life, & the loss of every gun, upwards of ninety!! After losing their first position on the 21st, during the night they took up another 6 miles off, where they were finally defeated on the 22nd. Our loss is estimated at 50 Officers killed & 150 wounded! Before me I have a list of 43 killed & yesterday only we received the first account of battles - Poor Sir Robt Sale, the Jelallabad hero, was killed & Genl. Sir J. Melaskill also. The list of Colonels, Majors, Captns & Subalterns is most terrible. The 3rd Dragoons, my old friends, were nearly annihilated - 300 men killed it is said - 4 Officers were killed & all the others wounded, of that Corps. The enemy's Cavalry amounted to 20,000 being at least 10 to 1 of ours. The European Regiments are said to have on average, lost 150 men each killed - We have heard nothing scarcely, as yet, of the loss of men & officers amongst half the Regimts engaged - so we all fear that many more than 50 Officers have fallen. My good old friend Becher²⁰⁶, who left us only a month ago, is among the dead - He was as brave and gallant a soldier as one would wish to see; & I grieve over his loss as if he were my brother. The loss of the Seikhs too, of course, in three such terrible battles must have been very great - the country for 6 & 8 miles in the line of their retreat & flight is covered with their dead. I have seen their own account of their loss from Lahore, & it is given as 9,000 killed. In the first fight (of the 18th) our numbers were only 12,000 & could have been very little increased by the junction of the Troops from Ferozepore

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It is said that the Seikhs fought with desperate bravery - but what must ours have done with their wretchedly inferior numbers - a surprise & obstacles & difficulties the most severe, to be overcome? As you may suppose, our anxiety to know what was going on during a period of 20 days was most painful - for during the whole of that time there was no intelligence from the army - Our time was passed in waiting in painful suspense for the post from morning till night - Of course we had innumerable reports of all sorts of disasters & people were terribly alarmed - The people of the city here were burying their money & valuables - We heard that an army of 30,000 Seikhs were coming this way to Delhie - & about a quarter only of our Regimt was here to defend the country! At Sirsa, our out-post, there was some reason for alarming reports, for the people were arming & plundering the country - expresses came in here day and night for reinforcements to Sirsa, at a time when only our Regmt was here. However in good time a Regmt of Cavalry & one of Infantry, with some guns arrived here - We sent out the required aid, met the enemy, gave them a good thrashing & made all things fair & smooth out in that direction. Notwithstanding our brilliant victories, which rid the country of the invaders, our minds are not quite at ease - The innumerable hordes of the enemy, our very small numbers & the many points exposed to attack, render it exceedingly likely that the Seikhs will again cross the river to attack Loodeanah and Umbalah, as indeed their news-writers declare to be their intention. Not a soldier is left in those stations & the wealth of those places is a great temptation to the enemy - All our army is at Ferozepoor, towards which place great numbers of Detachments & Regmts are marching in great haste - but still the 2 other Stations are quite exposed and Loodeanah is not a $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour's walk from the Sutledge - It is estimated that our army will be 40,000 strong when those near the Frontier have joined the army at Ferozepore - but it is calculated that all will not be at that place till the 10th instant & the Seikhs may be before us as they have shown a wonderful degree of energy - Fresh troops are now receiving orders to march & we suppose that we shall not be left idle altogether. They say that our army is to be increased by 25 Regmts & already Cavalry corps are being raised. I have just written to Mrs Ross to send you the Delhie Overland Summary which will give a detailed account of all that has been going on. I am finishing my letter on the 3rd & the news you will

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get Delhie news up to the 5th. We fire a royal salute tomorrow for our victories. We shall have all the Dispatches in a few days for which we are most anxiously looking. I have many friends & acquaintances in the army lately engaged - One sad piece of news is that Mrs Coll Gough²⁰⁷ who was married only a week or two ago, has lost her husband & father (Sir J. McCaskill) in one day. We hear that Sir C. Napier is marching up from Sukkur through the Punjab - this is good news for us - Well I have written about nothing but what is uppermost in our minds - war - war - & little else can I speak about, seeing that it occupies our thoughts day and

night. Our army will enter the Punjab immediately & a number of bloody engagements must take place before there can be any peace. The country is to be taken possession of in lots - & another Presidency it is said will be formed in that country - supposing that we meet with no reverse. Well that's enough for Military matters - I am to be retrenched the whole of my Staff allowances from Decembr /44 to September /45 16£ 10. a month for not having passed the examination - but I have a strong case which I have not yet urged - I still may succeed in escaping.

I wrote to Berty on the 16th December - I have not had a letter from you for an unusual length of time. Tom does not write. I have no further news. If we move I shall suffer pecuniary distress - that is I shall lose the Post Office & by increased expenses be kept from remitting you money & paying what little debts I now owe - They are steadily decreasing but my retrenchment last month reduced my [torn] 21£.6-!! & what can I do with [end of letter written upside down at the top] that paltry sum? Give the compliments or rather blessings of the season to all - God bless you my dearest mother -

Yr affectionate Son

Henry

[addressed:

Overland Mail - Via Bombay & Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington, Warwickshire
England

stamped:

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VV 21 MR 21 1846]

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Delhie February 2nd 1846

My dearest Mother I have missed one Mail, - [above: No, I see I wrote to you on the 2nd January] - while either preparing for or on the march from Hansie to this place - we arrived here on the 20th ultimo - I forget whether I prepared you for this move, in my last - However I remember I gave you a short account of two desperate battles & told Mrs Ross to send you the Delhie paper, detailing the events of December. The day before yesterday we heard of another tremendous battle at a place called Alawal, 15 miles from Loodeanah - The Sikhs (prond Six) (that's the proper way of spelling the word) were upwards of 24,000 in no & had 68 guns. All their guns were taken, except three that were spiked & left in the river - their loss in men was also tremendous; while ours, we are all thankful for, has been surprisingly small. I grieve to hear of the death of two old friends, one of whom you will well remember - poor Fred. Wale;²⁰⁸ the other is Smalpage,²⁰⁹ my first Comdg Officer in Sindh, quite a young fellow. I must have mentioned to you our delightful hawking excursions &c when I first arrived in Sindh. Before this brilliant fight our position was rather critical, inasmuch as nearly all our army was at Ferozepoor, encamped opposite the Sikh army, which has established itself in an exceedingly strong position the other side of the river, having a magnificent bridge, containing & also commanded on the other by, enormous batteries - On our side too they have a "tete du pont"²¹⁰ containing a large body of men. With this state of affairs at Ferozepore you may guess at our uncomfortable position, when an army of 25,000 men crossed the river at Loodeanah threatening the whole country; & what was of equal alarm to us, it appeared that our large guns & siege train, besides numerous detachments of Troops & military stores might be cut off by the enemy. A large detachment of Troops was sent from Ferozepore to meet the small party left at Loodeanah, & when combined they went to attack the Sikhs in their entrenched camp on the 29th January. They crossed to our side on the 14th & so had plenty of time to strengthen their position, besides for 15 days they plundered, murdered & burnt every thing & every one for many miles round - Sir H Smith²¹¹ commanded that army -

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While his division was marching to join the Loodeanah force they unexpectedly came upon the position of the Sikhs - & were obliged to move out of their fire. Much of our baggage, ammunition & all the sick fell into the hands of the enemy & the ruffians in cool blood murdered 27 sick Europeans that fell into their hands. I trust not a few of them suffered for that merciless deed - They say that their orders are to spare no Feringhee (Europeans) but to spare the Hindostanis & these

orders they have strictly obeyed. From this short, or it may be long account of the state of military affairs you will not wonder at our exceeding great rejoicing at our brilliant success - Our army has been looking at the Sikhs opposite Ferozepore, only on account of our total want of large guns & ammunition - Now they as well as the siege train, reinforcements stores, treasure & every thing intended for the army will reach them without disturbance or delay - On the 4th instant the siege train will reach Ferozepore & the next day our troops will attack the Sikhs - Every necessary preparation for placing the guns has already been made by the Engineers & no delay will take place after the arrival of the guns & mortars. It is confidently asserted that we shall be able to knock their bridge of boats to pieces & cut off some 10,000 men that are on this side of the river, if they don't take alarm & retreat before our guns are in position. If we should succeed in this expectation we should be enabled to cripple their strength considerably & save much blood-shed here after. Our victory of the 29th will tend to discourage them - besides the arrival of our large guns will be no matter of rejoicing to them for they well know what we have been waiting for so long a time - & in fact the army that has just been defeated was intended to intercept our guns &c without which we should be helpless indeed. Before this week is past we expect to hear of the final overthrow of the Seiks - It is said that we shall not take possession of the Punjab this year, first on account of the lateness of the season & next on account of the paucity of our numbers - but this does not appear likely as our successes will be of no use if the enemy are allowed a whole year to recover their strength. This I think is sufficient for one Despatch! I should first tell you that the day I arrived here I got an invitation to dine with Genl. Hodgson where I met the 2 daughters - one married to Mr Ford & the other 1 Fanny²¹² still a spin - their brother²¹³ too arrived that day with his Regmt & left 2 days after to join the Army. Matilda I have not seen - her husband is still in such bad health that Mrs Ross recommendd - me not to call - Fanny appears a very nice girl, but has no personal attractions - She has the misfortune to suffer from a cutaneous irruption that disfigures her very much - The poor old General is very much altered in appearance - He is looking very old, is rather deaf & is a martyr to the Gout - He is living only 2 doors from me - He

2

tells me that he will appoint me Staff Surgeon here - but I do not wish to have it because the labour is intense, interminable, & the allowance only 30 Rs. a month. The Station is filled with the wives & children of the Officers with the army, & I would rather attend one Regiment than one woman! I have already been called away 2 miles at midnight to see a little brute that was not at all ill - Talking about Allowances my worst fears have been realised - 135 Rs or 13£10 has been retrenched from me monthly from 23 December to the 24th August - 8 months of my Staff Salary - The sum I receive is so miserably small that I can scarcely live upon it & as to paying off my few debts in India it is impossible and I feel as if I were ruined - This month & last month I received 213 Rs!! By coming here I have lost the Post Office, 65 Rs a month I have 4 extra servants - 2 taking care of my house at Hansie - I have to pay 30 Rs a month for house rent - So my expenses are increased more than 50 Rs a month & my Pay is reduced by 200 Rs!!!. My constant reflections on this fearful state of my affairs depresses me very much - I have made (only 4 days ago) a strong appeal to Governmt against this iniquitous retrenchment, but no one can give me any hopes of escaping it, as hundreds have suffered who had as strong case as I have. If I have an opportunity I will sell my gun watch &c - I had some little stock of plate which I sold when I came here. I trust we may return to Hansie before the hot weather - The whole of the country about there is completely denuded of Troops - Our Regmt arrived here 2 days ago & halts here - so perhaps when the Sikhs are whipped we may be sent back. At present hundreds of men are being sent away with stores for the army. I passed one train the other day full 3 miles long! I forgot to tell you that 6 Regimts of Cavalry are being raised & 10,000 Infantry, the latter are not yet ordered to be made into Regiments, as this cannot be done without authority from home - but doubtless many more Regts are required & by their formation we shall get pushed up the list & be a Surgeon in a very few years. I wrote to the Veneble Archdeacon on the 24th ultimo & trust to hear of the safety of my little box of treasures - Miss Hodgson desired

me to show her your picture when I get it. I saw my old friend Julius Dennys - He had come up from Messeraabad on a Camel, 300 miles, in 7 days & went off after a halt of 2 days to join his regiment at Ferozepoor. The road is so thronged with poor officers trying to get on to Ferozepoor, that no one scarcely can procure bearers for their Palkies - I heard that he Dennys was seen some 40 miles from this walking along the road without his Palki & of course without half his necessary traps. Great numbers of poor fellows have had to travel hundreds of miles in this way - One poor griff came in here the other day without a single article except the clothes on his Back

2v

The Sikhs having left the country will I hope enable them to get along a little better Julius is married as I think I told you - Poor fellow he got dreadfully in debt in order to make himself & wife comfortable - he paid 500£ for a house - besides horses, buggies, a piano & many other things have cost him a mint of money - Now he has left his wife behind - many things he was obliged to sell to furnish himself for the war - in short his difficulties must be increased very heavily. This is not the country for married folks - that's certain - A time of peace may come when this may be changed - During the present war the alarms, the fears anxiety & tears of the poor soldiers' wives are distressing to see. In the 1st two fights at Moodkee and Ferozeshukur nearly 60 Officers fell - we hear of 6 in the last action. One more terrible brush must take place in a few days, making I fear many more mourners & poor widows. I got a nice long letter from dear Tom - In the gratefulness of my heart I vowed to write to him this time but lack of time as well as of matter has denied me the pleasure I fear. My occupation with reports has been incessant since I came here & I have still 3 or 4 days' work. From our having marched I have been unable to get through my annual reports & upon the top of them have come my monthly ones. However tomorrow is a safe day & then I may write. I am ashamed of my neglect of my other dear brother & of my sisters - but what can one write about when there is nothing but war going on - You should be within almost the sound of the firing during a fight to know how completely one's thoughts & feelings are absorbed in longing for accounts of what has been the result - As soon as a letter - perhaps a solitary line comes in from the scene of action, scores of people are rushing to see it & then away they run like post-men to spread the news every where - Our news of the 31st has set most of our minds at rest for a time - & now we are looking for news of 6 or 7 instant - those who have no husbands, relations or dear friends at Ferozepoor are waiting with philosophical coolness - but the majority I fear are not in that condition - I have deferred sending off this till the 3rd but I have nothing more to tell you, I fear - except that I hear my good old friend Wale is severely wounded - not dead; but his life is despaired of, I very much grieve to hear. I must despatch this to-day though the English Mail arrived yesterday & I expect your letter tomorrow. We heard of Sir R Peel's²¹⁴ resignation & of his return to Office I trust something will be done for the starving poor both English & Irish - for though I know nothing of what is going on in England I have seen horrible accts of the prospect of starvation. Talking of knowing nothing I positively have not read a book during the last 3 or 4 months! Well I must here wish you farewell as I intend to send a line or two to Tom. Give my dearest love to all & tell them to excuse my not writing to them individually & respectively!

God bless you my dearest mother - Yr affectte - Son.

This paper has been soiled by wax candles. Henry

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Delhie February 18th [1846]

My dearest mother I received your letter of the 19th December a few days ago & also a long

nice & beautifully written letter from Fanny - I was surprised & delighted to have such a one & to find the dear creature so full of life & cheerfulness & speaking of her illnesses as if they were merely a moments trouble. I am writing to you a second time this month chiefly because I have nothing to say! No not exactly for that reason, but because there is the most bloody war going on not very far from us, and you must be anxious to know whether it is approaching or receding from us. In my last I told you of the battle of Aliwal - On the 10th instt a fourth tremendous fight took place at Hurreekiee ²¹⁵ where the Siks were in very great force, 80,000 strong & entrenched in the strongest way ever known - under the direction of a Spanish Engineer. The fight was the most terrible one, but on this occasion the loss to the enemy was wonderfully great. The bridge by which they crossed broke down from the pressure of their retreating troops - for lots of their troops retired in perfect order - and at least 8,000 men were drowned in the river - About 2,000 men were left dead in the entrenched position & 82 guns were captured - As at Aliwal, our Artillery were on the bank of the river firing into the retreating & flying masses for three hours till not a soul was left on this side alive - The Battalions that crossed first, on seeing themselves threatened from the rear, at the same time that the trenches were reached & entered on every side, these Bns quietly marched out of the range of our fire & pitched their tents actually in our sight. By the 14th our army had crossed the river & have I trust by this time reached Lahore. We have had no account of their proceedings since the passage of the river - Our comfort is that

1v

the enemy did not oppose us. Our next news will be all important as in it we shall learn what is to be done with those scoundrels the Sikhs - There are all sorts of rumours about our giving them peace; but we trust not - Another Genl. Officer was killed in the last action & only 2 Generals escaped untouched! We have lost 3 Genls & some 8 or 10 Colonels, besides nearly a hundred Officers I should think - 15 Officers we have already heard of, as having been killed in the last fight & 25 wounded - Our Regmt of Europeans lost 156 - dead in the entrenchments. You will sicken with these continued accounts of slaughter - but I sincerely hope that this may be my last. Every one is equally anxious for the cessation of this murderous work - but without wishing to come to any terms with the Sikhs - One comfort is that now our army is close upon Lahore the enemy will have no time to entrench themselves strongly & out of their entrenchments they will not meet us - but in them they fight like d---ls. We have captured some 230 of their guns & shown them that in no position can they withstand us: so I hope that they will run away & hide themselves now. I suppose they do not call themselves "Invincibles". Now for domestic news. I told you in my last of my having dined with the Hodgsons - I have dined there again & seen my old friends several times - The Genl is exceedingly kind & is indeed much liked here - What do you think of my having sold my rifle to the General! for which he paid me 10£. Finding myself hard up I proclaimed it for sale for that sum, by which I lost 1£ only - I have no intelligence about my retrenchment except that it is steadily going on at present - I have no hope of getting any of it back. Did I tell you that the Genl had made me Staff Surgeon here? Such I am against my will as I get only 30 Rs a month & have lots of women & babies to attend upon - When it gets hotter this will be no joke - but I trust to be again at Hansie in a month or so - To return to the General, he told me to give his kind regards to all at home - He too had heard of the Coleridges! I had a long chat with Matilda in the most sociable way possible about old times & old friends. Poor George H. seems not to know what to do - I fear that he is in very embarrassed circumstances. Matilda, who by the by after our aforementioned friendly

2

chat writes to me the next day "My dear Sir"!!!) M. told me that she was very sorry to have heard that I was one of George's securities but I have no fears about it myself, in as much as there is an old bachelor Genl. & a Civilian for his other securities & upon them they will pounce first. There is

also this consolation - that hitherto I have not heard a word about the business altho' the loan ought to have been altogether pd by this time - I must say that I felt considerable alarm when I first heard that G. had paid nothing of it; but the above considerations have altogether removed it. My debts now amount exactly to 1,000 Rs or 100£ - this I consider wonderfully small but alas! my means of paying off this sum are inconveniently small too - However you will be glad to hear of my wonderful care of my fortunes, as shown in this almost unexampled fact, that though at Delhie I have laid out only 10/- in a couple of neck cloths - I am daily tempted to buy some memento or other for my dear sisters - but I feel that I must not yet - My chum is having his likeness taken²¹⁶ & I am t[torn] again there, to follow his example - but I will wait for your picture bef[torn] send you mine - which is both fair & prudent. This is the 19th Feby - we have [torn] more news from the army yet. My poor friend Wale I have not again heard of so I trust he is doing well - Of course I have seen my dear old friend Mrs Ross often here. She says that it is high time that I was married - so says Fanny Bent. So think I, but I can't. I hope after this war we may have lots of peace & there seems every likelihood of it, as our inimical neighbours have foreborne to trouble us at a time when we were indeed helpless - for we cannot by any means scrape together another force - I think there is but one European Corps that is not with the army. I see that Sir C. Napier is ordered up alone to join the army & I suppose he will be made Governor of the Seikhs instead of the Belooches - Every one has the most wonderful confidence in him & with good reason. I have not yet heard from Archdeacon Dealtry²¹⁷ about my box tho' I wrote to him on the 24th January. What an unpleasant thing it is to hear month after month, that George is not getting established in his profession - the accts of him I almost look for first in your letters, but only to be disappointed. Indeed your letters just at present are not so full of good news as I could wish - What my dear sisters & Frank say to my not writing to them individually I don't know - but I know that I have had nothing particular to say to them lately - and as to Aunt Jim she will think that I have forgotten her altogether - but I have not

2v

I am beginning to like Delhie again tho' from pecuniary motives I am anxiously longing to return to Hansie. My lady patients I shall be sorry to lose! as I find such recreation going about gossiping with them - I have discovered a host of old acquaintances, but being without a buggy I cannot stir out except in the mornings & evenings. I am very glad to hear that you are making some acquaintances at Leamington. Poor Miss Poole - I am sorry indeed to hear such melancholy news of her - So you remember her present to me - so do I well - & sorry I was at losing my little snuff box -

Well this letter is a sorry one indeed, as the production of two days' reflection, description, chit chat or whatever name the contents of my letter should have - Thank Sibella for her extract from Punch - I have been quoting it to all the spins & love-sick people I can find. I have not seen a No of Punch for an age - I cannot spin this out to the end of the blanks so with a 'God bless you all' I bid you farewell till the beginning of next month -

Your very affectte Son Henry

[addressed:

Via Bombay & Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington Warwickshire
England

stamped:

PJ 7 AP 7 1846

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Delhie March 19th 1846.

My dearest Mother I received yours of the 3rd January only 3 days ago, nearly a month after the time I ought to have received it - for, several days before, we got letters of the 24th January. I hope my letters are not equally long in reaching you. In my last I told you of the final battle, of Sobraon & of our occupation of Lahore. Some days ago all the army was ordered back to the Provinces, or to the new territory; but now it is found necessary to keep 10,000 men at Lahore, so that scarcely a Regmt will return & consequently we are almost without hopes of returning to Hansie this hot weather. The Regmt that was to have relieved us, will, it is feared be detained at Ferozepoor. This is a most unlucky business for me, as in addition to the great expense incurred, I shall be worked to death, for this place is the most unhealthy in India now. My charges are very numerous, and I have no buggy to go about in, and no money where with to buy one. However there is one subject of great rejoicing to lessen these prospective evils. My retrenchment has been re-audited!!! and I shall soon have money of my own again - I told you I had been retrenched my Staff Salary for 9 mos. They had been carrying it on at fine style - at the rate of 200 Rs a month - till 3 days ago, when to my inexpressible delight I recd a re-audit for the sum already retrenched, amountg to 412 Rs, and shortly I shall of course receive another, to clear me of the remainder of the demand that the paymaster has against me. If they don't delay the concluding re-audit long I shall be clear of all debts in India in a couple of months. I have

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412 Rs to receive back & my debts do not amount to 900 Rs. If this retrenchment had been carried into effect I should have been fairly ruined, because the little pittance I should have received monthly would not have been sufficient for my current expenses & my debts would have increased to a fearful extent. The great relief that I have felt since the happy news reached me you can well conceive. I had given up all hopes of recovering the retrenchment. If I could get back to Hansie now I should be quite rich, for the Post Office I am sure of & the appointment at Hissar is now vacant & I think there is no chance of another Ast Surgeon being sent there - If not, I am sure of getting 100 Rs a month for the charge of that Station, by which my Pay would be made 586 Rs a month - not so dusty! of which I could save 400 Rs a month. But you will say that this is castle-building - But to give it the appearance of more solidity I should tell you that they have within the last week done away with the appointmt (my old one) of Garrison Surgeon at Delhie - though one is much, very much required - At Hissar there are only 2 Europeans & a small Jail. so judge! I am a little intoxicated with my late deliverance from ruin, so you will pardon my talking about it so much. I have no other good news to give you - nor no bad news neither!! I have seen a great deal of the Hodgsons lately - the old General I have been attending every day for the last month & I have fallen desperately in love with Fanny - but alas! they both are going away to the Hills in a few days and I shall have no opportunity of carrying out my views or wishes towards the latter - The Genl is well, so I have no further excuse for going to their house. You can scarcely conceive my lowness of spirits at this disappointmt of my dearest hopes - but dont mention it. I value dear Fanny's (Fanny

2

Bents) advice so much that I am exceedingly anxious to follow it - The advice I here speak of is - "You ought to marry, Henry". I would if I could - you may depend upon that. I begin to think that

10 years' residence at Hansie will be rather tiresome without occupation, or object or wishes beyond the subject of my promotion. However there is little harm done in waiting - if I cant help it. I am exceedingly glad to hear that Frank is flourishing - I wish you had said the same of dear Tom. It is now an immense time since I have heard of or from Berty - on his return he must of course write to me. Will you tell Tom that about a month ago I saw in a Bombay paper the announcemt of the death of my (then) little school-fellow Charles Waddington²¹⁸. He died at Kurrachee in Sindh. Running over in my mind all my dear family it occurs to me that it is a long time since my loving sisters have written, or been written to. Tell them that I am too much in love to write - but that when I cool a [torn] I'll write - Thinking that I ought & intend to send them some memento of Delhie & me to them, I am reminded of the loss of my box of treasures - I heard many days ago from Archdeacon Dealtry who said that he had made every enquiry in his power about the box, but that no scent of it could be obtained - so I have given up all thoughts of it - hopes I should have said - for I think & occasionally groan about it. By and by I will send you some money to enable you to give me another picture & something domestic & beautiful for my house at Hansie & not to be enclosed with the Society's Books, but to be sent to some Agent in Calcutta who will look after it. I wonder who has got the box - As I have no news it is in vain that I endeavour to fill my paper, so here I make my salam. Give my best love to all, I am ever your affecte son J H Jones. Did you hear that Robertson²¹⁹ was slightly wounded?

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[addressed:

Via Bombay & Southampton

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington
Warwickshire
England

stamped:

DELHI 19 March 19
EV 9 MY 9 1846
LEAMINGTON MY 10 1846]

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Delhie April 19th 1846

My dear Mother Here we are still at Delhie, with the weather more than comfortably warm already and the prospect of a march, when it gets warmer. Though we have as yet recd no orders for our return to Hansie, we expect to receive them in a day or two - Another Regmt from Scindh - will arrive here on the 23rd when I trust we shall be allowed to go to our homes - This is a dreadful place now - perhaps the most sickly in India - and my duties are now so onerous that I tremble at the thought of being here in the sickly season when they wd be increased fifty fold. My last letters told you of the successful termination of the war - I am rejoiced to say that things look better at Lahore & in the Punjab than ever was anticipated. Our army at Lahore is in tolerably comfortable quarters, every thing appears quiet - our soldiers go about perfectly unarmed to the great astonishment of the Seikhs, who are invariably armed to the teeth; but who however do not, as they used to do, behave disrespectfully to any of our people. The roads even from Ferozepoor to Lahore

are quite safe to single travellers & so are the roads about our newly acquired territory - the Julundur Doab. An officer the other day travelled by Palki dak i.e. in a palankin, from Loodeanah to Lahore, to the infinite astonishment of the natives, who in numbers volunteered their services with inexpressible delight & laughter, never having witnessed such a proceeding before. The English papers are now the subject of the greatest interest to us. We are not a little surprised at the unqualified approbation & praise bestowed on the Govr Genl & Comdr in Chief for the manner in which the war was conducted to the end of the disastrous fight at Ferozeshah. The people at home must have had a time of fearful suspense from the 22nd December to the 10th February, particularly as we understand that

lv

intelligence of Sir H Smith's disaster went off without any mention of his brilliant success 3 or 4 days after. However you must have long ago heard of all that has occurred, up to the occupation of Lahore - We fully expect that the English papers will make some severe remarks upon the evident mismanagement of the whole campaign & of the wanton sacrifice of life. Our loss has been 7,443!!! killed & wounded & many more will be added to the fearful list of the killed - Upwards of a hundred officers have been killed or died of their wounds. From memory only we counted 90 a few days ago. We heartily wish that our blundering Comdr in Chief may not have the conduct of another war - We see with some surprise that 7 Regmts are ordered out from England - I suppose now that half of them will be recalled - The aspect of affairs in America is rather alarming and a matter of intense interest to us²²⁰ - You will perhaps have heard that the whole of the captured guns, 256! in number are to be paraded through all the principal stations & cities of India & all the Civil & Military at such stations are to go & see them. Ninety of these guns came in here yesterday - when the rest arrive we are all to be paraded to see them - The procession was a most interesting one - with a band at its head It went through the whole of the principle streets of Delhie where every inhabitant turned out - to the tops of their houses, to see them - The 1st Gun was a little thing about 18 inches long - the one that the Queen²²¹ sent manned by little boys, to propitiate the gods of war - after this little one came 4 of the largest guns ever brought into the field - each drawn by 3 Elephants. Each of the captured guns cost on an average the lives or limbs of 33 men!! Talking of killed & wounded - I am glad to say that my old friend Wale is quite well - I got a hearty letter from him a few days ago, entreating me to join him in the Hills - but I cant. I got two of your last letters together a few days ago. What will Berty do if he does not keep his present appointmt? When you write to him tell him that Xmas has passed & I have had no letter from him - I am glad indeed that Frank is getting on by degrees - Tell my dear brother Tom that a marriage took place in his old neighbourhood - Upper Clapton, - in the family of the Stallards - the daughter was married to a Mr Place²²² the Editor of the Delhie Gazette, whom I know very well - & young Stallard the brother I knew very well also at Delhie - though unless he knows the Stallards this news cannot interest intensely!

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My good friends the Hodgsons went off to Simlah about the beginning of the month to my great regret - the Genl & Fanny were as kind as kind could be. I speak of regretting their departure but perhaps it was better that they went away so soon, my regret would have been the greater perhaps inconsolable, had they staid much longer. As it was, I suffered long & severely, a pain across the heart, but whether it was love or indigestion I leave you to guess. Their parting act of kindness was - not a kiss but the loan of their horse and buggy during my stay at Delhie - a boon the value of which you may guess, as the hot weather has pretty steadily set in; but of the amount of my gratitude you cannot guess - "A faint heart" in me, had it's usual effect, but I was very nearly asking some body not to marry while she was at Simlah! The improved aspect of my affairs has given me a slight inclination to throw myself away - as an evidence of this I must tell you that I passed several

sleepless nights towards the end of last month. As I told you in my last I have escaped immediate ruin by recovering, or rather escaping the fearful retrenchmt with which I was threatened - In two days I shall get my pay, wherewith I shall be able to pay every farthing I owe in India supposing that [torn] make no more blunders about my retrenchmt & re-audits - for at present I am much inconvenienced by their mode of conducting business - They send me an order for a retrenchmt & then a re-audit & so they go on, with out giving me back a penny of what they have retrenched - but I am in great hopes that this month it will be stopped - I make a mistake in saying that I have recovered none, for I have, & there is only 1 month's Staff due to me. My name was in the Genl Orders on 31 March as Post Mr at Hansi so that I get that certain sure - as yet there is no one appointed to Hissar - The Irregulr Cavalry go to Hansie in 3 or 4 days, without a Dr so I must get a good allowance for charge of them - What a different view this is of the state of my affairs, compared with that I gave you 3 month's ago! The rate of exchange with England is now so favourable that if I had money I shd lose only one farthing in the Rupee instead of 3 pence, which I lost when I sent you money before - But I haven't the money & mores the pity - This is a bad bit of paper, but it is the last I have.

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I forgot to say that the Genl & Fanny desired to be most kindly remembered to you - I am further gratified to hear that you are getting more acquaintances & friends at Leamington - Talking of friends, we shall have a solitary life of it at Hansie as our friends of the Irreglr Cavalry, who are going there in the stead of our dear old friends Becher & Co, are a cruel set [c.o.] I have written something too severe so I'll only say that they will not be any addition to the society of Hansie - The Comdg Officer is a son of the celebrated Coll Skinner²²³ a real Native - & his son is the same - & like one in every thing -

Of course you will address your next letter to Hansie - I shall immediately set about making a garden there & such other improvements as I think proper - though not forgetting that I require every farthing to be scraped together for the satisfaction of Mr Stowey. I dont know whether you have had to pay him any interest out of yr own pocket but I fear you have - However before I can get any reply I shall have sent you some 2 or 3 remittances - no mistake this time -

I have only room for salaaming to all - so give my affectionate love to brothers sisters nieces & aunt. About the box - could you not enquire about it of the book seller that sent it? My disappointmt about it is very bitter - God bless you my dear mother - Yr affectte son Henry

[addressed:

Via Bombay & Southampton [c.o. Overland] Indian Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington Warwicks
England

stamped:

DELHIE ? April 20

LEAMINGTON JU 19 1846]

Hansie June 3rd 1846.

My dearest Mother I am sorry to see that I have not written for nearly a month and a half - My last letter from Delhie was written on the 19th April - We left Delhie on the 3rd May, so I thought I should have the pleasure of telling you of my safe return home, on 19th; but the 5th or 7th was the last safe day - during which time we were on the march. I did not write by the Calcutta Mail as no time is saved by it, so this unusually long silence was unavoidable - I may as well tell you that there is little use in sending me letters by the Calcutta Mail as they are generally delivered into my hands along with those by the Bombay Mail of a fortnight or 3 weeks later date. Your last 2 letters - dated the 21st March & 2nd April reached me at the same moment - I don't know how it is that yours come by Calcutta at all, as in the Upper Provinces we get 2 mails via Bombay every month. The Calcutta one is of no use to us - as the letters going by sea round to Calcutta & after wards coming up here by land, are on the road quite half a month - The mail that goes in the middle of the month goes direct to & from Calcutta, leaving and taking up letters for Bombay & these Provinces at Aden, to which place Bombay Steamers are sent which ply only between Aden & Bombay. There's a long story about the Mails! but that comes of being Post Master I suppose. Though so long a time has elapsed since I wrote, my stock of news or gossip is as meagre as if I had written only yesterday - I told you in my last of my goings on at Delhie & of our prospect of speedy departure from the now hated place. I told you too of the departure of my friends the Hodgsons - By the by your quotation from Fanny's letter concerning my increase in stature & the "becoming moustache" made me - must I say it - curse my ill-stars, stupidity & cowardice! for if I am comely! and tall! in her eyes, might I not have been completely blessed? After all, I may pay Delhie a visit this cold weather - but I must not go on in this way, on paper I mean. I shall only remark further that I have returned a second time to Hansie - may I return a third time to make it more deserving of the precious name of home, which I have hitherto called it, rather profaning the name. I was indeed delighted to get back here - though we had a fearfully broiling march - I told you of some of the prospects of additional

1v

Pay but these, have not been realized. A Dr has been appointed to Hissar - my old neighbour here, Dr Nightingale, who recd me into his house on my first arrival at Hansie - But this is not a disappointment inasmuch as I looked upon the acquisition of Hissar only as one of the things that might be. Of course I have the Post Office & I am now completely free from the hateful incumbrance of debt here. Would that the cold weather could find me without any at home - We'll see - I have been obliged to make very extensive repairs on my house - which in India are generally necessary more or less every year. I am thatching & mending & carpeting just making myself & house comfortable - Another expense I am indulging in must not surprise you - I have no well in my compound & I have been put to a good deal of expense in digging a very deep drain 10ft deep & 200 yds long to bring water into the Compound so that I may make a garden without which the place looks most desolate & dismal. I am compelled to have this done before the Rains, as only during that season can I plant trees shrubs &c. for a cart load of which I am going to send to the Botanical Gardens near Dehra Dhoon. Do you espy any thing in these preparations for the comfort of a bachelor that appears strange or suspicious? because if you do don't breathe it to any body - Though you may think that the object uppermost in my mind ought to be the remittance of Rupees to England I know you will feel some satisfaction in seeing me employed in such little measures for present & future comfort after the terrible convulsion we have lately felt almost at our doors - This reminds me that your last letter just recd was written before you had heard of the battle of Sobraon though we recd accounts of the thanks of Parliament to the army for Sobraon nearly a month ago - no not a month but a fortnight ago - You must have heard of that battle 2 or 3 days after you wrote - You won't care much about the news of this country perhaps, but as domestic news is very scarce, from the contracted state of my domestic circle, I must now and then must give you public news -

All has been very quiet in the Punjab and there is no appearance of further disturbances in that country. That terrible host of Seiks seems to have been scattered to the winds and Rajah Lall Sing²²⁴ appears to feel such confidence in the reestablishment of his power & in the present peaceable aspect of the country as to desire the return of our army from Lahore to our own Provinces - But his life will be a short one it is feared if he insists on the removal of our army. The Seiks seem to have lost their deadly animosity towards us, inasmuch as when there was a great riot in Lahore no Seiks took any part in it - Besides in the attack of Kote Kangra they offered us no opposition - The people of the country have

2

even given us all the assistance in their power - But perhaps you have never heard of Kote Kangra, so some short explanation may be necessary. At the time the treaty was made it was not known or it was forgotten by us that there was one of the strongest Forts of the Punjab close on the right bank of the Beas - On its being known we insisted upon its being given up to us - The authorities of Lahore immediately consented to make it over to us, but they could not persuade the commdr of the fort to surrender it - It is considered by the natives to be impregnable, & Runjeet Sing considered it of such vital importance, that he commded the Governor of the Fort to open the gates to none but Runjeet himself. Whether the Govr. is expecting the arrival of Runjeet Sing, or not I don't know; but he won't surrender the fort - We have accordingly been obliged to send a siege train against it - I mention only the guns as they are expected to do all that is necessary; for with the guns we have sent only 3 Regiments! which plainly shows that we do not anticipate any interruption from the Seiks. The Garrison amounts to only 500 men, though they have ammunition & provisions for years. The place is accessible only on one side & that by a bridge connecting it with the town, which bridge they have broken down - When the order from the Ranee²²⁵ to surrender was sent, a Regmt of native infantry was sent to take possession of the Fort - When they found that they would not be admitted into the Fort they took possession of the Town, which they have held ever since. The Kalsas²²⁶ in the Fort found out that a certain bugle which sounded at sun-set, called the officers to dinner & they some how or other found out where they dined, & one fine eveng, some ¼ of an hour after hearing the said bugle they let off a gun, I suppose only as a compliment - but the consequence was, actually, the presence of a 24lb shot in the mess room!! not exactly in the room, for it passed through both walls, not a bad shot that - for a first attempt at least - just to try the range. It was against 250 guns manned by such fellows that the "delicate combinations" of our Genls brought our army 3 times to be nearly annihilated - How surprised - nay sickened we are to see praises unqualified praises bestowed on the Govr Genl - the Comdr in Chief & Sir H Smith - The Old Duke talks of the skill displayed by the last of the three in his march to Loodeana & his junction with the Troops there - Nothing so pitiable so disastrous ever occurred in India - The whole of the plans, the tactics

2v

the delicate combinations effected & displayed in the whole campaign consisted in nothing but making a long line with our troops & telling them to go at the enemy. That pathetic story of the duke's about Col. Irving refusing the command on the eve of a great fight, lest he should deprive another of his laurels is very good. Coll I. said that he could not approve of, authorize or be responsible for the arrangements made & therefore would not take command - The Corps of Rajpoots commanded by a father & his 3 sons have been the source of more jolly laughter than any other joke we have had in India during the present Century -

But I am tiring you & myself with matters of little interest now - I told you that I was glad to get back to Hansie & I may add that I am glad to remain here - We have established a book-club & we have a Mess, so that I have reading & company. We have a Billiard table but a very sorry one it is.

My old chum Ross has been staying with me 6 days & I have had 2 other guests since his departure - our neighbours at Hissar - We hear to-day that Kote Kangra has fallen - this is a matter of joy because any reverse or great delay might have caused a rise in the country - The possession of it too will strengthen our position

I have written a very stupid letter, but I have nothing to say about myself - The weather is delightful & the days pass in the most rapid and agreeable manner - I am going to pay another visit to my friends at Rotuck - & can't go at present as my drain is not $\frac{1}{4}$ finished - nor are the other businesses completed [blotted] the repairs of the house - [no salutation at the end]

[addressed:

Via Bombay & Southampton - Indian Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington, Warwick
England

stamped:

HANSI 4 June /46
??? 17 ??? 1846

1

Undated letter.

My dearest Mother according to your suggestion I send you a separate piece of paper on which to tell you that I recd the melancholy intelligence of Tom's dreadful misfortune²²⁷, several months ago - but of course I could never allude to it in my letters, and even now I have nothing to say but that I have heard of it & that whenever I think of it, I am afflicted with more sorrow & melancholy than I have known from any other cause. The unpromising aspect of dear Tom's affairs and his several short-lived schemes are the most unpleasant matters you have ever written about, to me - As you say, it is indeed sad to see him after so many year's steady advancement, now beginning again as it were, to seek a means of livelihood - and when I think of his great excellences in every way, my surprise almost equals my regret. I am very glad to find my good sisters visiting him and doing their all & that is much, to make him forget his sad misfortune - I can never help contrasting my untroubled career through life with those of my dear & infinitely more deserving brothers - but the contemplation creates no exultation, only a deep thankfulness for I do feel that "the wind is tempered to the shorn lamb". I do not like to hear that Frank is not getting on so fast as could be desired. Is it not strange that all of us should be so horribly in debt? all except Tom I shd say If we could get rid of that abominable burden all would go on swimmingly eno'. Bertram has written to me only once since he left England - does he suppose me dead? I got a nice little chit' from Bella - such as is now becoming a novelty! But I must not complain - I can make excuses for my not writing to my sisters, so I must make some for their not writing (frequently) to me - But while I am saying this I remember that I have had letters from all & each which I have in no way replied to. You must thank Sibella for her last letter & tell her that I have not forgotten her commission, though want of ready cash prevented my performing it at Delhie. The fact is that up to the very last pay-day the whole of my Pay has been due to others, but I think that the next one will find me above the

world, at least by sixpence. How glad you must have been to hear that I had escaped the threatened retrenchment - I expect that your next letter will be full of expedients for making it fall as lightly as possible, getting rid of half my servants, parting with my one solitary steed, living in a tent or some equally obvious & agreeable way (to you in England) of saving expense - But thank the fishes - or rather the Auditor Genl. I am not

1v

not under the necessity of doing such things in fact I am indulging in some extravagancies with a perfectly clear conscience - that drain & well for instance. I have a lot of pictures too which I mean to get framed & with which I mean to decorate my house - The [sic] is one picture wanting, which leaves the rest valueless - that picture represents you my dear mother - but it will never endear to me the mud walls of my abode - Every allusion you make in your letters, to that ill fated box, whose contents would have been a daily-renewed blessing to me - every mention of it renews my regret & tears - Bella in her last letter "I hope the box is not really lost - for there was nearly 10£ worth of things in it" Multiply that by 10£ and you come nearer the value that I put upon it. The next time you send me anything - & that will be shortly I hope, when I have some spare cash, I'll tell you to what Agent in London the package should be sent. People here send every fortnight for all sorts of things to England & without any fear of loss, unless by the destruction of the vessel in which they are despatched. Frank has another child - I hope it's a boy - I don't think I have ever sent a message not even kind regards to his other little darlings - That is passing strange, but it is because they are not correspondents of mine, I suppose! I suppose they know that they have a rum sort of little uncle in a place called India - When you write to them next pray inform them of my name & place of residence and give them any other interesting particulars, assuring them that whenever I write home I always send them my [torn]e the very best of loves & that go from this country to England. I have told you every thing about myself except my weight - I was weighed the other day & found to be 8 st. 6 lbs so you may see that I have neither become dried up to a chip yet - neither have Berty's "redundant obesity"! You don't know what splendid health I have enjoyed since about this time last year, when I bid a long adieu to my acquaintance - not old friend - the ague. My friend Stafford the Adjutant weighs 15 stone 7 lbs ! & he's not at all corpulent! His brother²²⁸, who has come out, & who was with us at Delhie is 6 ft 4 & $\frac{3}{4}$! We want to get him over here to do duty with the Hoorianahs, as they called us at Delhie - Well I have scribbled my fingers & your patience nearly till there is little of either left - Give my best love to all not forgetting about aunt Jim - God bless you my dearest mother - Yr affecte son

Henry

[No address so likely to have been put in an envelope]

1

Hansie July 7th 1846

My dearest mother I have positively not a word of news to give you this month. I recd your's of April 2 or 3 weeks ago in which there was nothing of particular importance excepting about my dear brother Tom. I think it was in a former letter that you gave the glad tidings of the birth of a son²²⁹ & heir to the title & estates of the family, in which none, excepting papa & mama (I am using Hindustani terms and not thinking of the English which I now remember are just the same) rejoice more than I do. I heartily wish I could see my beautiful & sweet little nephew and nieces - but I can't. What am I to talk to you about my dear mother? Oh! - the weather - of course. "the rain raineth every day" and maketh the weather very delightful & the surface of the earth (at Hansie) it maketh green. My well, which I mentioned in my last is finished & yesterday with great demonstrations of joy, we launched the water - When it (the water) reached the well, we with great

solemnity broke a bottle of wine against the side of it - but Stafford, to whom the charge of the bottle was entrusted, first

lv

drank the contents, which I thought rendered the scene less imposing than it ought to have been. I have been making other improvements so as to make the most of the ground that I have. I find that I am writing at the very moment that the Dak the Post is going off - I think it better to send this little unsatisfactory scrawl rather than send nothing at all - The only news is that the Hodgsons are going to Ferozepore where the General will command. A considerable promotion that - I shan't see Fanny in consequence of this arrangement. We have had a very tolerable sort of hot season & with our new society book club & billiard table we have passed these unpleasant months very agreeably - I have been out shooting twice already. You may understand that I am in delightful health and spirits. I have not yet sent you a remittance but I shall positively do so next month - The Dak Baboo is hallooing for my letter so I must conclude without delay. Give my very best love to all brothers & sisters - Bless you my dearest mother I am yr most affecte son Henry.

[no envelope]

1

Hansie August 14th [1846]

My Dearest Mother I have the great comfort of replying to your last letter (of the 19th June) the day after I recd it - I took it last night with my dinner, as Frank says - This happiness comes but once a year, so I feel it very sensitively. Your intelligence regarding Mrs. G. Patrick²³⁰ (!!!) gives me indescribable, unmitigated joy - I want to write a few - no I mean a great many lines - even pages to her, and am I really to call her dear Mrs. Patrick? She, the said Mrs. Patrick (my eyes! what a task!) wrote me a most delightful little chit (Anglice, letter) and I in reply sent her - Oh such a long one! I had no time to write to any one else - besides I expected that the Bombay Mail would have gone much sooner than it does & besides and moreover our correspondence was not of a nature to interest you, at all at all or I might have directed it to you. Ask Netta if I might not have have [sic] directed it to you! By the by, as most likely there was no Miss Henrietta Jones to be found when the aforesaid letter arrived at Brunswick Terrace, your neighbours opened it - but as it was superscribed "Private & confidential" I hope you gave it to Mrs Patrick to read though it was only a dissertation on the practicability, feasibility, advantage & necessity of cutting through the isthmus of Suez and the pleasures & benefits of Steam Navigation - and other matters altogether of Oriental interest - I mean of interest to us orientals - perhaps to only one Oriental. So Helen, I mean Agnes & Helen²³¹ were bride's maids - I do sincerely wish that I had been present. Did they look nice as bride's maids? I should so much have liked to have seen with my own eyes. Besides the example afforded in the whole affair would have been of infinite advantage to me I'm sure - A Phrenologist once told me that I had the organ of Imitativeness; and I am sure that had I been present I should have imitated all that was proper, good and pleasant of what I witnessed -

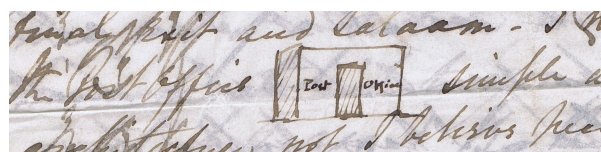
lv

Well, I have turned over a new leaf and of course ought to desist from such foolish thoughts as I have given expression to in the old leaf, but for the life of me I cannot help thinking how happy a thing it must be to be married, and of how uncommon jolly I should be if such could be my fate one day - Really it is a sad thing to live - in a worldly point of view - only for the purpose of paying off Stowey's debt - I have delayed that hitherto that I might have some object to live for!! What am I to

do when it is paid off? I could do it in a very very few months if I had any incitement to economy - but I haven't. I must tell you one thing that may amuse you but which causes me much melancholy - I told you before that I am making a sort of Indian paradise here - I have cleared away the jungle in my compound - I don't mean in my composition - I have brought a murmuring stream into it - have decked its banks with lillies, cowslips, [blot]ions I have blotted the last word, but it's meant for onions - with cabbages and the various vegetables ingredients for salad (very nice they will be in the winter - especially the Beet-root) But I am getting too flowing in my speech - for perhaps you will not understand that I am simply making a garden - I have pulled down a handsome dwelling called a Bawur chi Khana - i.e. a cook house or kitchen & have built a splendid one in a beautiful situation - These & numerous other improvements (you will say "follies and extravagancies") have given rise to a rumour, as unusual as the sun, that I am married! that my wife has arrived from England!! and is waiting for us in Calcutta!!! My goodness! don't I wish this was something more than false - most false rumour. Upon my word my stoutest denial of all this, tends only to strengthen the belief - in short makes it an actual fact in the eyes and the understandings of all the inhabitants of Hansie, white, black & brown. But I promised not to go on in this way - though I have not a syllable of intelligence to give of any other sort. If I had kept a Journal like your friend Mr. Bedford - what a jolly griff he must be - don't mention this to his mother - if I kept a journal, I say I should have nothing to tell you that I have not told you just

2

74 times over already. I have been 74 months in India you remember. I might certainly tell you the different hours at which I rise in the morning - as that affords the greatest & most enlivening variety in my life - Perhaps I have - I fear that I have omitted to tell you that I go to bed always at 9 o'clock - Since I commenced my improvements I have been a great deal out o' doors superintending the bricklayers & carpenters - directing the gardeners & pitching into the frogs in the well - then occasionally some native while passing stops to look at the 'works- - says "Salam - eh bohoot achcha ho" in Yankee - "pretty considerable fine I guess" and then whispers close & confidentially in my ear - "When does the mem sahib come"? meaning my wife - So they go on bothering me out of my life - I hope to finish all the buildi[torn] 2 or 3 weeks - the edifice which is being raised now is the Post Off[torn] & that being finished I hope to see the rogues of bricklayers &c make their final exit and salaam - I must give you a rough sketch of the design for the Post Office



simple and grand is it not? It is a style of Hindoo architecture, not I believe peculiar to any age a fortnight after the creation. Now I have talked so much about me & mine I may say a word about others. I mean to write to dear Tom tomorrow - but I am hard pressed for time as I must write to Netta. Ask Frank if when he was giving away young lad[torn] if he could not have found one for his poor solitary dismal brother at Hansee But you good people at home think that we care for nothing but rupees & curry I suppose. Indeed my dear mother I am getting very dismal - as this production of my pen, guided by my depressed spirits, must show. I wish master Berty would send me a letter, as I have said several times before, but in vain. Frank too has not written very lately but then it is too true I have not written to him, nor indeed to any one but yourself my dear mother - Aunt Jim is my oldest creditor but I don't know where to write to her - she gallops about the country at such a pace. I had a letter a short time ago from George Harriott - he says he has not resigned his Commn. but is going to exchange into some Corps in India & that he will get a good sum of money for the same. He would be under the necessity of starving I should think if he actually sold his Commion. -

I have not yet heard of Fanny H being engaged or married - Could she be keeping her self for me? I hope not for I am

2v

[sic] worthy of her - I am very glad to hear of poor Mrs F. Coleridge's²³² recovery By the by this is the only time you have omitted to mention poor Harriet Poole²³³. We have been quite gay here lately 3 or 4 visitors have we had! Though with or without visitors I jog along life's way as pleasantly as you can imagine - just as pleasantly as I used to between Fair mile and Ottery - But like Falstaff I am getting old - as you may judge when I tell you that Mrs Campbell said the other day "I declare Mr Jones has white (mind that white) white hairs in his whiskers." It was too true - but I pulled the knaves

out - there were 3 of them. Dont mention this to anyone who you may think has any tender regard for me. I shall be 31 years of age too shortly, about the time you get this - Talking about money I am glad you got the 2£ 10!!!! the 35£ was certainly something better - My buildings & some odds & ends have prevented my saving any rupees this past month - but in a month or two we may do so to some good time - though I was thinking that I would get a buggy as soon as possible, for it is certainly most necessary - and as I have said before it is any thing but necessary or even desirable to pay Stowey - After all Berty is the first to have money in the bank

Thank dear Bella for her 3 words - give her & Irene my affectionate love - also Frank Mrs Frank & their little cherubs - God bless you my dearest mother - Your affectionate son Henry -

[addressed:

Via Bombay & Southampton Indian Postage Pd.

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington
Warwickshire
England

stamped:

HANSI 15 Augt /46
LEAMINGTON OC 14 1846]

1

Hansie September 18th /46

My dearest Mother your last darling letter overwhelmed me with happiness & joy for 3 days After the receipt of it I did nothing but read it backwards & forwards, up the middle & down again, till the paper was nearly worn to pieces & then I put it carefully away. So our dear Netta is really married. You need not ask if I echo your blessing & wishes for their real & lasting happiness - I cannot say what satisfaction I received in the minute description of all the ceremony - the dresses - their first alarm - in short the whole business down to Irene's very impertinent behaviour towards George. How I should have enjoyed that scene - Hullo Irene! What are you about?" Though I did not see & have never seen a wedding, I really enjoyed Netta's almost as much as if I had been present - I wonder if I ever shall witness a wedding - I wish I may, provided it's my own. If I had been present

there is not a doubt but that I should have asked one of the bride's-maids to have become one of the principals - in a second act of such a play - I wonder if such an idea struck any of the party - But I must keep my sighs and my surmises to myself - though, after the said surmise I intended to have inserted a very melancholy Heigh ho! Your talking of love makings & weddings sets me distracted with melancholy reflections on my loneliness - my solitary, hopeless, misery - My friend Mrs Campbell the other day came to the dining room, where my dinner was being laid & seeing only one chair placed at it, she exclaimed "My goodness, how lonely!" An exclamation that chilled my very blood took away my appetite & sent me half crying, to bed -

1v

Well, some how or other I am thinking of taking some very decided steps towards lightening my solitude - Now that I have made my house quite comfortable - & am laying out the garden as fast as is possible, I cannot help thinking that I can't enjoy this alone - not alone - then there's the garden being spoilt for want of some sweet and tasteful friend to consult about the disposition of beds & walks, flowers & cabbages. Mrs C. was quite shocked to see that I had placed the flowers she gave me, in the same bed with the mustard & cress! I said that I had only myself to please, & that I was very indifferent even about that - In fact I am very miserable & were it not that the cold weather is rapidly approaching, I should hang myself or try very hard to get a wife. Till within the last few days we have had no rain & the season has been the worst I have known - but the rain has fallen & made the weather delightful, & with it has raised our spirits immensely - I trust that we have seen the last of the really hot weather this year - But how can you possibly be interested about the heat or cold affecting us? - You certainly cant be interested in my descriptions of it as by the time you read them, the season described has passed! Having disposed of my two favourite topics - the state of my heart & the weather, I go on to tell you that we have the prospect of an agreeable winter. We are going to have to have another Regmt of Cavalry here in the place of the present one - the Officers of which are the slowest, stupidest set I ever saw. Had it not been for the numerous visitors we have had, the past season would have been intolerable - The folks at Hissar have been staying here for a long time, my friend Captn Thomson living with me - Our Adjutt has his brother & a brother officer with him - "The White Rose" as Mrs Campbell's sister is called is coming here & there was another lassie coming, but thanks to the departure of the Irreglrs she will not now visit Hansie. If the Seikhs won't kick up a shindy I trust that we shall have a very jolly cold season.

2

I do not take in any English Newspaper so I never, till 2 days ago, saw any account of the terrible fire at St Johns²³⁴ - I saw it of course in a very old paper. I am truly thankful for dear Bertram's safety - How could you my dearest mother, undertake such a labor as copying out Berty's letter in addition too, to your own long delightful letter - but it was a labour of love, & that's how it is to be accounted for. Not the worst piece of news in your newsful letter, was the mention of your having acquired 300£ & of the purpose to which you intend to devote it. It will remove a heavy burden off dear Frank's shoulders. I wish I could hear of his getting on a little faster - Tell him he's "a slow coach", but a very comfortable one I should think - The only matter of sorrow that I can find to think of is poor dear Tom. You tell me that his address in Jamaica would be altered before long, so as I do not know it, I must enclose in your letter one for him. I am so glad that a proper enquiry is about to be made after my unfortunate box - Oh! may it yet come to light - What I long after is your picture, as it costs so much money I could not ask you to get another done, till we have ascertained the fate of the first one. I found myself just on the point of saying that I have not a word of news, when I took up your letter, first - to have the pleasure of reading it again & in the second place to see if I had omitted any matter of interest therein mentioned, when I have become confounded with shame at the contrast between your letter & mine - your's showing no variety of subject, no minuteness of description is too much for your love to undertake & my letter is 'done' just as if for

my next door neighbour - I do believe that in my wicked sloth if I had been married, I should have contented myself with so much "my dearest mother I was married the other day - I am very sorry for it" When I am making love (if it is not already made) perhaps I might go nearer to filling a small sheet of paper. At present in the absence of misfortune & calamities private or public I do not find much to talk about, & far be the time when I may be furnished with such topics - Now if there was a Mrs Juxon what a nice little gossip chit chat I might give you - but at present I can't -

2v

You well know the monotony of my life - our little circle of friends occupations & amusements are much the same from the beginning to end of the year, but though it does not furnish matter for narrative it is very pleasant. I don't think there is a person in India more contented & happy than I am - though it is more the absence of evil than the presence of good (or rather, I should say troubles for evil & pleasure for good) that makes me so perfectly contented - But I fancy that if I

had a most glorious independence at home - in England - I should not be a whit the happier, supposing that I was a bachelor & living alone - Our tea & coffee meetings (in my verandah) every morning are as pleasant as any party- seasoned with quoit-playing, shooting, gossip, mustard & cress & delicious bread & butter - You know how the rest of the day is passed, I should think - if you don't it is summed up in this - pass it how you can - I am much occupied in carpentering & gardening just at present -

I as usual am writing just 2 hours before the last despatch of letters & find that I have not time to write to dear Tom - you will give him my most affectionate love instead of a prosy letter. To Mrs Pattrick I must write - With best love to Sibella Irene & those not at home I am yr vry affectionate son

Henry

[addressed:

Via Bombay & Southampton -

Indian Post Paid

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington, Warwicks
England

stamped:

HANSI 18 Sept /46
H9 9 NO 9 1846
LEAMINGTON NO 10 1846]

1

Hansie September 30th. [1846]

My dearest Mother The cold weather, according to standing orders, begins tomorrow, and I am very happy in consequence. I only hope that we shall be left in undisturbed enjoyment of it, though I fear not. Already we see the preparations for war & an army is already prepared to march against Cashmere - the country south of the Suttledge will be again drained of Troops & we may have to

pay another visit to hated Delhie - I hope & earnestly desire that we may not, as I am ten times more attached to sweet little Hansie, than ever. Besides I have planned all sorts of excursions in every direction and if I can pass the winter in the way I wish to, I shall find myself ten years younger by the 1st of April - as brown as a berry and as strong as a small bear. At this moment I find myself getting corpulent - from too much sighing & grief; but the exercise, the fresh & bracing air of the cold weather will again render me as graceful as Apollo - in the waist only, I mean - Talking of excursions reminds me that I must tell you of further extravagances - As I told you, our friends of the Cavalry are going away & are selling off everything but their swords, pistols & horses - The temptation has been very great to get capital bargains! but I have successfully resisted it with the exception of the buggy & a splendid mare - & a few books - I could not withstand the opportunity of getting a good turn-out for so small a sum - 50£ only - However it has not put me a single half-penny in debt, & now that I can afford it, I take it with a clear conscience - The 50£ that is to pay for it would

1v

but for the Buggy, have been on its way now - no, tomorrow - to liquidate a portion of "my Little account" with Stowey - It is much better as it is - You will not hear of my getting a coup-de-soleil now - but, instead you will hear of my making some jolly trips to Hissar, Kotuck or out into the surrounding country, reaping health & spirits instead of a bill on Messrs Coutts & Co. 'at sight' - I am in such excellent spirits as to be almost too impatient for the dull detail necessary to fill my monthly columns. There are nevertheless one or two things, which when I think of them, make me any thing but happy in the contemplation of my own happiness or good spirits - I need not speak of the first - the second is the sad state of the Taunton rubbish - I can't call it property. When I recd your last letter, I had no time to negotiate a loan, indeed there was not time for me - between the recpt of your letter & despatch of the Mail - to get a reply from the Secty of the Agra Bank. However I sent for a Bill on Agra for 20£, (all the money that I had in hand) & without delaying a moment wrote off to the Secty of the Bank to forward you a Bill on Messrs Coutts & Co for 20£ by the mail which leaves tomorrow - I would have wished, with all my heart, that I could have got the Bill & have sent it to my poor dear Aunt with my own letter - But there was no time for that - so this you must do my dear mother - I will enclose in this a letter to Aunt - You must make the Bill payable to her or get it cashed - which would be best - & forward it with my letter to dear old Aunt - I hope dear soul that she will not reject my humble present - I could not help reproaching myself with something like selfishness, when I reflected that had I not purchased that Buggy I should have been able to send my poor Aunt assistance that would have been of some use - 50£ would have

2

afforded her some comforts during the winter months - & this miserable sum could scarcely furnish a comfortable dress. I have not paid more than half the 68£ so that I shall have to pay half of my months Pay - This I am sorry for as I cannot send a little more assistance to my dear aunt, so soon as I would wish - On the 21st - something like my birth-day my - 31st!!! - for the first time, since I have been in India, I received my Pay and could call every rupee of it my own - & such a satisfaction was it to me, as those can understand who have been long embarrassed. My Pay now - actual receipts I mean, are 443 Rs- 44£ „6,, which with a few months' quiet will enable me to shake off that abominable clog - the aforesaid "little account" with Mr Stowey - But I have already tired you with this long rigmarole about rupees - but I find myself irresistibly led into a regular Dr & Cr account whenever I [torn] the word rupees. My garden in which I take great delight & some pride, is beginning to look somewhat ship-shape - The jungle, ash-pits & mounds have all disappeared - The walks are all in good order & here & there are spots of green - chiefly vegetables I am not sorry to say. I have about 40 young trees & shrubs - chiefly presents from my fair neighbours - By the by I wish you would send me some seeds, that I may have something to tend, cherish & delight in that

would constantly remind me of you - I have often regretted the loss of my flower, as you called it, at Ottery - I wish I had suggested this before; however there is plenty of time, before the hot weather commences for me to get the seed & see it spring up - I should like several kinds lest some shd come to nothing - You can send a little packet, an ounce in weight or so, that would cost no more than a letter to Bombay - My verandah is already adorned with 40 flower pots - though I have only just sown the seed.

2v

I am as usual writing with your last dear letter before me, where I see you fancy that the mention of poor Aunt's difficulties to me, is anything but agreeable - That those difficulties exist is indeed painful to hear, but you could not mention the subject to any one that would - will more willingly do something to relieve them or that is more pained at the sad truth of it. It appears strange indeed that 7 years should have passed with out my clearing off my debt. Before I went to Scindh I never took any trouble to pay it off, feeling always that I could do it at any time; but that unfortunate expedition ruined me for years - The fair season is come again & woe betide me if I neglect it -

That confounded buggy is fretting me more than I ever expected when I first took my first drive in it - My debt is my own - for, as I have perhaps too often said, my property would cover it twice over - but when I hear of any heavy pressure of any of my poor(!) family I cannot but regret intensely that I have not been an economical saving person from the beginning to the end of my career in India - But I was never trained to it - economy - Everything is great or small by comparison, and compared to my fellow countrymen in the East I am a most prudent - nay squeezing & economical person - for out of the whole of my acquaintance in India I can scarcely call to mind two that are not in debt - & when once in, oh the difficulty of getting out.

I am much disappointed that you had not heard from dear Tom when you wrote last - I am very anxious to know how he is going on, & how he bears up against his great trials. It makes my heart ache to think of him - I don't feel that I can write to him till I hear some comforting news of him - My letters are all about my fortunate happy self, & happiness is not a theme for those overwhelmed with sorrow [torn] a delightful long letter from Bella which I hope to an[torn] affectte love to all
Your affectte son Henry

[written at top of first page upside down]

1st October I recd a note last Eveng from Agra saying that the Bill on Messrs Coutts had been despatched to you address Enclosed is my letter to Aunt - send it to her with my offering - God bless you

[addressed:

Via Bombay & Southampton

Indn Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington Warwick
England

stamped:

INDIA PAID
PAID 2 DE 2 1846
LEAMINGTON DEC 2 1846]

Hansie 17th October 46

My dearest Mother the time for writing comes round so fast that I feel as if I were almost in daily communication with you which pleasant feeling is created, I should say as much or more by the regular, frequent & delightful long letters I get from you. You ask me some questions about the Bi-monthly Mails - They require a further reply than this - I get your letters every fortnight with undeviating regularity, which is a comfort & joy to me such that you can scarcely conceive. What with the expectation of your letters, the frequent perusal of them & my tedious staves to you, the idea of our being separated by so many thousand miles is almost inconceivable, and the pain of being separated is almost taken away - What a nice little treasure your map of St Johns is - I have placed it between the upper and lower compartments of my writing-desk, when I see it & think of you 20 times a day - I think that is preferable to having it framed, which I thought of doing at first - Your last letter gives me great comfort regarding dear Tom²³⁵ - and the result has been a long letter to my dear brother, which I despatched yesterday to St Johns to Bertam's care, in case Tom should not be there - I take much delight in looking at your map, as the nearest, truest view I can have of the homes of my dear brothers. Talking of maps reminds me of a great enjoyment I have had in reading in the United Service Journal, an account of the celebrated smuggler of Beer - Rob Roy.²³⁶ The scene of his adventures extends from Seaton to Dartmouth & well do I know & love many of the spots mentioned in the story, without the assistance of the map, which I have nevertheless had placed before me - But all the delightful associations are connected with our delightful visit to Torquay, the very pleasantest time of my life, of which my recollections are more tender & more true than you can guess. But I must not expatiate! Then Beer, the head quarters of the old smuggler, I visited it on my last Christmas day in England, with young Patrick²³⁷ on our way to see the land-slip near Seaton (I forget, our excursion was made on the day after Xmas Day) & the very home of the smuggler was pointed out to me. You cannot imagine how I have revelled in all the recollections called up by that little story. I have lived over again the happy time I have passed with my fair companions, again enjoyed our excursions by land & water, & but for the recollection of our last parting, the whole has been nothing but a dream of delight. But I am growing sentimental & must stop before I speak more. Your speaking of my having no prospects of success with the fair(?) friend of mine in this Province of Delhie, induces me to tell you that I never wished for success - there at least, and moreover my numerous accounts of my experiences of the tender passion have been but mere fables - I should always keep such matters a profound secret, till at least my hand as well as heart was engaged. In the same passage in which you speak of F---y you say that you would never have allowed your daughters to go to India, if you had had the opportunity. Now dear mother, pray dont speak to any one else in this way, or you may unconsciously dissuade some fair being from coming to this country, who might otherwise have been the companion, the solace & blessing of some unfortunate man in India. But why should women not come to India, with either parents or husbands? This is as good as any other country under the sun - The Indians like England though they have hosts of relations & friends at home. The greatest evil in India is that the heat for half of the year prevents one from taking

1v

amusements out o' doors in the daytime - But women dont care about staying at home, at least the best of them do not. One can always obtain a comfortable degree of coolness in the house and does not the cold weather compensate for the so-called miseries of the hot? I should say amply - But I forget, I am not trying to induce you to come to India, as you might suppose from this long & earnest tirade. I was driving ahead at this pace, under the impression that I had some one's objections to overcome - but I have not alas! But we will go to other matters - I fear I get very

tiresome and I fancy that you will wish I was married that I might discontinue in this sort of strain. As I told you in my last I sent dear Aunt Jim (thro' the Secty of the Agra Bank) a note for 20£. I regret to say that there is some uncertainty about this letter reaching you by the next packet, for the Delhie Post Office annoucement says that the 16th is the last safe day, whereas the Meerutt one says that the 19th, & the latter of course is further from Bombay than Delhie - I did not see the Delhie advertisement till yesterday - All this is to show why I do not enclose No. 2o of the bill on Messrs. Coutts, but I trust No. 1 will arrive in safety. You mention the unhappy death of your old servant - Was it Mary? who was married & left you on that account. Do you remember that I once 'cupped' her for a pain in the side? She was a very nice creature. I have not a particle of news to give you. This hurry in the despatch of the English letter prevents my writing to Sibella, for which I am much grieved, as I owe her a letter in return for a nice long one - besides I have not written a line to her for I don't know how long. In the absence of domestic & Hansie news I must give you a bit of political, that is in India, warlike news. Our army is again at work. A large force is now at Cashmeer, though we have not yet recd accounts of their arrival there - The Cashmeerians have opposed Goolab Sing's taking of the country, which we made over to him. Goolab Sing's troops have been twice defeated by the Cashmeerians & we are obliged by that nice treaty to aid him & give that unhappy country to the most detestable tyrant that ever lived - We should have no fears for our success if we had only Cashmeer to oppose, but the consequence of the war may be & it is confidently asserted that it will be, a general rising of the Mussulmen of the Punjab the Khyber & of Affghanistan & even of Persia! There's a pretty kettle of fish! It is well known that the Persians have done all they can to persuade the Affghans to join them in an expedition against us. No one can guess the amount of mischief that might follow any discomfiture to our troops. We want a better man than Lord Hardinge at the head of affairs in India & we could not have a worse General than Lord Gough²³⁸ - I wish we had Napier. All the Troops are being marched up from Meerutt & places much below it to the frontier, as was the case last year - Things look all fair & smooth in Lahore & the country subject to it - The only thing is that the Seik Troops wont march to the assistance of Goolab Sing, in obedience to the orders of the Sirkar & that is the reason that our troops are obliged to go. In a week we shall know of the result of their proceedings & if they manage to quell the insurrection they will return & all I hope will be well. I dont think that there is any chance of our going again to Delhie - I hope not & trust to be left to the enjoyment of all & that is very much, that Hansie can afford in the way of out o' door amusements - you must remember that health depends upon such amusements - I shall try to go to Rotuck if there are signs of peace. My friend Ross is coming here in a short time - I

2

like his society very much, as he is the person that I am most intimate with, in India. The weather of course now is delightful & I go out on some excursion or other every day. When Stafford's brother was here (he left only 2 days ago) we had several drives in the morning & evening straight into the jungle after deer, but though we saw a great number we did not meet with success - this sort of drive is infinitely more agreeable than going up and down the course as at the large stations. My garden is going on admirably - All vegetables for the cold weather are up & thriving. My flowers too in the verandah are coming up - I have two articles that are not I fancy very common in India - a watering pot & a wheel-barrow! I only want Sibella's kettle-holder to enable me to feel myself at home - almost! That unhappy box I have heard nothing of. I have made no further enquiries, as understanding that it came with the Society's books & was sent to the Archdeacon I suppose it must have been stolen - It could scarcely have been mislaid - Its small size must have attracted the thief, for if it had looked like a box of crockery wine beer or sadlery it would not have been touched - T[torn] scoundrel that took it had little idea if the value it was to me & how [torn]less to him - I wanted very much to write to Netta, but I cant write a syllable as the Baboo as usual is crying out for my letter - I did not begin till late to-day & our post office closes at 1 p.m. very inconvenient for long letters - I have too much crowded the first page of my letter - spread it out a little & make it

cover, in imagination the bare ends over the leaf for they cannot be filled in any other way. Give my best love to all, & be particular in telling Netta I cannot find a moment to say "how do ye do" to her or I would assuredly have written - Give her & that idle fellow Frank my love, by no means omitting Marianne & their darling children. As you suggest I should dearly like to get a squeeze of the finger from each of them - This looks a shabby letter, but is really the usual length & I have not time to say a word more than that I am dearest mother your affectionate son Henry

2v

You enquire why you are made to pay 1/- for my letter - It is for the Steam postage or Red Sea postage - I do not pay it as if the postage is of a tempting amount the danger is that the letter would be torn up & the postage boned by some honest Baboo - They are not to be trusted

Such things as I have just mentioned are by no means uncommon

[addressed:

Via Bombay & Southampton

Indian Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington, Warwick
England

stamped:

HANSI 17 Octr

FA 14 DE 14 1846

LEAMINGTON DE 14 1846

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Ever my dearest mother your very affecte son Henry

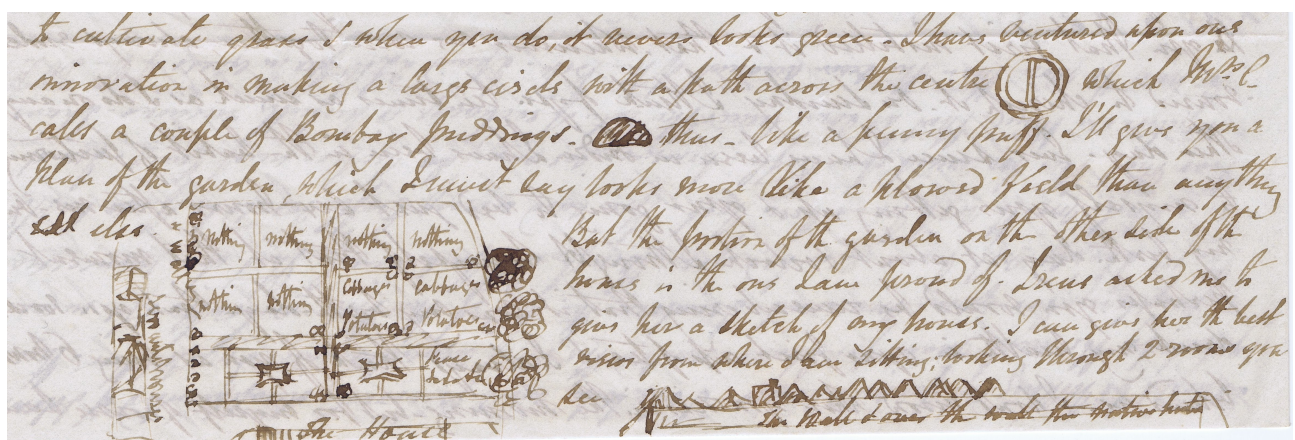
Hansie 2nd November 1846

My dearest Mother You see that I have caught the trick of writing to you twice a month, though I have not the inducement you have, in the variety of events that you witness & the number of dear friends you have to speak about As you say the constant - the unbroken intercourse is quite delightful & brings us so much nearer to each other - I could wish to hear from you every week. I was much disappointed to find that you had not heard from Tom since he left Jamaica. I long for your letters more than ever, if that is possible, in the hope of finding something comforting, that you have to tell me - But your next letter will I hope bring me some news of him. I rejoice in thinking of the delight that the society of dear Berty & of the good Bishop²³⁹ will be to him, & how much it will tend to divert his thoughts from his own misfortunes. I dont suppose that he ever had such congenial spirits to live with before. I earnestly hope to hear shortly of his being settled with some feeling of home about him, for it is cruelly painful to think of his being a wanderer at his time of life. Your sufferings on his account I can well understand & feel and I also participate in your strong & comforting trust in Heaven that all will be for his good eventually. You observe my dear mother in your last letter that you fear that your occasional admonitions and the mention of religious subjects may be unpalatable, because I do not in my letters allude to them - but believe me, dear

mother, that on the contrary they are the sweet & treasured little bits of your letters & remind me, also, of you more than anything else - you & religion are always associated together in my mind, for it was you that first instilled it & that, whenever we were together, always endeavoured to cherish it. On Sunday I think of you ten times as much as I do on any other day - Ever since I have been in India I have been in the habit of picturing to myself your getting up & your going to bed just six hours after me - On my birth-day at about 1 o' clock I thought to myself that at that moment perhaps you would be remembering that it was my birth-day - that you would drink my health for your first cup of tea! I always think of you as being 6 hours behind us. I don't know when you rise in the morning - but for myself of course I am

1v

always up at dawn - I have quite insensibly fallen into the Eastern custom of getting up early - It would be perfectly horrible for me if I should find the sun shining upon me when I woke - as bad as if you found yourself sleeping till 4 in the afternoon - Nothing has happened since I wrote to you last - literally nothing - The aspect of affairs in the N.W. is not by any means unpleasant - We understand that the Cashmeer chief has given in & that our troops will return to the Provinces - Every thing is perfectly quiet on the Lahore State. The Cavalry at this station who were ordered away are now to remain - which I am sorry for indeed, as in the Regmt ordered here in their stead, all the Officers are married and we have had enough of a bachelor life - enough of shooting, coursing and the like & would be much pleased & perhaps benefited by a faint glimpse of women & of civilized life. The weather of course is now most delicious - in the morning one's nose is quite blue & fingers quite dead with cold & I rejoice in an occasional bask in the sun like a cat in Piccadilly - We both shall have enough of cold at the time you get this. My matrimonial hopes & schemes are in the same state as when I wrote last - nothing new has turned up - no young lady has come for me to ---- talk about & none are coming I fancy. Fanny is not yet engaged - so I may talk about her; for if I do not write about love, sentiment, sensibilities, domestic economy, distraction, hopes fears & all the consistent appendages to or of the affection, how shall I get through this whole sheet? But I have written so much on the subject of late that I may for once let you off. What else can I talk to you about? Oh! the garden - I have at last made all the paths - I suppose you know that we lay out our gardens somewhat in the Dutch style. Every part must be accurately levelled for the purpose of irrigation - then the paths all straight & raised so as to escape being flooded - It is next to impossible to cultivate grass & when you do, it never looks green - I have ventured upon one innovation in making a large circle with a path across the centre



which Mrs C. calls a couple of Bombay puddings - thus - like a penny puff. I'll give you a plan of the garden which I must say looks more like a plowed field than anything else But the portion of the garden on the other side of the house is the one I am proud of. Irene asked me to give her a

sketch of my house. I can give her the best views from where I am sitting; looking through 2 rooms you see The Well & over the wall the native huts

2

I cant draw very well you see. I wish I could as there are very many spots of which delightful sketches might be made - There is no one here that can sketch or I would most gladly get some one to put my house in a picture & send it to you. But we are so enveloped with trees that it would be difficult to see more than a corner of it at any distance - except from the bazaar which I have sketched over the wall & from thence the house would be like a sentry-box on the parade ground. Perhaps I did not tell you that I cut down 7 or 8 large trees to clear that side of the ground for a garden. The felling of one magnificent tree I much regret, as the garden looks too bare at present, & this old fellow used to throw his shadow nearly into the middle of the house. I am going to have a cart-load of trees from the Botanical gardens in Seharunpore²⁴⁰. When these are planted & my hedge hides the bare walls we shall look a little more comfortable, speaking horticulturally! It will look like a little paradise by the time I find a Mrs Juxon to enjoy it with me - but Ah! when will that be? I used to vow to be for ever a bachelor, because of my blighted love, but now I am 'sighing like furnace' to become a Benedict or - dick. Its h[torn] live alone - without an object in life - I have not even a person to hate & quarrel with You will say "but Henry, you must save some money before you can marry with comfort" So I would if I were sure of the comfort, i.e. of the wife - So you think I am afraid of becoming the rich member of the family - but I am not I assure you; for I think that having eighteen pence in your Banker's hands would make me the richest of the family - If I dont get married or engaged shortly I shall, D.V.²⁴¹ certainly take my Furlough & for that I must save money, or not take my furlough. You remark upon the facility with which I get into debt, but I think that you would find it equally easy - Where you have many things to provide you would not have much to spare out of 450 Rs a month. At Delhie you know I had not a halfpenny - Since I left Delhie my one horse has got, I fear, incurably lame - Well I was obliged to buy another - my buggy & mare I might have done without perhaps - but still it is a great convenience - I could not have lived here with my compound a perfect jungle, so I was obliged to lay out a lot of money in making a well & an awfully long drain to supply it with water - to knock down houses & build others - and then I had to build a Post Office as I could

2v

not possibly have my house made a perfect Babel by having the Office in it. I think the Buggy will be the last extravagance for a long long time - for I cannot think of any other - can you suggest one? I wanted to write - this is my eternal story - to all & each of my sisters dear, but I can't find time or matter - besides I have got a most thumping head-ache - I suppose from going out in the sun with a common beaver hat. Thank Irene for her darling letter & tell Netta that I am anxiously waiting for a letter from her before I write to her again - I hope to get it this month - for I wrote to her 10 days after their marriage and I think it is time that

I should be looking out for an answer. I shall be most grievously disappointed if I dont get it by the next mail for I have counted the very minutes since I wrote to her - theres a mystery for you mama! I enclose the 2nd of the Bill on Coutts & Co - in case the 1st should not have reached you - though I hope sincerely that it is unnecessary as a whole month will have been lost. You said a very trifle would be of use but I fear that this too much of a trifle- however we may do better next time - I must mention one thing that at some times the rate of exchange is perfectly ruinous - I have to pay 1/8 more than the amount of the Bill. I paid £2/10 in excess of the 20£.

My Bills in Scindh cost me 225£ so in future I shall await a favorable opportunity for remitting money home - for often the exchange is 1/11 ³/₄ in the Rupee instead of 9 pence as it is now I have

only room to desire my love to all & offer my "Merry Xmas & happy new year" to all. What a shame it is that I have not written to broth[torn]gs - particularly as I written to him so nearly his b[torn] half that is

[upside down at top of first page]

Ever my dearest mother your very affecte son Henry

[addressed:

Via Southampton

Paid Overland & Steamer Postage

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington, Warwicks
England

stamped:

INDIA PAID

PAID 4 JA 4 1847

LEAMINGTON JA 5 1847

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Hansie November 17th [1846]

My dearest Mother I have positively not a syllable to say to you this time of course excepting a "how do ye do? & God bless you". This constant drain upon my epistolary stores is too much for my poor energies - one letter follows so fast upon another that I have no changes in the weather even to speak of - The only thing that has experienced any change is my hair which of course has grown since I wrote last - the potatoes, cabbages & pease also have grown - all other things are unchanged, even - which is scarcely to be believed - the state of my affections. I am just as happy & in as good health as I was a fortnight ago, and am equally destitute of Rupees. I have experienced a new sensation of late - or rather an old one has lately been revived - it is an ardent longing to go home. For why, I have a friend staying with me who is on his way to England - barring an occasional allusion to Ireland - They say that our Furlough Memorial²⁴² has been 'busked' by that fellow Hobhouse; if it had not I think there is no doubt but I should have made up my mind to pay you a visit in the year 1847 - for one part of the petitioners' prayer was that we might take our Furlough after 7 years' service, instead of 10. Now I should wish to see you all before 10 years have worked their formidable changes upon us all, but most upon me - I put my looking-glass in a new & strong light a few days ago & found to my horror that I was looking very mealy & of a reddish brown color, with a streak of yellow here & there. I thought that if this was not soon altered my matrimonial hopes and speculations - I am much busied with the latter - would be dashed - that I should be obliged to confine my ambition to one of the black, brown or gray lovelinesses that dwell in these lands & who dont care two straws about a complexion - caring much, though, about a silver tea-pot

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Buggy & Fund - But I dont like such sordid, unfeeling, reprobate & spiritless creatures - I dont know if any one would like to marry a man 5 feet nothing as my height is commonly described, but

I should just like to see – from sheer curiosity – But as the furlough memorial is knocked on the head I cant gratify even that little weakness – However I trust the time will come when I may take my passage for dear England with no other happiness in view than that of being reunited with you all – to see Frank's little darlings – to see Mrs Patrick junr in her new sphere, & all other novelties & improvements that may have taken place – Though I must say I should prefer showing improvmnts & novelties as well as being shown them – Do you know that I think I should be very much happier if I were married to a nice good natured & sensible creature who would take it into her dear little heart to like me – who would, like F., fully believe that I had grown (of late) & that my moustache was very becoming; & discover or fancy any kind of qualifications that attract & bind ladies' love – There I go again – I never did see such a fellow for talking in this milk-sop style - & without end or even variety – Verily I am much ashamed of myself. I wonder if Berty talks of matrimony & ladies at all. He told me once that there was a fair maiden in Newfoundland – I have heard nothing further of her, so I suppose that Berty mentioned the interesting fact – merely as a fact, or she may have been one of the hard things that facts are known to be. Should the matter not appear to you to be satisfactorily accounted for by either of these suppositions, will you favor me with your own views in you next. When Frank was a bachelor I know he used to go on in a spooney kind of way, but now of course he would regard my outpourings as those of one extraordinarily embued with folly – natural idiocy – I think he's wrong nevertheless. Now for political intelligence – I am thankful that I am able to say the army has returned from Cashmeer without having had any fighting – the rebel having surrendered - & at Lahore all is quiet & the relief of the troops will now quietly take place – I mean their moving to their destined Stations – They say that our Regular troops are not to be kept at Lahore, but that a Contingent is to be formed, such as we have established at Gwalior & other places – Seikks are to be enlisted & much happiness I hope is in store for the officers destined to command them. We have already formed

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two Seik Corps, which of course will form part of the Contingent. They hold our Native troops in great contempt, & as I hear don't care about sneering at their drill-instructors. They hold the Europeans in very wholesome respect, but whether in sufficient respect to prevent them from attempting to cut their throats some future day, remains to be seen – I have heard many say, while with an involuntary shudder, they put their hands to their throats, “I should not wish to belong to the Seikh Contingent”!! Our friends of the Cavalry here are expected to form a part of the Contignt and if they leave us & we make a good exchange to a nicer set of fellows the more happiness to us of the Light Inftry. I have again been overtaken by the announcemt of the last safe day. We get the intelligence by the newspapers & the first announcemt came last night. I have been prevented by visitors from going on with my note as I fear it will prove & now I am writing under a cross-fire from two who are sitting at the table with me. I am not aware of any news to communicat[torn] - cept & that is not news that I am delighted to hear that Frank has got an increase in the scholars – I mean that my delight is not news – I hope that this Eastern connection will prove of some importance to dear Frank, as I know that people here are often at a loss to know where they can send their children to be properly cared for & a word from a friend would ensure a compliance with a recommendation – I saw Captn Minchin²⁴³ here last year & sat next to him at dinner at the Lieutt Governor's., whose private Secretary he is – He would be an influential advocate in any matter, travelling always about the country in such company & seeing every body & knowing every body, particularly in the Civil Service – I feel great hopes of his serving Frank with his recommendation. Your account of Tom gives me inexpressible pleasure – in knowing that he can so easily find a home & employment – I can easily imagine the misery of his first night in Jamaica – I wish much to know which he will choose N.F.Ld or Jamaica – Your letter will in a few days tell me – by the same Mail I hope

2v

& have long long waited for a letter from Netta – When I get it I'll reply To dear Bella I must send nothing but love & apologies – When shall I learn to write my letters before hand? But I always feel that I am not giving you the “latest intelligence” if I prepare my letters or rather I wait in the hopes of having something to say, but you see I generally wait in vain. But no news is good news in India at least for you will generally find a person say that there's nothing

in the papers when wars & insurrections are not to be found in its columns At present, thank heaven, all looks like peace – Are you to change your house? I hope you wont miss any of my letters through it – So I fancy Aunt Jim is with you – Give her my dearest love – dear old soul – So you wrote your last letter on my birthday – I was thinking of you the whole day - By the bye the difference in our time is only 5 hours not 8 & I think of you & your doings according. My best love to all Your very affectionate son Henry

[addressed:

Indian & Steamer Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington, Warwicks
England

Via Southampton

stamped:

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Hansie 3rd December /46

My dearest Mother I have been most sadly disappointed in having no letter from you by the last mail. This, as I hope single & short interruption of our intercourse has made me very uneasy - it has occasioned a sort of void - a hankering, longing after I know not what, which has not left me, sleeping or waking, since the arrival if the last batch of News papers, when my last hope of getting letters vanished - I cannot determine upon what can occasion my uneasiness - I know you never have the excuse of having nothing to say - besides you ought to have had much to say about dear Tom, from whom you had not heard when you last wrote to me. One reason for my disappointment being so heavy is, that I fully expected a letter from Netta - Before she was married she asked me what she termed a "very impudent question", which I answered with equal impudence, and I have been long expecting her "retort confidential" - but I begin to fear that my letter never reached her - my first I mean, for I sent her two little notes subsequently, enclosed in yours, which being somewhat rambling commentaries on the text of my first, will be unintelligible without the first. However it is useless indulging in speculations on the causes of your silence - I must wait another fortnight patiently or impatiently as I can best manage, though I can scarcely get rid of a sort of sadness or feeling of disappointmt till I get your next letter - I hope to have it before Christmas & that it will have the effect of increasing the goodness of my health & spirits & happiness. By the by I am already engaged to pass Christmas day at Hissar, where I hope to spend a very delightful week - Since I wrote to you last I have been there

for 3 days. We went there for the purpose of shooting Bustard & Florican as well as for change of scene, air & of occupation. Our party consisted of 4 & a pleasant time was passed there. I did not meet with success in getting a bustard or florican, but I met with success in another matter i.e. in overcoming my repugnance - or must I confess it, my slight 'funk' of going out shooting on a Camel. When I mounted I held on with both hands but before I had gone a mile I could have danced the Polka on the saddle, if I had known it - i.e. the Polka - My friend Thomson returned to Hissar yesterday, so I trust shortly to have the pleasure of another trip - besides the week I am already engaged for, about Xmas day. We have been gayer than Hansie has ever been before - 3 or 4 Regmts have been passing through - in each of them I found old friends & ship-mates - they each halted 2 days & we got up some cricket & racing - besides exhibitions of the Irregular Cavalry in fighting & firing at bottles, charging tent pegs &c&c. On Saturday last we had the best fun of all - A party of 8, with elephants, Camels, Cavalry &c, went out pig sticking & breakfasted & tiffed at a beautiful place called Dhanah 3 miles from this - where there is the the most beautiful Bungalow in India - surrounded by a regular fortification - There is a magnificent Tank there, in which we enjoyed such a bathe - in the middle of the day too & we enjoyed a scamper about & somersaults & headers into the water as much or more than ever I did in my life. In short we have been as happy and jolly as poor mortals can be. There arrived here this morning - What do you think? a Spin!!! the sister of an Officer's wife - of the Irregulars. Now there will be some amusement for the stay-at-homes - the slow coaches. I must tell you that there are 10 officers at Hansie. I reckon myself one of the fast coaches of course! in proof of which I can adduce my splendid performances in hog hunting; on Saturday I took the most beautiful somersault into an enormous thorn bush, off the back of my horse when going full tilt. Well, being as I said one of the 'fast coaches' or gad-about, I shall not be able to devote much time to the spin: at least not sufficient to fall in love. In fact we, i.e. the bachelors have decided that the young lady shall wed the Dr of the Irregular - our constant talk about it seems to have put him in love with her - for he seems much given to melancholy & mopes more than ever about his garden, occasionally stopping suddenly, attitudinizing & apparently exclaiming (inwardly) "I'll do it." Every person that I know or

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that knows me, says that I am going to be married - For what reason I can't divine - I don't know that I have been deporting myself like my neighbour - the aforesaid Dr. Perhaps the most un-bachelor like order & adornments of my house give rise to the suspicion - perhaps the mere fact of my making a garden has occasioned the rumour - for rumour it has become. Three or 4 of my friends who lately came through this, exclaimed "Hallo! Juxon! how is it that you are not yet married? I heard long ago that you were engaged." My general reply was "I wish I was." and I spoke the simple, honest truth. But how to manage it I don't know, and perhaps dear Mother you do not either - But you cannot take interest in this subject. I have not a syllable of news, properly so called - I am happy in being able still to say still that the "note of desperation" is no longer sounded in this quarter. Every thing is quiet in the Punjab - It is now decided that a cantonment is to be built, on the enormous plain just outside Lahore, for a large body of British Troops - of course with every necessary defence - This is in the opinion of all, much better than forming a Contingent as at Gwalior; the force being composed of our Troops with 2 Regmts of Europeans, there will be less fear of any outbreak, than with Troops under the flag of the Lahore Govt. & those permanently fixed at Lahore Every thing indeed in that Country has turned out unexpectedly well. The giving in of the Cashmereans & the Moulta Nazim without any fighting was for us extraordinary good luck. What a blessing one season of peace will be - Heaven grant that we may have it. Then my letters will be nothing but a hasty "how do you do" - good bye" instead of tales of murder & bloodshed that I have to recite every winter. But one certain consequence of this expected peace will be - idleness or we'll call it leisure & the consequence of that again will be that I shall be sighing like a

furnace, to my great satisfaction doubtless, but also with equal certainty, to your great disgust. All things have an end, so when I am 40 years old you may expect a suspension of the weakness - but not till - A friend who was staying with me a few days ago, & who is on his way to England, is fully bent on getting a wife - I asked him to get one for me & he kindly promised to do so. Do you know any thing about G. Harriots movements? I should much wish to know whether he has made any arrangements for paying the Agra Bank the amt. of his Loan

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I must cut short my letter as much for lack of matter as of time - I have nothing new to speak of in these 'piping times of peace'. I always end my letters with apologies to my dear correspondents - my sisters - and this has become so confirmed a habit that I really do not know when I can discontinue it & render it unnecessary by writing a letter to them - But --- we'll leave out the explanations - for they are easily found in the

subject matter of this letter - Nevertheless I do feel much ashamed, but only at the time when repentance is too late - i.e. just as the Post is going off. If I get comforting letters from you next I shall write to every one (I think) in the most delightful spirits - at present I am somewhat down in the mouth - My best - my Christmas love to all & each - not omitting those over the water - and a "God bless you" to all - your affectionate son Henry

[addressed:

Indian & Steamer Postage Pd.

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington, Warwicks
England

Via Southampton

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Hansie 3rd January 1847

My dearest mother A happy new year to you and all my dear family - this I devoutly wished you on the first, of course, on which day I drank all your healths - in beer and also on (next day in champagne - & was much disappointed in not getting my usual letter, for the month that I have been without one appeared a whole year. I never said that it was useless your writing twice a month - I spoke only of myself - I recd. yours of the 1st November about a week ago. I was at Hissar on the last writing day, and in the midst of constant occupation quite forgot it - so that, to my sorrow, I have felt the interruptn of our inter course much - particularly at this season, when it ought to have been more long (ie in our letters) & frequent than at other times. I have been enjoying myself more than ever I did before in India. I was invited with Mrs & Capt. Campbell to pass a week at Hissar, a little before Xmas day. We went out shooting each day from morning to night on Elephants - this was my first performance on an Elephant - Now I am quite an experienced Indian Sportsman & am

quite privileged to tell any lies about 'Sport' that I can fabricate. We had 3 Elephants, besides the usual accompaniments of cavalry, camels, footmen &c. We beat through jungle that nothing but an Elephant could possibly get through, & of course not being an Elephant, the insight into such jungles was a novelty to me – I was not very successful in getting a good 'bag', for some practice is required before one can shoot well, when rolling about as if one was at sea in a gale. My companions shot a number of beasts of all kinds. On the 4th day of our excursions, just as a most beautiful neel gai²⁴⁴ (or as I have seen it spelt in children's books – nyl ghau) had been shot, the principal native sportsman exclaimed in triumph - “Wa! Wa! Captn. Sahib you are a magnificent shot! But look at the Doctor Sahib! In four days' shooting he has bagged only one little frog!!!” This was an unpleasant truth.

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However delightful & exciting the pig sticking²⁴⁵ expeditions are, we now & then had some much more exciting fun – for sometimes the firing, row & confusion resembled a fight – But the pursuit of a Leopard, which occupied us 2 hours nearly deprived me of speech and breath – Those animals have only lately made their appearance in those jungles & much is the excitement, alarm & talk that they occasion at Hissar. I was most anxious to witness & to take part in an engagement with the Leopard, but he dodged us so cunningly that he escaped. Though I have often joined the hog-hunting parties I have never been at the death of a good large boar. But when I was out at Hissar I had several opportunities of seeing them brought to bay, & much amiableness of disposition they displayed – their courage quite surprised me – An enormous boar had been shot in the hind leg, & had run some distance, when he was obliged to bring to. He squatted down in the middle of an open plain & awaited our arrival – calmly I was going to say; but he looked any thing but calm for his eyes were flaming & he was setting his tusks with the greatest diligence. The horsemen reached him first, but he made them skip like rats in no time – my elephant then came up to him. He bore down upon me & charged the Elephant home – how she escaped I don't know – my gun had missed fire most unluckily, & the elephant's escape was a most narrow one – she ran away as hard as she could, nearly threw the Howdah over board, and shook me like a dice in a dice-box – To make a long story short, we had this sort of fun for a week – I returned to Hansie for 2 days & then got another invitation to pass a few days at the Nightingale's to include Xmas day – We had the elephants out every day again – To finish the long account of my Xmas holidays I have merely to add that on new-year's day we had a large dinner party, at which every one here & at Hissar was present. We had great fun – excellent fun. I told you that there was a Spinster here – A dead set has been made at the Dr of the Irregulars, and he, poor fellow, is I am afraid done for. I speak thus sorrowfully on the subject, because the lady is the worst specimen I have seen imported into this unfortunate country, & I fear the gentleman will be snapped up before he has time to reflect upon the matter. However their goings on afford us much pleasure – there is some pleasing influence that affects every body where 'spins' & love making are going on – I hope you all

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have had as pleasant a Xmas as I have – How often have I thought of Tom & Berty in their miserable country, upon which every kind of misfortune seems to be unceasingly falling – I should much like to have a letter from Berty, but the sinner won't write. Perhaps my letter to Tom will remind him Berty of his duty to me, and I may get a line from each of them. I behave so unkindly to my fair correspondents at home, that I don't deserve letters from them – You ask me to give you a sketch of my garden – I am afraid that I can't give you a better idea of it than I did in a former letter. Though I can't sketch it again I must tell you that it is now nearly all under cultivation – I have pease, potatoes, cauliflowers & other vegetables in abundance The flower garden is in its infancy still – I have as I told you before, a beautiful circle, which is filled with Lucerne grass looking beautifully green and on both sides of the path I have a great variety of flowers - I had the curiosity

to count them yesterday – there are 60 – too many to tell their names – On the three sides of the house, where one can look into the garden, I have the same lucerne grass, which flourishes beautifully all [torn] years. I have some beautiful walks – not beautiful to the eye, but to the feet. You know that they must all be straight, raised & beaten down so as to look very much like a pavement. I have made mine very nice for walking – the principal ones are 12ft broad & vary from 100 yds downwards – On these I take a constitutional ramble morning & evening, with a cheroot in my mouth, and you in my thoughts – I have sent to the Botanical Gardens for 200 trees & shrubs – so that by the end of next rains, my garden will look like a garden – Tell dear Fanny, with my warmest love, that the garden is going on well – The house too is now finished - “What extravagance have you been guilty of now, Henry?” you will say. I answer boldly I have bought 10 beautiful pictures – but really dear mother I have now done with all such vanities – The pictures are those beautiful ones of Martin²⁴⁶ & others. I have six of them not handsomely frames – but neatly, with oak. I have the Deluge, Destruction of Babylon, the Crucifixion, the Going out of Egypt, Belshassar's Feast, the Crossing of the Red Sea - & I have 4 engraving from Paintings of Rubens & Cuyp. All these were offered for 240 Rs the other day and as I had the money, I could

2v

I could not resist the temptation – they are so nice to look at and [illegible] – But as I said before, there's the end of my extravagance & the beginning of my Saving and I shall keep my word because I start fair with the new year – besides I dont know any thing else that I want (?) You talk of saving money and I think I have a new & powerful inducement to do so. We hear now that our memorial about the Furlo' regulations is granted and if so, I trust, God willing, to pay England a visit, before the 10 years have elapsed – I wish very much to do this, to renew my acquaintance with my family which I have so many years of absence

will nearly reduce to nothing. You have quite cheered me by suggesting your getting another picture of yourself for me. I wish you would – I'll pay for it, if the cost were 10 times greater than it is – I can do nothing for the one lost. You speak of wishing that I may be more cheerful – I am as cheerful and happy as the days are long – I indulge in a little variety in my accounts of myself of course. If I am ever down-in-the-mouth (!) its only for a few moments – I am slightly Mercurial in my constitution and am therefore subject to risings and fallings – but they are exceedingly slight – they don't portend squalls or any great changes in the weather. Tell my dear sister Netta that I recd her letter but cannot find time

to write to her now – I am so pleased at your accts of her happiness – also of Frank's advancemt – I hope you have got out of the Drs' hands – To Sibella & Irene you must give my best love – In my former letters I anticipated the season & gave you its compliments – God bless you my dear
Your affectionate son Henry -

[addressed:

Via Southampton Indian Steamer P. Paid

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington Warwicks
England

stamped:

PAID 6 MR 6 1847
LEAMINGTON MR 7 1847]

Hansie 18th January /47

My dearest Mother – How is it that you only write once a month now? I hope you will shortly return to your former good practice of writing twice, for I cannot bear with resignation the long intervals between your letters. I cant bear opening the English Mails & finding no letter for myself – Besides I have for many months given you two letters a month, though it is true my letters are all pretty much to the same tune – having little besides myself & my garden to talk about – I am still by God's blessing in splendid health & have continued to enjoy myself mightily during all this delightful weather – I have made more trips to Hissar just for the pleasure of the drive, the shooting on the road & the delight of being out of doors – that Buggy whose purchase I once deemed a piece of extravagance, has been the most useful & delightful possession to me. I have told you month after month & year after year that I was about to commence saving – I am doing it now in earnest – that is I have no single debt to pay off this month – besides our Furlo' memorial is to be granted without a doubt and I shall avail myself of it as soon as possible - There is one thing that is prayed for in the Memorl which I trust will be granted – viz by one year's absence we are not to lose our appointmts. Sorry I should be to leave Hansie & the certainty of losing my present post would deter me from thinking of going home – Though I owe such a large sum to Stowey, I could by the sale of my property realize the whole amt so that my savings will all go towards furnishing me for my journey & enabling me to indulge ad libitum in cheroots & beer at home - & to treat you to some now & then! This will be my happy dream for the whole year, I mean my going home & saving money my happy occupation – I am already enjoying the satisfaction & the feeling of independence of being out

out of debt – in India at least. What I shall do with my next month's Pay I don't know – I cant conveniently or with safety keep the enormous sum of 2 or 300 Rs in my house – In future I shall keep my Pay Drafts as Bank Bills & not get them cashed till I have a whole file of them. Talking of saving I ought to have heard of the arrival of the 20 £ I sent you for dear Aunt Jim – The Mail of the 7th December has arrived but I have not yet got my letter – I must have one I suppose as the last mail brought me none. I want to hear more of Tom, of whose arrival in N.F.L you had not heard when you wrote last – I wanted to have copied a piece of Violin music for him, which I know he would admire immensely, but I am again writing an hour only before the letters are desptached [sic] – Yesterday was Sunday – when you will be very happy to hear, we had service in the Commdg Officer's house. The Clergyman from Delhie was here the Sunday before, and I told him that we lived like very heathens, having no Services; upon which he begged Major Campbell to have it in his quarters every Sunday – This he has promised to do & yesterday we commenced - Our congregation mustered 22 Europeans! and I officiated as padre as we say in India. So now dear mother you picture to yourself your four sons performing Divine Service every Sunday in three different & distinct parts of the globe. Our congregation will be much larger as many were absent last Sunday. We have only one book of Sermons amongst us & that is Blairs²⁴⁷. Next Sunday I am to read one to them – You can scarcely believe that amongst so large a community, we should never before have had Service on Sundays' it is true many of us deplored the omission of it, and the satisfaction at its commencement is universal. You will fancy that I was was rather nervous at the beginning – but I soon got over it. This is a long story – but I know it will give you more pleasure than any thing I have ever had to tell you. I felt yesterday as if one

of our Sundays at Ottery had come again. I have been interrupted for half an hour with various businesses, & so I must get through my letter at a rail-road pace. I have nothing in the shape of news to give you, but I don't like to see a bare sheet, & so I must scribble something or other – I have indulged so much of late in matrimonial speculations & the state of my heart &c that that subject is worn out & must be allowed to lie fallow for a time – I wish the Spin here was a nice girl, for the coast is quite clear – the original love having, apparently at least dropped all courtship. I wish Fanny was here – She & the Genl. have removed from Delhie to Bareilly, a most delightful place – I must bide my time, come when & how it will – I should be very glad to hear something about G Harriotts schemes, for I am in daily terror of another letter from the Secty of the Agra Bank asking for the money lent to George. Pray tell me any thing you can tell me any thing you can learn – He wrote to me to say [torn] he intended to exchange into a Regmt in India & that the exchange money – some 700£ was lodged – I hope it is & that he will use it in paying off his debt. But he is a sad fellow in money matters – I mean that his difficulties are his master & Heaven only knows to what necessities he may be driven & in what way he may be compelled to use his money. How I could have been so foolish as to become his security I don't know for I had often refused to become security for others – The Secty knows that I am a man of money (!) or he would not have granted me a Bill for 20£ before I had paid a sixpence of it & without any security – When I remit money to him for England I must first learn the state of G's affairs or my savings may be boned by him the Secty – Give my affectte love to all & believe me your very affectionate son Henry -

2v

[addressed:

Via Southampton Indian & Steamer Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington
Warwick
England

stamps unclear

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Hansie February 4th /47

My dearest mother I am doing worse than usual now, in writing, not at the last moment but after it! Yesterday, the last safe day I was prevented from writing, by the presence of a friend, who also by his unceasing trotting up and down the room made me quite giddy Though I am one day after the fair, I must write as I have business of importance to mention, and there is some chance of my letter being at Bombay in time. The business is about G. Harriotts Loan. I must write him a line & enclose it in this. I suppose you will easily find out his address & forward it to him – I got another letter from the Secretary, saying that the loan should be completely repaid by the beginning of March, and that as yet not a farthing has been paid – The sum due to the Bank now amounts to 7896 Rs or 789£.12.0!! What is to be done I don't know & I am really very alarmed about the consequences of my folly in putting my name to his confounded Surity papers. If General Barton²⁴⁸, who is one of the Surities, were in India I should feel a little more free from danger, for he is a great friend of George's & has lots of money – at least I suppose so, as his allowances are very great & he has no wife or family. The other Surity, though in the Civil Service is, I have been told, in debt himself.

The Bank will come down upon me, I have little doubt, as from my several remittances to England, it is supposed that I am not very hard up & that something may be squeezed out of me. George told me, when I was just leaving Delhie last year, that he was going to exchange into the 9th Lancers & that he was to get 1200£ for the exchange & that that sum was already lodged for him. But of what use will that sum be, supposing he gets it? He owes the Bank 800£ of it -

1v

His trying to get employment in England does not look as if he had fully determined on exchanging into a Regiment in India; besides there is an Officer of the 9th Lancers here now & I asked him a day or two ago if he knew of any one in this Regmt that was about to exchange into Harriott's – the 16th Lancers, & he said no – Now if such a matter had been arranged, it would assuredly have been known to the Officers of the Corps. I want to know what George really intends to do & when his intentions are likely to be carried into effect. Oh that I had had the smallest idea that if he was & always had been in pecuniary difficulties! I well know that it is not easy to get out of them – The General told me that G. H's difficulties never occasioned him (GH) a moment's anxiety & if that is the case he is not likely to endeavour to extricate himself from them. If the Bank calls upon me to pay I am ruined for ever – In the whole course of my service I could never repay such an enormous sum. How am I to repay Stowey & how am I to go home, are questions I dread to ask myself. But enough of this sad subject – We have had the most extraordinarily cold weather, such as has not been known for an age. The day before yesterday we had a regular fall of snow!!! It did not come down in regular flakes, for it appeared to be hail while falling; but on the ground, trees houses it appeared exactly like snow – Fancy the whole country here being perfectly white with it. I had the great comfort & satisfaction of making a number of snow-balls & pelting them at the wondering & grinning natives. We have had about 7 days' rain within the last fortnight & it has of course made the weather most intensely cold. I have worn a great coat & hat or cap, in doors & out of doors for the last month. At this moment, with such a dress & sitting close to a good fire, I am half frozen. I yesterday drove my friend 7 miles towards Hissar & our feelings & appearance reminded me strongly of “going down the road” at home – Great coats, & cloaks – the apron up, to keep our legs warm – the nip of Brandy where we changed horses, had a charm that you can scarcely appreciate – barring the nip of Brandy perhaps! Our friends at Hissar – Ladies and gentlemen, are coming over

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here in 2 or 3 days to take us – ie the Campbells & me, to a high & strange looking conical hill, which is 16 miles from this – there we are to pass 2 or 3 days – It is in the middle of the jungles & the hill itself is the abode of Leopards. Some of our party were out at Dhanah – a place I must have often mentioned to you, only 3 miles from this – and while looking after pigs, they saw a fine large Leopard to their great surprise & slight consternation. He became the captive of the gentleman on the Elephant. I told you of there being Leopards at Hissar & of our chasing one for nearly 2 hours – We were surprised to find such animals even in the vast & interminable jungles there – but we were all struck-of-a-heap at finding the gentle creatures at our country house at Dhanah. We shall take out the Elephants with us during our pic-nic & I hope to be able to report the death, by my hand, of some ferocious animal – I endeavoured to make you understand how much I enjoy shooting from the howdah – and ranging the vast & almost impenetrable jungles on those noble beasts – I speak of elephants – the howdah is not a beast, noble or mean. I must report upon the garden of course. It is [worn] well – A few days ago I received my 2 cart-loads of trees & shrubs from the Botanical gardens – I got only 130 & only 81 were fruit trees – they being all mere sticks at present, the garden looks rather destitute of foliage – though the Beet-root, cabbages & pease are all getting quite gigantic I have at last got all the paths made & the ground level, to my great comfort & to the release or rather dismissal of some of my Pensioners as I call them. These scientific Horticulturists & Agriculturists that were employed (?) in my garden, passed their time in making fires & smoking

& warming themselves round them – this duty being both as light & wholesome as that of any of our retired servants I called them pensioned gentlemen – Water will wear the stone, so you will be able to understand & believe that my large piece of ground, 100 yds square, after 6 months' persevering scratching, digging raking, howing [sic] sitting & smoking, is at length as flat as any Dutch garden & all the walks at most correct right angles & in parallelograms – That bright thought of mine, the circle is still the source of envy & admiration of all who have nothing better – The common Wall-flower, mignonette, & other rare & valuable

2v

plants are all in flower & the grass in the centre is of a most lovely green – I told you dear mother that I was making money fast – I had saved 203 Rs which up to this time has dwindled down to 150 Rs but that is a great step towards a – commencement - This is positively the first time that have been able to say that I had money which I did not owe – here in India. This will pay all expences of the next month so that my next pay Draft will remain untouched. We - thats the 3 Hurrianahs, have lately

bought a very nice little boat - & much we have enjoyed the use of it – As there is no game about this, boating is our chief out o'door amusement – on 2nd thoughts I have decided upon not writing to G Harriott now – I will first ask Genl. Hodgson if he can give me any intelligence of G's plans for the future or rather for the repayment of his loan. It is of no use my bothering G. as if he has not the money he cant pay. There is one thing that in the Queen's Army if an Officer does not pay his debts he can be compelled to sell his Commission & I suppose his securities will do their utmost

to enforce the payment of the debt by George himself for none of us will like to pay some hundreds of Pounds a piece for him – I have only time & room to send my love to all – abroad & at home – So the girls have got a good Piano at last – When I go home I shall take some lessons on the fiddle – God bless you my dearest mother – Your affectionate son He[worn]

[addressed:

Via Southampton – Indian & Steamer P. Paid

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington, Warwicks
England

stamped:

PAID 29 MR 29 1847
LEAMINGTON MR 30 1847]

1

Hansie February 18th 1847 [17th]

My dearest Mother I have just finished a short stave to Sibella in which I have given her all the news, the most interesting item of which I fancy is that to-day is the 18th Feby. I omitted to say that it is Wednesday. Nothing new has happened since I wrote last - positively nothing. The copies of Tom's and Berty's letters were a great treat - the former has removed a heavy load of uneasiness. What a great traveller Tom has become - yet I am a greater!! but I fancy only in the same sense that

the bottle of Bass' pale ale, on the table can be said to be a greater traveller, having gone further than Tom. I knew that Tom would be supremely happy in the society of Bertie & his associates at St Johns. I only hope that the climate & every thing else will equally agree with him - not excepting the mutton hash & rice-pudding 5 times a week - though I must say that this must be a hard trial for his constitution - Do they drink Malt in N.F.L. I wonder? I should think Cherry Brandy was better. One consequence of the severity of the climate will be a benumbed state of dear Tom's fingers which will prevent his playing the fiddle - the refreshing moisture too will crack the strings I fear. I have just been looking over your last letter & the date (17 Decr) reminds me that you ought to have recd a note for 20£ before that day - On 28th September the Secretary said that he would immediately despatch it to your address - Nearly five months have

1v

passed & yet there is no intelligence of it. It is very sad that even now we cannot get a reply to any of our letters under six months - and yet I get your letters sometimes- generally, in 5 weeks. I am still in a state of much anxiety about Harriott's debt to the Agra Bank - It is of no use I fancy writing to him, as whether he pays it or not depends upon his means, which certainly will not be encreased by any prayers, beseechings or abuse from me. I asked you in my last letter to give me any information you could about his proceedings, present & prospective, I think you might even write a line to him & ask him to send me word direct to India, as by that means he would not have to divulge the sad state of his affairs to more than me. I shall be wanting to send some money home shortly, but I shall be afraid to send it to the Agra Bank as they may bone it all, at least they will without delay ask me for all my spare cash. I have been able to put by my last month's Pay Draft which is a nice little nucleus to commence with. One great drawback to my getting rich in 2 months (!) is that my house requires thorough repairs & the roof of the drawing room must be taken down if it does not fall of itself - & put up a new. I am waiting for the longer days to commence this most unpleasant business. During the last week the rain has come into my room nearly every day & great has been my fear that the roof would come down with a run - This one room was built my [sic] contract, so of course in India, the materials are mere rubbish - The repairs that are necessary will cost me at least 20£. My house is almost as bad a 'spec' as the houses at Taunton - at present, at least, it appears so for I have paid out upon it as much money as I should have

2

paid in rent during the 21 months I have actually lived in it - but of course the value of it is increased - The garden has cost me 30£ - But of this "bus" - enough, in Hindostani. As I have already told Bella, we go out tomorrow on our pic-nic trip - 3 ladies with us. If there had been a Mrs Jones we should have had 4. My friends here - of the gentle sex only, of course, seem to be anxious for a Mrs J - but whether this arises from an anxiety for my happiness, or from a wish to have the female community increased, I will not enquire. A number of people have just come in & I cannot get on with my letter - It is fortunate that I have nothing more to tell you of - This large blank will look very bad, but as I could fill it with nothing but nonsense, the arrival of my friends is rather fortunate than otherwise - Give my love to Irene, Frank & all his dear family & believe me my dear mother your aff[worn] & loving son Henry

2v

[addressed:

Via Bombay & Southampton - Indian & Steamer Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace

Leamington Warwicks
England

stamped:

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1

I dated my letter of yesterday, by mistake, also the 18th

Hansie February 18th /47

My dearest Mother two hours after I had despatched my letter yesterday I received your's of the 16th December & deeply thankful I was that it arrived 2 days after your other, with the copies of my dear brothers' letters for your 1st one was written under such deep depression on account of dear Tom, that it would have occasioned me the acutest sorrow, had I not previously received the blessed assurance of my brother's safety & happiness. Nothing could have been more happy than this accident - of the detention of your sorrowful letter - for it had only the effect of increasing my joy & thankfulness for his safety, for which I had no idea, you were suffering such painful anxiety - In your letter, which I recd last evening, was enclosed dear Aunt's - Poor dear soul, her thanks to me for that trifle which I sent her, are quite a reproach to me - Still, trifle as it was, I am delighted to know that it was acceptable - I told you the reason for my apparent close-fistedness - viz the want of time to get more. Will you give dear old aunt my [torn] love & tell her I will assuredly write her so of[torn] that I shall not again subject myself to the reproach of neglect. I would write now but that I have nothing to tell of, as you see by the nearly blank sheet I sent you yesterday. By the bye to-day we were to have started for Tosham²⁴⁹ - but it is put off till tomorrow - I have urged a variety of excuses for not going, as I find that only the 3 married men & their wives are going - there will be no shooting, nor anything but uncommonly slow chit-chat - besides I dislike being in camp with ladies, it is worse than being in a married man's house, which I abhor - One can't smoke a cheroot, which is dreadful to think of; and one must be drest in apple-pie order, which is worse still. A bachelor's party I should have liked much - When I am married I may prefer married folks' society - At present too I am rather tired of knocking about. For the last 6 days, I have been out on the Delhie or Hissar road, daily. The Superintending Surgeon was here on his tour of inspection. I had to drive him 10 miles towards Hissar - & the day before yesterday I had to go as far to bring him back again - Three trips of a similar nature did I make for Mr Pulman²⁵⁰ - whom I knew in Scindh - He & I remained in the fort of Khan Gurh when all the force went out against another fort - at which time I put up the gates of the fort, which never would have been done by my friend - For other visitors too

1v

have I been out with - So I and my buggy mare are tired of these trips - I feel the want of a little quiet reading & fiddling - I wish I could get a master to teach me the latter, as with a great leisure I enjoy & the great delight that music affords me, I might learn to play a little - At present my progress is nothing - I am too fond of playing everything I know by ear - besides I can get no music - I have some beautiful exercises but they are discouragingly difficult - I want to send some of the best, which I can in part play, to Tom - I can manage the Polkas, which are the only new thing I have had for years. If I had a wife I suppose I could get on - if she had a piano & could play it. Yesterday all ladies here honoured my house & garden with a visit - this is nothing very rare - &

when they espied the fiddle

they bothered me to death to play - in fact I was near getting the fiddle broken over my head for my obstinacy in refusing - They abused the garden sadly - but of course from mere envy. I told you that my house was very badly situated, inasmuch as the houses of the Bazaar are built, some of them actually against my wall, & their places are full of cows and buffalos. Mrs C. wanted to look over the wall, so I volunteered to lift her up, to the great amusemt of the rest of the party. She is 3 or 4 inches taller than me and weighs ten lbs more than me! A large party of us went to be weighed in the Fort - My friend would insist upon it, that she was not heavier than me, notwithstanding the evidence of the weights - & would not be satisfied without our getting into the scales together. I entered first & entreated her to get into the opposite scale very gently - I was nearly sent up into the air, amidst a roar of laughter, as you may suppose.

then I was brought down gradually again by the addition of a successive pounds - till they numbered 10 - Mrs C. declaring that they were only ounces! The Spin weighed 10 st. 7lbs!! not jockey weight exactly - my little friend Stafford 15"7 - You see by this acct of the "weights & colors of the riders", that none of Pharaoh's lean kine live at Hansie - This intelligence is new at least - if it be not interestg I have only room to say G[torn]ss you my dear mother & all our family - I think Ma[torn]Frank while he is at home might write me line - dont you? [worn] Your affectie son Henry

[addressed:

Via Southampton & Bombay - Indian & Steamer P. Paid

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington, Warwicks
England

stamped:

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LEAMINGTON AP 8 1847

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1

Hansie 19th March /47

My dearest mother by some accident I missed the day for writing by the last mail, but it is of little consequence as nothing had occurred to tell you of. The hot weather is coming on fast, Alas! and my hot weather letters commence with this and when you receive it I shall be in the thick of the confinemt, dust, perspiration & frustration. Oh deary me! I wish I had a wife with whom to pass the heavy & hot hours. I get sadly sentimental & matrimonial during the hot winds, & the rains, but thank goodness, I shake it off in the cold weather - I have already commenced shutting the doors at 9 o'clock, and so must lose no time in selecting the fair object of my thoughts & dreams - amorous & matrimonial, for the ensuing season. I am now taking the most effectual measures for the alleviation of my bodily sufferings during the approaching hot weather, by the great improvements I am making in my house. My bow-room, which required a new roof, I have raised 3 ft in height - I mean the roof of it, not the room bodily - & have made it of materials better adapted to - the reflection of heat, than to its absorption. I have made 2 doors, instead of one, to communicate with the centre room, so I think that by filling both with cool air during the night I may get a tolerable supply for the day - The other great improvement is the pulling down - though I must add, only just

in time to save from falling, of the tiled verandah & replacing it with a thatched one, of tremendous thickness. At present I am surrounded with workmen & the whole house is filled with dust - but I am glad to say that everything will be in order by the end of the month - As I told you the whole of the repairs will cost me close upon 200Rs but I think I never spent such a sum to such good purpose. How improved my house & compound will be since last hot weather - I look

1v

out now from every window upon flowers, and what is better still, upon large beds of the most relieving deep green grass - My young trees are beginning to bud & blossom & are rapidly diminishing the nakedness of the land - at least those parts which the onions & cabbages have not already closed with verdure. This is really a very nice house & garden for bringing up a young family, I assure you. This idea must have struck the Spin I am sure. She asked, the other day "What can Dr Jones be altering & improving his house for?" I said I wished she was a nice girl & then it might be for her!! What do you think of the honor of god-father having been conferred on me? and who do you think has conferred it on me? A leetle son²⁵¹ of my old friend Julius Dennys - Julius himself, rather, conferred the honorable & responsible office on me - My feelings in consequence, are something I fancy, like those of a young papa - a real papa, not a god-papa. One feeling & that the strongest I fancy, is of greatly increased importance in the human family generally. Certainly I am as proud as Punch - not the London Charivari²⁵² My experience of the state of God-papa & my feeling towards a young helpless and affectionate pup, make me believe that if I were blest as Julius Dennys is I should be very happy. Talking of matrimony & babies, reminds me of your amusing account of the disasters of Frank's wedding day - & the drying of Berty with a warming pan - certainly the burning of his leg must have tended to keep the cold out of his head. You do not mention how Berty bore the operation. I was quite delighted to see Frank's hand writing again. I suppose its quite true that he has not a moment to spare all the year through - he must be uncommonly hard worked, that's flat. I wish for dear Frank's sake that teaching could be done by steam & then as Engineer or stoker he'd have nothing but holydays & possibly he'd get very well paid & no "clearing of the machinery at Meals", which presiding over little boys & big, I take to be understood by the phrase! You speak in your last of grand-children of Mr Minchin I am afraid that I am mistaken in my man, in speaking of the Secretary to the Lt Governor as the father of Frank's pupils -

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You must heartily thank Frank, for me, for his little bit of a letter, tell him that I'll write to him when my repairs are finished - with which I am at present exceedingly busy! I have been writing the whole of my letter under what you would call, a cross fire - and my letter is quite spoilt by it. My ideas are running along with their - my friends' chat & I cannot get through a paragraph(!) without my ideas & eyes too wandering - My friends (of our Corps of course) come here as regularly as the sun at 11 o'clock, to see the Post come in & at 2 we go to Billiards, instead of going to sleep - which would now - even now, in March - be the inevitable consequence of not going to Billiards - My friends have so completely interrupted my letter that I cannot finish it - finish the paper I mean - for I fancy that the letter, properly speaking was finished in the first page. Tomorrow is called the last safe day, but I am afraid of trusting it, as my letter might not reach Bombay in time, and as I did not write last fortnight I am anxious that this should not stay at Bombay. [blot] my affectionate love to all & each of my dear family - at home and abroad - God bless you dear mother - Your affectionate son Henry -

The death of John Robertson²⁵³ must be a sad - a dreadful blow to poor Mariann & her family -

2v

[addressed:

Via Southampton Indian & Steamer Postage Pd.

Mrs John Jones
61 Brunswick Terrace
Leamington, Warwicks
England

stamped:

PAID 10 MY 10 1847

LEAMINGTON MY 10 1847]

1

Hansie April 19th [1847]

My dearest mother How very fortunate you are in the matter of legacies²⁵⁴. While I rejoice at you increasing riches! I am sorrowing for the ruin that seems staring me in the face. The Agra Secretary has sent me a third letter about Harriotts' debt, which now exceeds 800£ !! & I fear that each letter I receive may be the fatal one demanding of me the payment of this enormous sum. It is most unfortunate that General Barton, who is a man of riches and a bachelor, is not in India – he is one of the sureties. I must write to the secretary to ask if he has had any communication with the General & if we are to have any more law, or are to be called upon immediately to pay for our dear friend George – More than a year ago George wrote to tell me that he held in his hand and order for 1200£ for exchanging with an Officer in the 9th Lancers – besides, before that, he said he had made over his Commission to the General as security for his sureties – I must write to George & you must please find out his address & send it to him. Do you know that while this debt is unpaid I cannot leave India under any plea – even of sickness. They say that our Furlough Memorial is granted, but little benefit will it be to me, if I am to be imprisoned here on acct of George's debts. But it's little use or consolation groaning & moaning about this sad calamity, What's to become of Stowey's claims I should like to know. I cannot make an effort to pay it off, lest the money shd be seized upon by the Agra Bank – It is so sad, for now I am able to save a great amount of money monthly – My repairs are at length finished & I am rejoicing in the neatness & comfort – of my house The repairs cost me 27£ - just about 9 months' rent for a house at Hansie

1v

I am in such horribly low spirits that I dont know how I shall be able to fill my letter with any thing but wailings & lamentations. The hot weather is fairly set in & punkahs & closed doors are the order of the day, but the nights are still delightful. The weather is wonderfully mild for the season and I trust we may have a hot weather like the last – I was up this morning at 4 oclock & had a long & pleasant ramble about the garden, which looks very pretty, though the flowers are ceasing to bloom & blossom – The whole place looks as fresh & neat as the Spins' new bonnet – We have got our tank filled again to our great joy – All the inhabitants of Cantonments of the city were assembled to witness the first rush of the water You have no garden, not an inch have you, at Leamington? Now that the house is put in order I can again pay some attention to the garden which is my delight. What do you think of dear old Holberton sending me a present after so many years of silence & separation – but I was much amused at the nature of the book – for a book was the present - It was & is a book fit for a very tyro in our profession, in which the mysterious process of bleeding & of bandaging is attempted to be shown & made easy. The book is well illustrated with beautiful

drawings & these I suppose took H's eye. I who have cut off legs & arms, fingers & toes, I don't know how many felt somewhat indignant at being presented with this boys book, till I remembered that Holberton could never have read it!! Jane is gone home as I must have told you before. I have just received the last English news & to my horror they talk of there being a great chance of a war with France. Heaven avert it – how they would set about it with a famine²⁵⁵ in the land I don't know. So you are quite gay & dissipated are you? Though you have none but rich & gay friends you must find it better than having none at all – I am glad that you are able still to give such good accounts of dear darling old Fanny Bent. I should like to pay York

2

Buildings²⁵⁶ another visit & witness the festivities above & below stairs – there was never any thing of the kind in my days. I should like to see again the tiny little gardens, the bright knocker & the dearly beloved No. 8 on the railing & many other objects dear to memory – One of the chief amusements I promise myself if I visit England will be to go & see all & each of my old haunts about London, Hampton, Ottery, Exeter, the sea coast & even old Topsham – Moreton Pinkney too I should like to see, but not without Frank. Talking of the dear fellow I am so glad to hear that he is getting along, though slowly. What a treat it will be to see all my little nephews & nieces, not forgetting the mother of them – I think that I could pass a year very agreeably in England & could afford it too, were it not for this millstone of Harriotts about my neck. Talking of travelling Bella says something about a prospect of her doing so, but I fancy she forgets that it costs a great lot of money. I told you of my intention of going to Rotuck [torn] May to pass a month with Ross & make a good [torn] the hot weather – Alas! Misfortune attends me even in in that little project – The Dr of the Irreglrs is going away for 6 months & they won't send a man in his place, so I being the only Drt – in Hansie, cannot get leave for an hour – This is a cruel cut as I know that I shd enjoy my visit excessively – besides the change lessens the horrible monotony of this season, & young Ross is my dearest friend – To make amends such as is in my power, I have written to Calcutta for a large quantity of music, and I'll see if I can fiddle away the time - I have never spent a shilling on music yet, all that I have got has been given to me or I have copied it - I wish there was any one flute or fiddle in Hansie - or I wish I had a piano and a wife to play it and teach me - my bow room is such a capital one for music too. I have stopped here to write a note to G Harriot, I have asked him to tell me what prospects he has of paying his debt & what General Barton is doing about the business.

2v

Your letters of late have contained very little about my dear brothers in N.F.L. that is the fault of the winter doubtless which cuts off the frequent communication with you. My letters are getting shabbier & shabbier each mail - & are a sad contrast to your full & chatty ones - but this

time I am somewhat “down in the mouth”. Give my dearest love to all - God bless you my dear mother - Your very affectionate son. Henry

[addressed:

Via Southampton Indian & Steamer P.Pd.

Mrs John Jones
[c.o. 61. Brunswick Terrace
Leamington
Warwicks
England]
Uffculm
Cullompton

Devon

stamped:

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1

Hansie June 7th [1847]

My dearest mother This long interruption of our correspondence is very sad, is it not? I feel as if I had not heard from you, nor written to you for months. The English Mail of the 24th April arrived two days ago, but we have not got our letters yet, & this being the last safe day I cannot delay my letter till tomorrow, in the hope of getting one from you this evening. Your last dear letter it full of interest & full of writing too! How could you dear mother, undertake such a Herculean labor for your undeserving little son, on your 70th birth-day. I am afraid that you will wear out your eyesight & fingers by continuing such unheard of laborious work. I really am. I'll speak presently about your beautiful sermon, my ministry &c, for I must first say that you make me painfully anxious about dear Netta & Frank too - What can he be ailing with, the dear boy? I wish very much to get your next letter - your next 2-3 letters I should rather say. The mention of the least sickness & bodily suffering alarms me more than all the sad misfortunes you have ever announced - But to turn to pleasanter thoughts. How glad I am that you have changed to so nice a house and situation - Your nice view, and near neighbourhood to your friends, your tiny, tidy garden - every thing found in the change, must be quite refreshing. I should not at all like to pay you a visit, Oh no! certainly not! Our new Furlough regulations when we get them, may enable me to do so, within a year from this time - Money, money, money is the only cause of doubt or difficulty - I should like so very much to see, to kiss, to chat again with you dearest mother - I should like to see my sisters & brothers before we all grown gray. Tell Bella that I have not time to give her a separate letter but I can reply to her enquiry whether she and Irene are to get wigs, when I announce my near approach to Leamington. My reply is that, d.v., I hope to pay them one visit years before the wigs can be of use - If I can only return to my post here I shall certainly take leave as soon as I have paid off Stowey's debt. Talking of debt, I am glad to see that G. Harriott has not left the army, for I see his name down as 2nd Lieutt in his old Regmt, in the last army list: Strange to say I have not heard from the Agra Secty since I last mentioned it to you.

1v

June 8th I ventured to delay my letter in the hope of getting a letter from you & I have not been disappointed. I got yours of the 18 April - a nice long letter & a nice long sermon - As I said to you yesterday, I think you are overtasking yourself in writing so very much & in so small a hand - and as I do not like to deceive you I must tell you that I have the greatest difficulty in reading it - it makes me giddy - My eyes I fancy are weak as I can scarcely read print by candlelight - my constantly wearing spectacles & the exposure to the sun in Scindh during one hot season may have weakened them. In telling you this I sadly feel as if I were rejecting a mother's love or gift or kiss or blessing - or all these - for I feel that these are all blended in these your labors of a mother's love. I must say that I can well read your own little sermons & that I treasure them. Before going to other subjects of your 2 last letters I may as well here tell you that I have long discontinued my office of reading prayers - which by the bye you seem to have thought was the office of a preacher of the Gospel - The fact is that when the Clergyman came here he said that we ought to have service, as there were so many Europeans - It is the custom every where in small Stations for the Staff Officer or the Commandant to read the Church Service - but here the proper persons refused to undertake

the work - I was asked to do it and assented - The Commdg Officer who belongs to the Scotch Kirk at first knew nothing of our ritual, but when he became familiar with it - or as much of it as was necessary, he undertook to read the Service, as he ought to have done. Since the commencement of the hot weather no one has come to prayers the whole congregation seldom exceeding three. As to your question about any Natives attending, I regret to say it made me stare with surprise - I fear that Christianity has made little progress in India - though Missionaries and other zealous men have established schools for Orphans & bring them up in the Christian Faith - People at home fancy that our religion is making great strides in India but I fancy that the very opposite is the case - All that I have seen of its progress is in the Xtian Drummer boys, who are anything but favorable specimens of Xtians & are completely cut off from all connections with other Natives - But what can be expected to be done between two people as ill acquainted with each other, as if they inhabited different planets - Was any European ever the confidential friend of a Native or vice versa? There never can be any confidence or social intercourse between the two nations - unless in the course of centuries - A military spirit, the certainty of Pay & Pensions is that all I fear that binds the Native to us - But I am treating of subjects of no interest to

2

you I fear. I am delighted to hear that dear Netta is not ailing so much, but your account of Frank is not more cheerful than before. Poor dear fellow I fear he is worked and harassed too much - I wish he could take a year of my idleness and send me to the treadmill which I fancy is the only place in which I could be useful. And do you think that he is anxious about the success of his school. You see that if I had had a number of olive branches I could have been of service to him. Talking of such things I am reminded of G. Harriott & the little bargain he has sold me and his other securities. I begin to get less anxious about it, perhaps only because I have not thought of it for a long time, a fortnight or more! Dear Aunt Jim's advice not to put my foot into such another mess, is quite superfluous now - I think some 2 years anxiety about a friend's "little account" is quite enough for a lifetime - You must thank dear old Jim for her letter & tell her that I hope to have the pleasure of seeing her yet & that I shall not take my fiddle with me to Clifton Villa²⁵⁷, unless I first take 6 months of lessons in London. Would it not be nice to take one's furlough for the purpose of getting lessons on the fiddle in London? I'll think of that again. How does old aunt like the new house in respect of its thickness I mean - I think she would like mine, for the walls about 2 ft 4 inches every where. My garden alas is looking very seedy - I am speaking figuratively or slangingly for there is not a seed in it - In the hot weather we have nothing but some dozen kinds of vegetables growing & as these have died, nearly all from want of water, and as my trees are mere imps, the garden on the whole is not exceedingly attractive to the eye. I have made hay while the sun shone with a vengeance, for all my lucerne grass is as dry as a chip - I told you before of our fears about the water being cut off in the canal - For the last month we have been baling out the water of the tank, which is now very nearly dry - but I am glad to say that in 4 days the canal will be opened again. The inconvenience we, servants and all have suffered has been terrible - When the canal is again opened we are all going out to meet & welcome the water - some talk of a champagne tiffin, but I fear it will prove only brandy-pani (water) in the end - We have had a beautiful Season - hot winds in gales, dust-storms - day & night - such rains we shall have! I hope at last. By the bye, about a week ago I was obliged to burn candles for half an hour at about 3 p.m. While we have good winds, you know I believe that we can make our houses perfectly cold - & this we have done during the whole hot seasons nearly -

2v

Your account of Berty is encouraging - he is getting out of debt is he - Strange it is that we brothers should be suffering the fierce extremes of heat & cold - I think our climate in India must be 10,000 times pleasanter than that of N.F-L however. There is a very nice fellow staying here, of the name

of Auldjo²⁵⁸ - he is a Canadian - I have mentioned Maitland to him & he knows him very well but he did not know Berty - though Berty may remember the name - I dont know who Auldjo's father was - You must be sadly disappointed at getting no letter from dear Tom - but it is truly comfortable to know that he is well & happy.

So Irene is about to set out on her travels - Why dont you do the same? How I envy you all in those pleasant trips - If I go home I shall take a solitary ramble to my old haunts, particularly Torquay. What a delicious time we had of it there - I did at least. I talk of old haunts - in the plural - but I scarcely remember more than one with pleasure - Of Hampton I hate every stick & stone - no I forget I [sic] the house where Louisa & Augusta lived & the way to it - I like the water there too, where we had so many pleasant trips - So Holberton never replied to your letter - My apology for not having written was that I thought he would not like writing to me in return, which I well believe.

Give my best love to all brothers & sisters at home & abroad - to Aunts nephews & nieces - new and old - I have asked you dear mother more than once if you want me to pay you the interest due to Stowey - I believe it costs you some 10£ a year if you wish I can do it in a moment - at present my intention is to save every penny I can & send all home when the rate of exchange is [torn]eable 200 or 300 in a lump

[upside down above]

God Bless you my dear mother - Henry

[addressed:

Via Southampton Inland & Steamer Post Paid

Mrs John Jones
[c.o. Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwickshire]

Bishop Coleridge's²⁵⁹
Salston House
Ottery St Mary
Devon

stamped:

LEAMINGTON AU 6 1847]

1

Hansie July 7th 1847

My dearest mother though I write but once a month I fear I shall not be able to furnish you with a respectable letter, in length I mean, unless I indulge in my usual strains about love, sentiment, distraction, solitude, single misery &c &c or on the contrary inveigh against matrimony & the fair & register vows never to marry - which by the by, nolens volens, I am likely to adhere to. I have been merely vegetating since I wrote last - Some body said that in youth the absence of pleasure is pain & in old age the absence of pain is pleasure - I wonder what he would have said about the

absence of pain & pleasure both! Such is my condition - I have a great mind to set about sighing for Fanny - for really the only relaxation, not from labor but from monotonous idleness, is what the heat affords - But I am grumbling when I ought to be as contented & lively & merry as a "Merry Andrew". The difficulty - nay, the impossibility of finding any thing to talk about - any thing new or interesting, is the sole cause of this unbecoming burst of discontent - Yet this ought to be an occasion of thankfulness - "Happy in the country whose records are uninteresting" - & happy is Bobby when his letters are most dismally dull - The wind is blowing my letter about so much that I can scarcely write - besides every dip of ink I take is devoted to mere blotting of the paper, as the right hand corner comes flap flap against my pen - if this continues I must pin the sheet down on all sides - I have already 2 penknives, a piece of India rubber, a watch, instand, [sic] a corner of the Edinbro' Review & a shell filled with lead, surrounding the paper, but still it flaps like a "sail in a calm" - But if it - the wind, blew my letter into the tank I should not be vexed or troubled in the least - it is such a love of a wind - There never was a more delicious breeze - I could fill the rest of my letter with descriptions of its heavenly nature - its joyful, exhilarating effects - & in bestowing blessings on its head - or rather tail. But is it not a hurricane I am talking about - nor a storm, so that the figure - head or tail, does not suit. There's another lurch to Leeward - I must go & fetch the pins -

1v

While I am upon the weather I may as well give you the whole of the subject - In the last ten days we have had seven of rain & we feel cool & fresh & clean as one could desire - I must explain my reason for my saying that the rain has made us clean. After the first fall of rain we drag out of the house carpets, chairs, tables, pictures, beds - every single thing & afterwards the heaps whole heaps of earth - you would perhaps say dust - the walls, cornices, every ledge, niche & corner is swept - the carpets &c &c are brought in again & down we sit clean, cool & comfortable, after the fiery, dirty, dusty ordeal of the hot weather - The consideration of the weather naturally leads me to speak of my garden - I am beginning to sow & to plant & newly arrange the beds & walks - I have just finished planting a hedge all round the place to hide the sad looking mud walls - I have planted a tree called the Jeyt which during the rains even will grow some 10 or 12 feet high. This is a beautiful improvement & besides it will shut out the sight of the wretched huts of the Bazaar as well as hide the walls - The only objection to my Estate was that the Bazaar nearly touches my wall - some huts are actually built against it. If my friend the Jeyt does its duty the place will look like a ladye's bower large, certainly - but green & romantic - We have suffered from such a dearth of water that half my trees have died - & much of my much cherished grass. After this long talk about myself & appertenancies [sic] - I think I may stop - You must thank dear Bella for her great & loving exertions in writing a long sermon & also a long letter - long for these times - I told you dear mother in my last that I thought you were taxing yourself very severely & I am sorry to say that the labor is thrown away - except that it shows me how good & affectionate a mother I have. Though Bella has written the sermon most beautifully it is most harassing work reading it - its all the fault of this - "Indian transparency" as Bella calls it - I always think that it must be difficult for you to read my letters - I would write upon much thicker paper if I could get any - but I cant at Hansie - I think the pleasure of reading a letter is altogether lost if it is difficult to read - My friend Ross always crosses his letters - parts of them - I never attempt to read the crossed parts.

2

I was so relieved - so happy to hear that dear Frank was quite recovered - I felt very anxious about him, as he used to be as strong as an ox - besides I fancy that his work requires as much health and strength as that of a dray man - What a contrast his present establishment is to that of old Morton Pinkney - he bears up well against all his troubles & labors "nurses wet & dry" as he poetically speaks of them. How little you have to tell me of dear Tom - as you say it would be much better for

him were he to reside in St Johns, instead of the outlandish place he is immured in Your news of Berty is always good & pleasant - & he is saving money I am glad to hear. Fancy my being still up to my head & ears - not over I hope - in debt after 7 years & 7 days residence in India. I have made a second commencement however at last, to pay it off. I have got very nearly 100£ now, & I think that sum will attract smaller ones till it swells to the full amount of 300 - My receipts are nearly 450Rs - and 150Rs will & do clear all my current expences - besides I have nearly six months supply of wine, Beer &c which cost an enormous sum of money - As I have told you, perhaps fifty times, I do not intend to remit my savings till they have reached a large amount or till the rate of exchange is favorable - at present it is very low indeed - When I think of money I always think also of going home - The Furlough Regulations - the new ones - have not yet been passed - in fact they have just been sent out to India for the consideration & opinion of the authorities in this country. All that I desire in them is that we may be allowed some Furlo' before I have been 10 years in the country. I wish to go home as soon as I can afford it - which I shall be able to do in one year from this time if I am not called upon to pay G Harriots debts - in full or in part. You speak about my fiddling - which I am sorry to say amounts only to the merest scraping - though I enjoy it myself. The great heat of the weather prevents my practising half of the year, so I cannot "go ahead" at all - When I go home I certainly shall take some lessons, as music is a great resource & a cheap one in India - besides good music is to me the highest enjoyment I am capable of. I only wish I had a piano, with somebody to play upon it & then I would try & play. I told you I think that at last I have bought some music - which will occupy me all the cold weather

2v

My old friend Ross and another person are coming to pay me a visit tomorrow which will be a great pleasure to me - I could not go to see him from being the only Dr at Hansie - I have charge of the Irreglr Cavalry here but do not get a dumri²⁶⁰ for it - besides I cant leave the Station to go even to Hissar. I went out shooting yesterday & enjoyed my self immensely - We stayed at Dhanah - our country house - the whole day It was something novel and refreshing to take a good long walk. I enjoy

the open air - I hope by your next to receive good accounts of Henrietta & Mary Ann - no I cant hear by your next - but by the one after that - So old Aunt Jim is with you again - give her my very affectionate love. I hope she will not be driven raving distracted mad by the smoky chimneys and cracked walls & the other disadvantages of your gingerbread houses. She would like my 2½ feet ones - I am so interrupted that I cannot write - God bless you my dearest mother - I am your affectionate son Henry

[addressed:

Via Southampton India & Steamer P Pd

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington, Warwicks

stamped:

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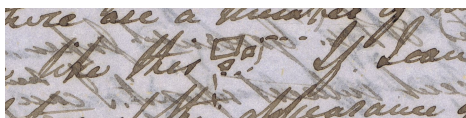
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Hansie 12th August 47

My dearest Mother It is a month & 5 days since I wrote last to you, so you may guess the happiness it is to me to renew our correspondence - my correspondce I should say for during this time I have recd 2 or 3 letters from you - though the last mail brought me none, which was a great disappointmt as I have been very anxious to hear of my dear sister Netta. Though I have not written for so long a time I have scarcely anything new to tell - So dear darling over-worked Frank has made me God-father to his youngest son, Frank²⁶¹ - I am very glad, very grateful, very proud - I wish you had told me when he was born which you have failed to do - I wish I could send him a silver mug, along with my love & blessing - So little Miss Marion²⁶² sends me her love & wants to see me on her birth-day I wish I could go to Uffculene, but as I can't at present I can only give her my love & desire you to say that I will to see her as soon as I can. This reminds me of a terrible bar to my doing so. The Secretary of the Agra Bank has lately written to me again, telling me that George's debt now amounts to 856£ & that he has not received a word from him for the last 18 months - I hope by your next to hear something from you about George or to get a reply to my letter to him, by the next mail - I shall today write to Genl. Barton who is in England & who is one of the securities. This is a fearful thing & comes upon me with tenfold horror at this time as I am now saving money & hoped in a short time to pay off my debt to Stowey. Last month I invested 80£ in Governmt paper, as being the safest way of laying out money & get 5 per cent interest upon it. I can send from month to month my sums large or small, & when I have saved 300£ I can sell out at a premium & send the money home at a time when the exchange is most favorable. I dont know what interest I pay Stowey, nor for how long a time I owe you the same. If you will let me know I will send you the sum. This sad affair of Harriotts throws a sad gloom over my spirits, which otherwise would be as high as heart could desire - First the 13th Irreglr Cavalry go away from this, and in their stead the 16th will come - a corps in which there are actual gentlemen & ladies - all very nice fellows as I hear - especially the ladies! Three of the officers are married - one of them an old friend of mine & Wale's - We are to have a Billiard table - that I fancy will horrify you - but you do not know, cannot guess what a desideration - nay actual necessary such a thing is in India. The confinement, the inactivity of mind & body that one suffers from during the hot weather very nearly destroys one & Billiards is the only antidote that I know of. Well, our friends are going to join us in a Subscription for Ice - With Ice & a Billiard table I do not care for the hot weather

1v

Our friends here would not join even in Book Club - which we were obliged to support by ourselves & friends at Hissar. In short we have had no sort of intercourse with the 13th & very lonely & miserable we 3 of the Harrianahs would have been, but for the constant supply of visitors we have had. It will be so pleasant now & dear little Hansie will be itself again - Our new friends have written to ask about the country - the shooting fishing, coursing &c &c - I gave them such an account as will do their hearts good - at least until they arrive & can judge for themselves - I was sadly afraid that the country around would again be rendered a perfect desert, from want of rain - The whole country was as green & as well cultivated as dear Devon, but the absence of rain was just beginning to turn everything brown, when this morning the rain came down in torrents & continued for five hours - Every place is flooded - my new roof leaking in a dozen places - The crops I trust are now out of danger; our hopes & spirits are as fresh & bright as the country round - Perhaps we may get more rain and then this happy state of things must continue - My garden is looking very well - The hedge I planted is fast hiding the mud-walls & will in a short time shut out the view of the wretched Bazaar - When the cavalry go away I am going to add to my compound - for at present the Comdg Officer claims the possession of a building that is at one corner of my compound - along side of which, there are a number of miserable huts - They take off from my compound a piece like this



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If I can get this corner I shall have some magnificent peepul trees & the appearance of my garden will be greatly improved - I shall then make that corner the Coffee Shop which will be ten times better than the verandah, where we at present take our Coffee, cheroots & gossip. I have before told you that all my friends meet at my house in the morning - After a cup of tea & a cheeroot we stroll down to the tank - Some fish, some stroll about, some take a steady constitutional, till the sun gets hot & then come home to breakfast - All this of course after the performance of our morning duties - parade Hospital &c - We all enjoy our mornings in India at all seasons. We heard a few days ago from 2 old friends, who had been staying here a long time - one of them ever since I've been here - & who have gone home. Its strange that both express the greatest dislike & dis-relish for every thing at home - particularly the cold blooded reception given them by their friends - They were not old people either who had out-lived the recollection of their relations & friends - for one was scarcely 20 years of age & had not been in India 3 years - the other only 15 years

2

This is a sad thing, as all we Indians naturally look forward with the greatest hope & eagerness to our return home & think they shall be only too happy. But it seems that nearly all are painfully disappointed. This does not alarm me you may well suppose, as while I have a dear, affectionate & loving mother, brothers, sisters, and Aunt besides numerous little nephews & nieces, I can never be received as a stranger. I was merely informing you of a strange, singular, unaccountable fact - Besides I know that happiness depends as much upon oneself as upon others & if people will promise themselves extreme & uninterrupted happiness, they cannot but meet with disappointment. I have a little bit of news but which is of little interest to you. A freebooter by the name of Doonjee has been "keeping the country side in fear" - He was prisoner in the Agra Jail & was rescued or released by main force - Since that he has been roaming the country with a large band of desperadoes, sacking & murdering where and whom he pleases. At Neemuck²⁶³ he attacked the Treasury & carried off 7,500£!! & killed nearly all the guard - 12 men. He had lately been in this neighbourhood, with the intention it seems of sacking Bhewani²⁶⁴ one of the wealthiest towns in India. In consequence troops were sent about a fortnight ago from Delhi to protect Bhewani. Our Irregulars have been out in the district for the last 3 weeks - Two other Regmts of Irregulars have taken the field against him & all the native powers, thro' whose territory he roams at pleasure & where he also finds protection, have been called upon to help in catching the thief. He'll disband his follow[torn] soon as he is hard pressed & then you may as well look for a needle in a bundle [torn] as search after Mr Doonjee. I am so glad to hear such good accounts of dear brother Tom - his good spirits & his good health. I purposed sending some 3 or 4 of my favorite pieces of music - the first as a token of my love & affection - next because they are of a style which I know Tom admires & being nearly all in chords are excellent as practice & beautiful when well played. I have as yet only copied one - I wanted to send him four - but I think it better to send one than none - besides one will not increase the postage for you. I never told you of the great improvemts that have been made here in draining the swampy banks & borders of the canal & making nice high & broad walks & planting hosts of trees - To this I attribute what I am about to tell you that we have had positively no sickness at Hansie. I have not 2 men sick - Usually at this time of the year I have 100 men in Hospital. It is true that September is the worst - the trying month - but I firmly believe that we shall pass nearly as well through Septbr as through July & August - Hansie has as bad a name as Kurnaul & Delhi for its unhealthiness - at this season certainly the natives suffer, but not worse than at what are

considered the healthiest Stations I never was better in my life than I am at present - Considering my wretchedly few inches I am a good weight - 9 st. 5 lbs - I was exactly the same 9 months ago -

2v

By the by the music which I have sent for Tom, is rather difficult & if he thought I could play at all well, he would have a great idea of my fiddling powers - so you must tell him that I cant play much better than I did at Clapton - which was certainly not first rate! I cant practice for more than 5 months in the year - But all this is stuff to you I fear - tho' I have nothing better with which to occupy my paper - How I envied you your visit to Uffculme - but what a sad picture you give of dear Frank's unremitting labor - Oh! its a beastly life, is that of teaching the young idea - The life of an ass in a mill is one of pleasing variety and of healthful animation compared to it - But its of no use sorrowing for my dear brother

If he could make the two ends meet or lap over a little, I know he would be happy & contented - That much desired result must come some day - Near be the day. The moment for despatching my letter has arrived, so I must shut up at once - Give my best love to all - at home & abroad & God bless you my dear mother pays

Your affectionate son, Henry

[addressed:

Via Southampton - Indian & Steamer P. Paid

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwickshire

stamped:

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Hansie 13th August 1847

To my intense delight when I awoke this morning I found by my bedside another dear delightful letter from you my dearest mother - written from Mrs Delamain's²⁶⁵ - The enclosed note from George of "true bills" will prove a sweet relief from anxiety & trouble - At any rate it will keep the evil day off for some time which may be something to me, as it may enable me to pay Stowey first at any rate. Your letter is so full of happiness - though it tells of some sad events - that I cannot resist telling how much it has communicate to me - though I wrote all that I had to say, yesterday, & though there is a great chance of my letter staying at Bombay for a fortnight. First Tom's coming into St. John's, is one joyful item of news. Then you make me very happy with your description of Frank's home - his children, his boys, his garden & every thing about him - Yesterday I was indulging most melancholy strains at the dear fellow's hard lot - & to-day I am enjoying his enjoyment of a sort of paradise - When you wrote last, which was from Uffculme, your speaking of Frank's having just come out of school terribly fagged, of his having 5 minutes (more or less!) to gulp down his dinner, unmasticated, & returning to school for I don't know how many hours, I

pictured to myself another Dr Blumber's establishment²⁶⁶ - I mean in the eternal "Gentleman we will resume our Studies" without the well-remunerating terms of the said Dr. - But to my unspeakable joy [torn] that he is "going ahead", & that he is surrounded by bright & happy faces and hearts [torn] that his own are the not worst off in that respect. Don't I wish I could join you in your trip to Weston Super Mare? but as I cant I must content myself with the happiness afforded me by knowing that you are enjoying yourselves - I shall picture to myself the 3 generations in their different attitudes & occupations on the beach - where of course you will daily resort. I cant well follow you home as I do not know what sort of a place you will be living in - I am disappointed at not having yet heard of my dear Netta - I hear that another mail is hourly expected at Bombay - How very fast the mails travel now. Your last, which came by Calcutta, reached me 5 days within 2 months. Those by Bombay are sometimes only 5 weeks reaching Delhie - We shall now have the Bi-monthly Mail again as the Monsoon is over. What a sad state poor dear old Fanny Bent is reduced to - When you write to her give her my affectionate love - Do you ever write to or hear from the Baratty's? because if you do, you must please to give my love to them likewise. Poor Mrs Reynold's loss is a very sad thing - Do you remember her kindly fitting me up with half a dozen pair of sheets - I have them all still and they often remind me of her - So does a Persian book that she gave me. My old friend Thomson often & often converses about poor Henry - I have told you that they were the closest allies & friends. I must have told you likewise of Charles' great success he was promoted to a Captn some months ago & his Civil employment affords lots of pay & bright prospects. He is one of the most fortunate of Captains. You speak of my going home - I am glad to hear that we were all wrong in supposing that the Board of Control were opposing the new Furlough Memorial -

1v

It appears that the Ct. of Directors are employed only in devising the best arrangement of the Regulations - If Harriott will pay his debt I may still see Mary Anne on her next birth-day but one - Have you seen Sir H Smith who has been made such a lion of by the good people at home - We are sick of the Accounts of the [sic] bestowed upon him - We call him the Hero of Buddewal - instead of Alewal as he did nothing at the latter place - but at the former he lost all his ammuniton & baggage & more even than at Allewal - & instead of relieving Loodeanah - Loodeanah relieved him - the little force being obliged to go to the assistance of Sir H. & all this happened through the most blundering, thick-headed folly that ever was heard -

This I know that there can be but very little truth in history - Fancy their offering to return the old soldier as M.P. for Cambridge - but as Punch says - seats in Parliament are to be had cheap as dirt. But I must not stop to talk History(!) Punch or Politics as the Baboo says Sir, I do think the Dak (mail) does go now - so good bye Heaven bless you my dearest mother Your affectionate son Henry.

[addressed:

Via Southampton - Indian & Steamer Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwickshire

stamped:

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LEAMINGTON OC 9 1847]

Hansie 1st September /47

My dearest Mother I am so anxiously awaiting your next letter that I feel only half inclined to write - indeed I have nothing to write, except about my anxiety to hear of poor dear Netta. Your last letter was full of comfort as regards all the other members of the family. That Tom & Bertie are together is good news that will keep me happy for a year. I was very glad also to hear that Frank was not so desperately bad as to be obliged to fly to the sea-side the 1st moment of the Vacation - I am indeed sorry to hear you speak of poor dear Aunt Jim's declining strength & fancy her going to that hateful Taunton to pass her days - You speak of Fanny Bents intended expedition, but I do not understand where to - Is she going to leave dear darling Exeter? You must give my kind remembrances to all your late hostesses in Exeter - Mrs Delamain Mrs Norris & of course Fanny when you write to them. By the by you mention Mrs Norris's having heard from the Hodgsons - & this reminds me of the extraordinary fact that their Fanny is not married yet. It is nearly 2 years since I saw her - She is a very nice girl & would be such an acquisition to any one inclined to turn Benedict. There is one thing - that I fancy that she is rather particular in her choice - besides she has a most comfortable happy home, which she may not be inclined to leave for the happiness of plodding about the country with some poor subaltern. But why these speculations of mine, you will say - certainly its is very unbecoming. Talking of the Hodgsons reminds me of George H. I sent his note to the Secretary of the Bank & strongly advised him to "pitch it into" Genl Barton - Which he said he would do - I told him that there was no use in bothering me, poor as a rat & already in debt to a very nice tune! I have by the by now got 100£ worth of Government Paper, so I shall next month remit you as much as I can scrape together in 2 months, by way of paying the interest over to Stowey - It would be a great pity to stop my advances to Govemrt(!) more than can possibly be avoided as I told you that I have bought myself into the 5 per cent loan - & my having now formed a tolerably fine nucleus, I should go on steadily to the full developmt of the 300£ at least. I can save very nearly 300 Rs a month I find & I am doing so with a vengeance. I have been begging this morning for old clothes for the approaching cold weather & succeeded in getting a spic-span new frock coat, too small for the giver - This will save me 100Rs for a coat, & I got, under the pretence of wanting to see a pattern a most capital Shooting coat - new, but happily too small for the donor. Even being very very little has its advantages - through it I have had, on 2 former occasions two coats given to me & have therefore never had occasion to buy a cloth coat

1v

since I have been in India - So you see my Tailor's bills have not be [sic] great - You must remember my old chum Wale - he gave me my first coat, to make gay in the Hills - he is coming here next hot weather on his way to the Hills - I shall be glad indeed to see his old face again. We are all as happy as possible at the prospect of loosing our late friends & getting new ones - at any rate we shall have a gentleman or two & a lady or two at Hansie, which I cannot say we had before, out of our own Corps - The weather has been most favorable - we have had more rain lately & its constantly cloudy. By the 21st, my birth-day, the cold weather will have commenced & then instead of feeling 1 year older I shall feel five at least younger - It will be uncommon jolly to put on a coat again & to wear decent unmentionables - instead of the sort of two-petticoats-made-into-one that we wear during the hot weather. Such luck riding & driving & boating & shooting & coursing we will have. If ever you were released after 14 years transportation you will understand the wild exuberant delight I feel at our approaching emancipation from punkahs & closed doors - not otherwise, my dear mother. You will not be shocked at seeing my all absorbing desire for out o'door occupations when you think of our 7 months' imprisonment. Major Thomson & I have made all sorts of

engagements & arrangements for the coming cold weather. May they not be upset or spoilt - My friend Mrs Campbell has just had a young son & heir²⁶⁷ & I have been called-away from my letter & have not one minute more to finish it - I am sorry to have written such a shabby bit of a note but I had better send this than none - God bless you my dearest mother & all my dear family. Your affectionate son. Henry

[No address so this seems to have been sent in an envelope]

1

Hansie September 17th 1847

My dearest Mother, The joyful intelligence contained in your last has removed such a load of fear and anxiety for dear Netta's safety - I thank god for her safety & for that of her little babe - By some mistake neither you nor Bella told me when Master Charles James was born²⁶⁸. By the by I should like you to give me the birth-days of all my nephews and nieces - I know of but one - it is that of Frank's first which I believe is on the 1st of January - I dont even know the birth-day of my God-son Frank - I must send him a silver mug of course - He is too old for a coral & bells of course. Your last & dear Bella's loving letter are very comforting - in addition to dear Netta's welfare & happiness, they speak of dear Frank's thriving health & circumstances, of your getting some 300£ & odd - very nice intelligence that too - of poor old Aunt being located at last to her satisfaction surrounded by Frank Marianne & their olive branches - By the by I will not forget your hint about the disposal of any superfluous rupees - I hope to send you some next month - no, I mean on the 3rd of November, as we do not get our pay till the end of each month. My good sister Bella writes in great spirits & seems as full of energy, mental & bodily as one could desire - I certainly envy her enjoyment of Solitude - but then I have no piano, no botanical or geological tastes - I have no books, nor can I seek exercise or amusement out o'doors, just now that is. I date the commencement of the cold weather from my birth-day, four days hence, & cold weather I think we shall have in fine style, for we have had lots of rain lately & yesterday it rained the live-long day. This is the most blessed good fortune, as without rain at this time, we get a return of the hot winds & continual dust till the very beginning of November. Now our mornings & evenings will be delicious & then I fancy my content & happiness will nearly equal dear Bella's. Another source of delight to me, is the knowledge you have been enjoying yourself amongst old friends & in old dear places. I wish I could get into the 5 o'clock train - any clock train would suit me - & go & see Frank & then go to Worcester & then to Exeter - starting of course from Leamington - I envy you indeed this facility of felicity - But I must hope & pray that my time comes -

1v

You speak of Harriotts affairs having got to the ears of all his family - It is just what I would wish if it can but shame him into some exertion to pay off his enormous debt. What a mill-stone it is about my neck - It is in appearance at least the most sad calamity - I feel as if I were the very slave of the proprietors of the Bank - their slave for life. You ask how Genl. Barton was permitted to go home - He went before the payment of the debt became due - If the 3 securities would agree to pay a third of the debt (each) I think I wd consent cheerfully, though it would amount to 300£; for I am oppressed overwhelmed with the dread that I alone may be called upon - The Secty is at liberty to pitch upon any one of us, whom he chooses - From my having sent several sums home he must know that I am not in debt, though I am not rich. However it is too sad a subject to write about. Talking of writing, Irene has not written to me about my new nephew, nor has anyone else at Worcester I dare say they do not know when the Indian Mail goes. Bella tells me to write to her & I own to many & great debts to her - but really it is impossible to write letters to two members of one

household - besides my news, the incidents of my life, like my poor body, is getting drier & drier from month to month - The last six months, with the exception of some few cool days, have been passed in smoking cheroots, or bed, couch or chair, prattling eternally on the same subjects & longing for the cold weather & for the new Regiment to arrive. My life is now at least is without incident or variety - so much the better of course on all accounts, excepting only for my letters. I have only two or 3 objects of interest & care - the 1st are my patients, the next my garden - the former I need not describe - but of the latter I must say that it is getting ship-shape at last - I am beginning to plant potatoes & cabbages & in a week or two in go the pease, & all ingredients of a first rate salad. I wish we could make broad-beans grow here - they would be an uncommon treat - they invariably get destroyed by the same blight that they are now & then subjected to at home - I would that you could take a peep at my

2

garden & my drawing room! The latter at least would give you some idea of my taste, my means & appliances being taken into consideration - What good news you give me of my dear brothers in N.F.L - as Bella says we are all flourishing & happy. I am quite astounded at the high titles conferred on my NFL brothers - As you say Tom has not written, neither has Bertie - but I can readily excuse them - for I show the same reluctance in writing to any one, but to you my dear mother - One letter I am & shall always write & with one in return I am always contented - I should rather say that I shall not grumble much with one letter from home at a time, nor can I justly cry out about the neglect towards me of my well-known-to-be loving brothers & sisters. When I am married then perhaps I may write more freely. By the by your advice - not to marry to win my bet with Mrs C. is come too late - not that I am already married or even engaged - but the sweet bird has flown - not to return I heartily hope and desire. I'll give you an idea of what sort of girl she is, by a short extract from a little love letter addressed to a forlorn would be Benedict - not me, mind! -- "May I refuse your offer of marriage as I do not intend to marry yet, & therefore request you will save yourself the trouble of paying me any further addresses"!!! Neat but not gaudy, as the phrase is. I got a most pressing invitation the other day to pay a visit to the Hills with the offer of course of bed & board, but in addition the prospect of such matrimonial pursuits - lovemaking &c &c but I could not afford such an expensive amusement. Your advice to wait till I go home, before attempting to get a wife is exceedingly likely to be followed to the very letter - because I cant help myself - I fear I have no more nonsense to tell you just at present - nothing where with to fill up the corners of my poor miserable letter. So Bertie has desired to have yr likeness. What a sad loss was mine, made worse by knowing that the picture you sent me was a good likeness - & that poor Bertie's is a failure - Give my affectionate love to all - Your very affectionate son

Henry

2v

[addressed:

Via Southampton - Indian & Steamer Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwickshire

stamped:

PAID 8 NO 8 1847

LEAMINGTON NO 8 1847]

Hansie 2nd October /47.

My dearest Mother I have worn out my eyes & fingers & bothered my brains till I can scarcely stand with writing a variety of letters about Harriott's harassing business - I have written to George, who sent me a kind letter of advice & opened my eyes more fully to the necessity of immediately settling about the settlement of the debt in some way or other. Harriott's fanciful letter did not at all deceive me & I was just on the point of writing to the other Sureties upon the subject of the Sectys constant demands for a settlement of the Bank's claims, when George's (our brother's) letter arrived. I had previously written to the Secrety recommending him to address Genl. Barton - I have just finished letters to Genl. Barton & to G Harriot. It seems that the latter will never be able to pay a farthing of his debt, unless something can be made, by us of his Commission - If, as it is feared, the Commission is in pledge to others for sums advanced to him, our only remaining course is to pay the debt for him - This course I have pointed out to my co-sureties & have volunteered to pay one-third of it - Not a moment is to be lost as the interest is increasing the debt at very nearly the rate of 20£ a month - The original debt was 600£ - it is now already 900£!!! I wrote a few days ago to Genl. Hodgson for any information he could give me about Harriott's affair & for any advice he might have to offer - He wrote a most kind reply, telling me not to distress myself about

1v

the business and to write to him from time to time to let him know what is being done. He even suggested I shd sound the Secretary as to some compromise, as Harriott can never pay a farthing & we by agreeing to pay something at once would most likely save him some loss & doubtless a great deal of trouble - You must not, please, mention it if I tell you, that I have great reason to believe that Genl. Hodgson would do something to save me this frightful loss, if the securities are in the end obliged to pay the debt - Of course I judge from the kind tone of his letter - I shall however be very anxious till I get a reply from Genl. Barton, who being at home, could manage the business in the best possible way - He can compel H. to sell his Commission if it is available for the payment of his debt - and he even might materially assist him - The worst too cannot be known till I ascertain that Genl. B. is willing to pay $\frac{1}{3}$ of the debt - the same may be said for the 3rd surety's Mr Trevor's²⁶⁹ decision - I shall write to him - As you may well suppose this melancholy business keeps me in sad depression of spirits - However the cold weather has commenced & I shall have lots of amusements to drive away my sad thoughts - Your last letter is full of pleasant matters - Your pleasant excursion with Frank - his brightening prospects - the good news from N.F.L & the same from Worcester, of which I had a delightful confirmation from dear Irene - all these put out for a time the gloominess of my perspective. You must tell my dear sister Irene that I am very grateful for her nice long & loving letter, but that she must pardon

2

not writing to her this time for this the fourth letter I have written, and if I am not tired, dull & dismal its a pity - I mean for a correspondent - I'm not used to much exertion in letter writing - I told you that I should be sending you some interest for Stowey, but if you are not ruined by paying it, I think I had better husband my resources for a few months - till we know what is to be done in H's business - It is fortunate that I have 100£ in hard cash or rather in nice crispy paper - The sacrifice of my buggy & two of my horses, a little furniture & a few pictures, I think would "raise

the wind" nearly enough. Our new friends, who will be here on 5 November, will prove ready purchasers, as they come from a part of the country where they have had none of the Comforts or even necessities of civilised life - & I suppose none have more than a camp table & bed - I wish they were here now. I expect much enjoyment of this winter. My friend Thomson will be here shortly & then I go to Hissar - he has such a nice wife²⁷⁰. Talking of wives reminds me of the expected arrival here in 2 or 3 days of a Mrs Cole²⁷¹, late the Hansi spin. This horrid creature went up to the Hills & I suppose I told dear Dr Cole that she was most miserable at Hansie without him - They were engaged within five minutes of their meeting & are coming here within only a week of the day of their marriage - That is all the news I have to give you of Hansie - The weather is most delicious & mornings & evenings quite cold - I busy myself every morning in superintending the preparations for making Ice - for I am constituted Ice manager, as no one else would undertake the troublesome job. The ice is made as you would suppose, in small shallow earthen pans - of which the enormous number of 60 or 70,000 are put out each night. This season promises to be an uncommonly favourable one - We are now a month in advance of last year in getting into the cold weather. I wish we had our Billiard table too - I am always writing at the last hour, but this time it was unavoidable

2v

Next month I shall have less upon my hands & then I hope to pay off some long arrears to dear Bella Irene & others - I had nearly forgotten to mention dear old Fanny Bent - She sent me such a merry humorous letter the dear old soul - And was I really one letter in her debt? I did not know it - I will not fail to write to her next month - in the mean time give her my love & say that

her letter was almost as welcome of one of her jolly hearty kisses - but of course not quite - I have only time to say God bless you dear mother & desire my love to each & every member of the family present & absent. I have not yet had my NFL²⁷² letter -

My dear mother I am your affectionate
son Henry

[addressed:

Via Southampton Indian & Steamer Postage Pd.

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwickshire

stamped:

PAID 27 NO 27 1847
LEAMINGTON 27 NO 1847]

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Hansie 2nd November 1847

My dearest Mother The last mail that left took no letter for you, I am sorry to say, for why, I was dreadfully out of spirits about Harriott's business & what small quantity of bad spirits I had I bestowed upon Frank - & having written one letter found I myself unequal to a second - But now

dear mother I can write in great spirits - indeed I was just on the point of commencing my letter with a hip, hip, hooray!! with many wah wahs & och ochs, but that I feared you might think I had gone mad - not melancholy mad though - Can you guess at the cause of this Exuberance of Spirits & folly? George Harriott has paid his debt to the Agra Bank. You wont want me to write any thing after that piece of good news. He sent me a letter, which accompanied your last, informing me that he had paid 800£ supposing that that would cover the whole of his debt, for he had not then recd the Sectys Account - There is some 50£ more due, but if they don't cheat Harriott, that ought to have been absorbed in the rate of exchange. I have just written to H. to hint this to him & also to apologise for the warmth of my letter to him - Had I but waited a week longer I might have saved myself the labor & pain of writing half a dozen letters on the subject. However "all's well that ends well". I need not attempt to describe the relief this news has been to me - it will be eno' if I tell you that my dear friends have fully expected me to give a Champagne "tiffin" to the Station, which you must know is the common way in this country of celebrating any very joyful event, any exceeding good fortune - such as unexpectedly coming into 5000£ a year - the removal of some tough everlasting old senior Captain - any thing of that sort. To make assurance (George's) doubly sure, I wrote to the Bank to know if they had received any account, of this sum having been paid & the dear darling Secretary

1v

(hitherto such a brute!) wrote back "yes, certainly, that sum had been recd by our London Agents & when balance is paid, I will return you the security papers". Now I am renewing my old plans of marrying, going home or going home and marrying - as I fear I shan't be able to take a wife home with me - of saving money hand over hand - & not for that rascally Bank - If you want any money now is the time to mention any sum - How many thousands? eh? Talking of going home, those active fellows of the Board of Control don't seem to be doing much about our new Furlo' Regulations, tho' those of the Civil Service are to come into operation at once. However I fancy that our's will be in force before I have completed my 10 years' service - & whatever Major Jopp²⁷³ may say I think that if our masters grant us any thing it will be a short leave without loss of appointments - I should be very sorry to leave Hansie, but the fear of doing so would not at all allay my eager anxiety to go home & see you dear mother & all belonging to you. So you have reached home after your many & long journeys, but perhaps as you talk of such a thing, you have started off afresh, unless the approaching winter keep you at home - A very jolly sort of life you seem to lead - How wonderfully & happily your little sums of money seem continually to be tumbling in - the legacies, the rail way bonus & then your last from Mr Smith of Thames Bank. The Taunton funds do not appear to flourish - I don't know what interest I am paying for the money borrowed of Stowey - I suppose some 3 ½ Pr. cent. Now that I am an unencumbered thriving man again I have been making a careful analysis of all my expenses during the present year - 10 months, & find that they are much too great to be continued if I wish to save money - My receipts have been exactly 43£., 17., 6 a month & my expenses 31£ 10.6 & I have exactly saved 120£ - I find 50£ spent in superfluities & purchases of furniture &c which will not recur again - But I shall change all that - I have been living somewhat with the recklessness of a ruined man - My good friends the Thomsons heard in the hills of my being involved in Harriotts business & that I was going to sell

2

off every thing in my possession & sadly have they been disappointed in finding that they cannot buy my beautiful pictures, my couches, card tables & the round table, upon which they had set their hearts. Mrs T. entreated me to let her have some. They arrived here 2 days ago & are gone out to Hissar, where I hope shortly to follow them - I have such a store of ammunition & have cast hundreds of bullets & when I am ranging the forest & jungle on the elephant I'll think of you & wish you as much pleasure as I am enjoying - Such weather we have now: & if possible more happy

are we at the prospect of the arrival of our new friends on the 4th, than in the enjoymt of such weather - Regimts are beginning to pay us flying visits on their way to their various destinations & very enlivening their arrivals are - Last year we had all sorts of amusements - cricket, racing &c besides the novelty of a good large party - Unfortunately the Corps that arrived this morning is encamped out of cantonments & we know none of them - When the 17th Irreglrs come I dare say we shall get up some parties in a small way I want much to see the Polka²⁷⁴ danced & perhaps I may be gratif[torn] by some of the fair & their partners - husbands - for no one here ever saw the Polka - At any rate I shall have some companions to ride with & so on & our society will be much improved by a little mixture of new & more numerous members - for at present my little world is limited to the Comdg Officer & Adjutant of our own Regmt. The newly married couple²⁷⁵ over the way only one of us has visited & of course we have had no Station party in honor of them, as is always the custom in India - We all part without a word of farewell from either party - pleasant & cordial, that! You see that I have no news to give you - When I am not out shooting, I am sauntering about the garden, as I know that eminently idle fellow does all the vacation - I left out the word Frank; but without it you wd know who I was speaking about - I back my garden against Frank's for vegetables at least, perhaps for flowers & shrubs. The worst thing about it is the formality & straightness & flatness in which it is laid out - My fruit trees will bear next summer, at least, most of them - With only such simple subjects to talk about, do you not think it would be the height of folly & rashness

2v

to attempt a letter to Sibella & Irene, though I am deeply indebted to each of them - besides I cannot commence writing till within two hours of the despatch of the Mail - To dear Irene, who wrote me a long (tho' too short) a letter about Harriott's business & gave me all her loving sisterly advice & consolation, you must convey the glad tidings of my release from my threatened troubles with my very best love - & don't on any account leave out dear Bella - Tell her that the promised fiddler had better be sent out to me in his fiddle's case as I shall be too old to learn anything when I reach Leamington, unless

I start sooner than I expected - To brother George & sister Netta you must convey the news - I wrote last month to G. telling him that I had acted according to his learned & kind advice - With what a thrill of pleasure I tore up & burnt all the confounded 'duns' from the Secretary and all the letters connected with that horrible business - Catch me being security for any living soul again, if any body can - Some 2 years' anxiety has been a lesson that I shall never forget - I have had no letter yet from my NFL brothers - sad fellows they are - tho' I have not written often

to either of them - Did you forward my musick? - I have not found time & inclination & industry combined yet in such a degree as to enable me to copy the two others - God bless you my dear mother

Your affectionate Son
Henry

[addressed:

Via Southampton Indian & Steamer Postage Pd

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place,
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

PAID 28 DE 28 1847

LEAMINGTON DE 28 1847

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Hansie November 17th 1847

My dearest dear mother I got a couple of nice letters from you last night & one from dear Irene - What a worthless fellow I am that I have never written to my dear sister - I have lately had 2 letters from her & it will be impossible for me to send even a line in reply this time, unless I put off my letter - the despatch of it, till tomorrow. This I fear I must do for I am pestered by the presence of the most terrible bore I ever knew in my life - By the by one of your letters ought to have 'come to hand' by the mail before this one, for the letter marked via Marseille speaks of events likely to come to pass & the other letter, without date, speaks of their having been accomplished - Along with your letters I had one from Genl. Barton talking about the loan business - the first purpose of his letter was to confirm the statemt of G Harriot, that 800£ had been paid; & next to suggest the propriety of our paying at once any balance that may be still due, as hundreds in this nice country, quickly swell to thousands - The account stood at 856£ about the time that G.H. made the payment in London, so I fancy the balance due about is 50 or 60£ ; to pay which amongst 3 of us would be but a trifling loss. In my last letter I talked a great deal about this business & of the great relief & joy I experienced at the glorious news - so I think we will say nothing more about it now, beyond asserting that those delightful feelings are as fresh as ever. You talk, dear mother, of having just recd one of my sulky, discontented letters - these are not your words - but I know that they are the appropriate ones - but I beg to answer that I am never out of spirits, discontented or unhappy for more than 5 minutes & perhaps never more than once in a month - The attentions of an assiduous & hungry mosquito is enough to ruffle one's style of writing - not one's temper, at least not mine - so if ever I am found grumbling, pray attribute it to such a pest, or to some outrage of the punkah in knocking my sheet of paper all about the room. Sometimes too I indulge in melancholics - talk of blighted affections - feelings nupt in the bud &c &c but that is only to show that I am a man of feeling or to fill my letter

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Instead of filling my letter with such trash, I will, according to your good suggestion, disregard the length of my letter & be contented with telling such little news as I may have & if I have none, the state of my health & spirits & that of the weather shall be my topics - Just now there is no news - Our new friends of the Cavalry we find most amiable nice people & the pleasant way in which the time flies shows that some happy change has occurred in Hansie - One of the party I knew before, at Delhie - He is a Devonshire man was born at or near Dartmouth & his nice wife, quite a girl, was born in the same county - They were engaged many years ago - Perhaps you may know something of the 2 families - Hockin²⁷⁶ is the name & Mrs H's maiden name was Knight. Mr H knows many of my Devonshire friends, particularly all the Lawyer's clerks & Doctor's boys - amongst others my dear old friend Harry Square - I certainly envy my friend the possession of such a wife - I see them every day & many very pleasant excursions we have had together boating or walking or driving every day - As I may have told you before all our new friends have joined with us in taking a Mess house in which we are to have our reading room of the Book Club - We have bought a Billiard table & will set it up there - our morning meetings will be held there, where we shall have the usual entertainments & in addition a nice bath & a billiard table. I have not yet been out to Hissar which you know to be my favourite resort in the Xmas holydays as I call the cold weather - Last year we

pursued a leopard, as I told you - but this year we are likely to go in chase of some tigers! Major Thomson saw a very large one 3 days ago, there. But this wanteth interest to you. What a perilous scene poor dear Bella must have been in, in the steamer - thankful I am to learn that she did not suffer from it - Such states of peril are often worth experiencing - by the good as well as the bad. I hope my dear Bella benefited by her short excursion. So far from her being worn out & melancholy & miserable in her solitude I should have thought that she was enjoying herself vastly, from the liveliness & sprightliness of her dear letters to me. Tell her with my affectionate love

2

My dear mother I am so bothered by my kind interrupter that I cannot conclude my letter - I shall write to you tomorrow; but lest that should be too late I must send off this scrap of a letter - Give my dear love to all at home - God bless you, ever your very affectionate son Henry -

2v

[addressed:

Via Southampton - India & Steamer Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
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Warwicks

stamped:

PAID 13 JA 13 1848

LEAMINGTON JA 13 1848

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1

Hansie 1st December /47

My dearest Mother I am for a wonder writing before the last day, which is tomorrow - or which tomorrow is, but I do not think that on this account I shall be able to write a fuller longer letter than what I have been giving you lately - Such miserable apologies for letters as I am ashamed to send - At any rate I am enjoying undisturbed possession of my room & pen & ink, in which happy condition I was not when I wrote last. My friend was stumping up & down the room till I was giddy, jingling a tremendously noisy pair of spurs (real beauties !!) chattering & spitting without one instant's intermission - Ten minutes after I had closed my letter, in great indignation, I was to my great delight, driving him out & away from Hansie as hard as the horse could go. When I have finished this note I shall write to Genl. Barton to tell him the result of my enquiries at the Agra Bank, concerning the balance still due to it by G. Harriott - I shall have the gratification of saying that the balance is only 20£.12 - I thought it would have been 3 or 4 times as much - The General advised of our paying the balance at once, whatever it might be; but this sum is so small that the interest would be nothing - besides in this balance is included interest to 31st December /47. Another objection to my paying the money myself now, is that the papers connected with the loan business have been sent to England; and if I pay the money I shd like to burn them - such of them as bear my Signature, myself - Further it is more than likely that the balance being so small, Harriott

would have paid it, as soon as he recd the account, to close the business & the bother at once - I shall say this to the General & also tell him that if G. H. has not paid the money then, it would scarcely be worth my while to pay it in this country, as he will doubtless readily pay it on being desired by the Genl. to do so. The Genl must have thought that the balance would be a very considerable sum as 6 months ago the debt was 8560 Rs or 56£ above the 800 - but the Bank has made a great reduction on account of the exchange - nearly 7 per cent. Eno' of this affair

1v

What other interesting & fruitful subject can I start instead of the one, so unhappily(?) got rid of it? There is nothing new here, but we are getting on most happily, merrily - The weather, which so much affects one's spirits health & enjoyment of life, is beyond all praise - I ramble about the country all day long collecting a store of health & strength for the hot weather - I have not been out to Hissar yet, but an invitation was given 2 days ago - I must wait for the departure of a Calcutta big wig who is come here on a tour of inspection of all things & persons - He is the member of the military Board with a salary of some 5,000 Rs a month - Until he leaves the district Thomson will not be able to get a holyday - Our new fellows of the Cavalry prove very excellent fellows & we all meet every morning as surely as the sun rises, & gad about like real idle ones till 10 o'clock - In the former Corps we had not one acquaintance - in this we have 4 unexceptionable ones. My friend Hockin tells me that his father is an Attorney in Dartmouth. Did I tell you that he was engaged (9) nine years to his present spouse - they have been married exactly one year - They were engaged at the age of 17 & 16 - What a fine thing is constant love - The English beauties wear very wonderfully well for I guessed Mrs H's age to be 20, instead of 26. Mrs Campbell who is not 22 or at most 22 & ½ said to me "Why Mrs H. is quite a child!" I understand that the 2 other ladies are very nice people - one arrived only yesterday & the other is not be here for some time - Our Mess house, bath, billiard room & reading room are all getting ready fast - not that we require them at this time of the year - no in-door occupations are allowed now - I feel uneasy at being obliged to stay in the house during the night - I had my first fire this morning - I have to attend Muster now & this morning for fear of accidents I was called up at 6 o'clock & for one hour enjoyed a good fire, excellent coffee & cheeroots & a book - with a blanket over my shoulders till the sun got up. That is to me the highest pitch of enjoyment of which I am capable or susceptible - All the time I have been writing this interesting news I have been thinking of your photogenic likeness - I wish dear mother you would get one done for me - a good one - pack it up in a piece of paper like

2

this, place the old address on the outside & clap it in the post office - It will reach me in perfect safety - Nobody is likely to steal it, as nothing of any value was ever sent out from England to this country, of course excepting the [unclear] members of the service - This is the opinion of the Post Office gentry, I should say. The state of the Furlo' regulations render such a proceeding as I have suggested, very desirable. After your likeness has come safely come [sic] to hand, I'll call upon my dear sisters to do the same. A friend of mine at Delhie showed me a number of these photographic pictures & very nicely they were done & barring a somewhat ghostly hue, they were good likenesses. I believe these things cost very little, so pray dear mother put on one of the old well known & loved caps & sit down in the sun shine & send me the result. You give a somewhat gloomy account of dear Aunt Jim's unsettled life - the most sad part of it is that the want of 20£ a year has prevented her settling near her friends the Rabans & Browns - If I were to send her 20£ would she go and "stick up her spoon" as we say in India - excuse the slang as it is Eastern & romantic - would she go & live where she liked best? I have promised so often with out much performance that I shall make no more promises. But I might pay the rint in advance & will do so if it meets yr approbation. [worn] have been hard up myself for a long time & have just now paid 50£ for 6 months supplies & 20 or 30 more will be required from the Billiard table Mess

house &c - these are concerns in which a resident must join or be kicked out of society. Next month I shall get afloat again I hope - But this is a sadly old story - I mean the next months performances - My 100£ is safely locked up in Calcutta so that I cant touch it, or I might help my friends out of that. I am always indulging in some new expense - I have just bought out 5 natives whose houses came close up to my wall & thereby in case of fire greatly endangered the whole of my estate - as next to them I have a small barn full of Oats & then a range of 8 houses cook room & store-room & post office, all thatched, except the 3 last which have only thatched verandahs - In addition to this new purchase, I have just sent off to Sekarunpore for about 150 fruit trees, which will suffice for my garden. I told you that we intended to make Ice this winter & that I am manager - this will cost 70 RS or more. So I go on spending right & left till I find that my annual savings amount to nothing - I told you before that I have been pressed to take 160£ for my house - that sum will be something when I come to take my leave

2v

My letter cannot go to-day, so I hope with a fair day tomorrow to be able to say "how do ye do" to one or more of my dear sisters - not by proxy but by a direct communication. You tell me that my loving & beloved brother Berty is learning music or practising rather - Do you mean the fiddle? How I shd like to hear how he performs - I talk of playing, but I am afraid that my skill is equal only to what it was when I bought the fiddle - but I shd greatly like to learn or to play with another person - When Mrs Juxon Jones is found I expect that she & I will play admirably after a little practice - I have been seriously

thinking of taking a month's leave in the Hills next hot weather - My old friend Wale is coming here on his way to Simla & I hope to accompany him -- I should like to see Simla & the opportunity of travelling & staying with an old, true & good friend may not occur again. Do not think of my having any ulterior views - I'm going for nothing but for the renovation of my health - or for the sake of a pleasant break in the monotony & miserable confinement of the hot weather - 2nd December - We had some Ice this morning nearly ½ an inch thick - I am in hopes that the hard frost will immediately come on & that I may fill the pits & get rid of my troublesome undertaking at once - or in a few days

Of course I have had no letters from N.F.L yet - Berty & I promised to write twice a year - on Xmas day & the 21st June - I shall fulfil my part of the engagement by the next Mail - It is time for me to wish you a happy Xmas & New Year - We are to be a very large party on Xmas day - All thro' this weather I shall be continually thinking of you all & drinking your health daily.

[Upside down at top of first page]

I must commence my letter to Irene at once - God bless you my dear mother Your affectionate son
Henry

[addressed:

Indian & Steamer Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwickshire

via Southampton

stamped:

LEAMINGTON JA 31 1848

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1

Hansie 16th December. 1847

My dearest mother I have just had a miserably small instalment on account of my heavy debt, in the matter of letters, to Irene, so you must come in for a very short letter. I have nothing to write about as I live. I must light a cheroot & see if there is any inspiration to be got by it - at any rate it will soothe the pangs of composition - The cheroot is a good one and its flavour is unexceptionable, but I find that it withdraws my attention from the business before me; besides the smoke is in the way of my seeing well. What can I talk to you about, mother dear? The matter uppermost in my thoughts since that evening, is how has it happened that I have fallen into the disfavour of my newly acquired fair friend over the way - a little to the right - She did all but cut me dead - I was quite astounded - I racked my brains for 2 hours before I could arrive at any explanation of the phenomenon - At last I hit upon it - I have ruthlessly taken a boat from the place where the newcomers used to embark in it & have brought it down to Cantonments - They had taken it 2 miles away, where there was nobody to look after it, except with the intention of stealing the oars, rullocks &c - in a direction where no shooting is to be had - There are also innumerable obstacles to one's progress in the shape of locks, mills & bridges But I need not tell you all about it - only this - that I shall not put up with such treatment - I shall keep the boat where it is until the lady smiles again - Don't you think I am right? I did not think that any of the gentle creatures Devonshire produces, could be so unreasonable and sulky. I have written to Genl. Barton by this mail to say that if he still considers it advisable for us 2 to pay the balance of G Harriots debt, he had better pay you 10£ i.e. half the sum & then I will pay the whole amount that the Bank claims - viz 206 Rs. That would be a good arrangemt for you, but for my part I would prefer that G H should pay the whole 20£ himself. I told you before that the Loan papers had been sent to London, for which reason - or rather, for reason of which, I do not like to pay the money to the Agra Bank - . Shall I ever get rid of his business?

1v

You tell me in your last letter that dear Tom sent you a letter each all round the family circle - at Leamington I mean - Was there none to me I promised to write to Berty - tomorrow will prove whether I keep my promise or break it, as it may be a safe day - This letter writing is sad work in this beautiful [sic] - I never was more tempted in my life to do any thing, that I now am to throw away pens & paper & flie out in the delicious sunshine & air - I think I must bolt. So good bye dearest mother - None of the mere compliments of the season, but all and every of the good wishes & blessings be with you and each member of the family, always. The post office is shutting & I must be quick - I was at first going to say that I must go and play - but to my surprise I find it is 12 oclock - noon. God bless you dearest mother while I am your son - Yr affectionate son Henry

Give my dear dear love to Bella & tell her that I am sure she could not wish for a letter if she had recd what stuff I have written to you - Henry

[no address]

Hansie January 17th 1848

My dearest mother This is my first letter to you this new year, so I suppose I ought to repeat on paper my good wishes & blessings which I have been wishing you in my heart from Xmas day up to the present time - I did not write last mail from having nothing whatever to tell you but the old story of the beautiful happy weather & my approaching trip to Hissar - Besides I was rather busy running about enjoying myself as much as possible. I have only just returned from a 4 days' visit to Hissar, where I had 2 fine days' shooting, but having some business here, with the Ice concern & the post office that required my presence in Hansie, I was obliged to return much sooner than I desired - The General is coming here to-day or tomorrow to inspect the troops and all the people are in a fuss & fidget in consequence - Full dresses are being hauled out & closely inspected - all sorts of evolutions & manoeuvres are being mugged up - Every thing & person is being got into apple-pie order. I am told to don my cocked hat, but I shan't lest I should disturb the solemn gravity of the parade - & be the cause of some of the Staff tumbling off their horses thro' laughter - I am afraid that I shall not be able to put on my jacket, for what I could not do a month ago in that respect, I am not likely to be able to do now. I find that I am less & less able each month to get up a letter for you dear mother, so I am going in future to attempt but one monthly - Now even I have not a syllable to say that is worth saying - Our billiard table & Ice have been for some time my only topics - As I am manager of the latter concern, you will be glad to know that I have filled the reservoir brim full, and that we shall have a good supply

1v

of Ice during the whole of the hot weather - Our billiard table is expected daily - that may not interest you so much as the former announcement. The only other subject of interest is my continued disgrace with a certain lady - Did I tell that at a large party - a party of some 15 people the moment I entered the room the lady rose to depart & was only kept back at the most earnest entreaty of her husband & many of her friends - Or that when asked to play she objected to do so while I was in the room! Several of the ladies thereupon begged me to go into the dining room & smoke a hookah! This caused a great deal of fun & amusement to all of us. The most amusing part of this to me unhappy business, was the various surmises of the community as to the cause of this intolerable hatred & disgust which the lady evidently bore towards unfortunate me. Some confidently asserted that I had stolen her picture - some that the theft was a kiss - some that I was evidently getting very tender and required instant & total dismissal &c &c - all very flattering to a man of gallantry, but not at all so to me - Tho' we all smile at the absurd degree & manner in which the lady shows her dislike of me, yet we all greatly regret that there should be a rupture between any two of our small community - I am always being thrown in her way - which is unpleasant to every one. Her husband is the most excellent nice fellow, but there can scarcely be any acquaintance between us; as I can't go to his house, so he wont come to mine - After this long story can I add to it & tell you how I came into disgrace?

2

The lady has some unknown affection of her mouth which extends its influence to her breath - One day she was showing me her watch without taking off the chain which fastened it round her neck, & therefore brought her face rather near mine, when I involuntarily turned my face away in the slightest, almost imperceptible degree - That was my hateful unpardonable offence - So much for Hansie tittle tattle - which you must excuse as I have positively nothing better to talk to you about - I have just read yr last letter, over again but I do not find any thing particularly suggestive of remark or comment. You speak of the Furlo' regulations - No doubt they will remain as of old - most

persons are I fancy pleased at that - The only improvement in them that, in my opinion, was begged for was the permission to take one's Furlough at any time or in any way one wished. This will not be granted I suppose, as we have heard nothing of the subject for many months - At the worst I have but 2 ½ years to wait for my furlough - The time will pass fast enough, if our lives are spared - Fancy its being now 8 years since I left home - it appears only 2 or 3. In [torn] counting the years I cannot help reflecting on the long standing of my debt to Stowey - I hear that the 5 pr cent loan is shortly to be closed, so I shall get back my 100£ by which time I hope to have one or 2 more to add to it & remit home to get rid at once of this horrible burden, of which I am getting very weary - Fancy my being in debt half of my Indian career - its dreadful. I thought I shd have repaid the loan the 1st or 2nd year - and so I ought to have done - Having the whole sum unpaid - or none of it paid has discouraged me much for I know that if I had paid a portion of it, I should soon have paid the whole - We are obliged to close the Post Office now at 10 oclock, which is somewhat inconvenient on Overland days, as we call the days on which we despatch our English letters. What with walking, duty and breakfast the day may be said

2v

to begin at 10 oclock or rather at 11 as we generally breakfast at 10 - In this weather I feel such a disinclination to stay indoors that I have not been able to muster resolution sufficient to sit down & prepare a letter for dear Fanny Bent - for in one day I can write but one letter & the last day I always devote to you. Many thanks my dear mother for the birth days

& ages of my nephews & nieces - I have not yet copied them into the book alongside of those of the rest of my dear family - I must stop my letter at once - Give my dearest love to all - brothers & sisters & their young ones - to Aunt & to yourself & God bless you dear mother while I am Yr affectionate son

Henry

[addressed:

India & Steam Postage Pd

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa,
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

Via Southampton

stamped:

PAID 1 MR 1 1848]

1

Hansie February 3rd/48

My dearest mother I received your letter of the 1st December 3 days ago, which was fortunate in as far as it allows me to write a reply while your letter is fresh – Dear Frank's poetry amused – or I should say amuses me for I am still being tickled by it – vastly – The grand, the sublime & the pathetic are embodied in those touching words “Come little bells” - Whence did dear Frank get

such inspiration? From small beer or from the nursery? He's a sly dog and perhaps all thro' the verses was only poking fun at the noble & inspiring theme – Your accounts of dear Tom are comforting but those of poor Bertie are scarcely so – I wish he was with his brother instead of being out in the wilderness and amidst a starving population too – The latter must be dreadful – I am glad that Tom likes the sort of music I have sent him, because I have some more – which I must send him of course – I shall be glad to hear from him indeed – I am perfectly astonished at that fellow Bertie's silence – I wonder whether his brotherly love is frozen & thawed alternately throughout the year – It may be that his faculties & fingers only are affected by the fierce extremes of the climate – I hope so – He must have some very powerful apologies to lessen my wrath – I got a kind letter from Genl Barton at the same time with yours. He tells me that Harriott is almost sure to pay the balance of 20£ still due to the Bank, but if he should not he proposes paying his share of it – one third – to you; the same proposition that I made to him – The state of the Taunton rents is not flourishing certainly – How liberal of Mr Stowey it was letting you off a large part of the interest – I really do not know what interest I pay – or rather, you pay for my loan – Some considerable sum but be due to you by me on acct. of interest – Eight years have now past since I borrowed the money & the 50£ I sent you I suppose will not cover the interest of 5 or 6 years – I think I told you that I should have my 1000 Rs shortly returned to me as the 5 pr cent loan is about to be closed – I shall take the money instead of buying into the 4 pr cent, as I

1v

am very anxious to settle with Stowey – I shall have 600 or 700 Rs balance in my hands this month & if I do not get my money returned till March I shall have saved 100£ in all – If I do this I shall have an outcry, as a sale is termed in this country, & perhaps in yours, just to raise some 30 or 40£ more – Two people are almost decided upon buying my principal set of pictures the price of which is 24£ My expenses during the last 3 months have been fearful – every single sliver of my pay has gone – Ice 6£ Billiard table 22£ supplies more than 50£ - I was Secretary of the Book Club & found myself let in for a lot of rupees, on account of a deficiency of funds, so having burnt my fingers I have thrown up the office of Secretary – When I undertook the management of the Ice works I bargained for payments in advance or the stoppage of the works on the 1st occasion of a deficiency – In this way I have paid every expense incurred & have a considerable balance in hand, I closed the Ice-pit yesterday – It will not be touched again till May – till which time my labors are at an end – We have been very gay here during the last month. General Gilbert²⁷⁷ was here for a week & we had lots of parties, show & fun – I told you of a most unhappy rupture between a fair lady & myself which occasioned every one in the station annoyance, tho' at first it was the cause of some fun & merriment – A week ago there was a party to which I was obliged to decline going in order that the lady & her husband might go!! You will be glad to learn that all this folly is at last at an end. Three days ago just before dinner time the gentleman said to me “Can you come & dine with us without saying a word about what has past?” I replied “I shall be delighted” - I went and found my fair friend as agreeable as ever – The surprise of the good folks at Hansie was great indeed – By the bye I have positively something else to tell you - Unalloyed bliss is not to be found in this world – I will explain the nature of the alloy mixed with my joy – I shd rather have said that we never

2

see unalloyed misfortune in this world, for in this case the misfortune happened first & then followed the happy reconciliation Just a week ago, as I was leaving the house where there was or just had been a large party, in my buggy with Major Campbell along side of me, two other gentlemen asked for a lift. I urged the impossibility of 4 going in the buggy & drove on – My friends then attempted to get in, and on behind, in spite of my remonstrance, so I hit the mare rather too sharply when she began to gallop & then pulled up with a plunge – In an instant the shafts broke & the Major was shot out like a rocket – I could not move, for the fore part of the buggy coming

violently on the ground bent the splash-board back against the seat & held me by the knees In the state I was dragged some 10 yds & at last the mare got free of the buggy by a plunge & tilted me out of the buggy completely topsy turvy. When I thought of my [sic] state of my escape the next day I was indeed thankful for my wonderful preservation – Had the mare kicked in any way or degree I must have been killed – From the time that the shafts broke, to the moment that the mare parted from the buggy my face was close to the mare's tail. We had just passed a small bridge over a deep ditch & after the mare was loose she ran over the bridge, but a man stopping her with outstretched arms, she jumped over the parapet into the ditch – She too escaped without injury – This is my second smash of a buggy. Fortunately the damage to the buggy is slight & Major Thomson has kindly offered to have it entirely put to right, if I pay for a new pair of shafts – He has in his establishment shops full of smiths & carpenters – The shafts my be got for some 8 Rs so that there has not been much damage done – Talking of Major T. reminds me of my intended trip to Hissar on Monday next in company with Major Campbell – We are to stay at Hissar a whole week & much sport & much happiness I expect to enjoy – My last visit was only of 4 days & 2 of them were past in dawdling about the house & garden - & in

2v

& in journeying to & from Hissar – I told you nothing of my sport on that occasion, because you would not care to hear of it – but I hit a beautiful Neel Gai – a black bull – It lay on the ground some minutes & I thought I had bagged him & entreated Thomson not to fire as I wished to have him all to myself – One of the game keepers was just about to give him a coup de grace when he slipt away – we could not fire because the men were close to the animal & in a moment he was

lost in the jungle – which was so thick that there was scarcely room for another branch of a tree – I was too ambitious you see, but I was made so by Major C's having said he would eat the whole animal if I killed one – He narrowly escaped a feast. Dear mother I was very nearly omitting to mention a matter of great interest I am sure to you – it is that the memorial of the Civilians²⁷⁸ has been granted – published in Orders – so our's is also sure certain to be granted likewise – When it is I mean to live upon one straw a day till next cold weather

I must close my letter instantly – God bless you dearest mother & all the family give them my love - absent & present! I am Your affectionate & loving son Henry

[addressed:

India & Steamer Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

Via Southampton

stamped:

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Hansie 2nd March /48

My dearest mother I did not write to you by the last mail, as you have no doubt already found out; for, as I have before said, I cannot find matter for two letters a month – Your resignation of one letter that I may delight & instruct my dear brothers & sisters with the other, will be of no avail, you see – Your last loving letter, of the 1st January, found me in the full enjoyment of all that you wished me. Since I wrote last I have spent another week at Hissar & past a most delightful time there – I am going there again on the 6th – but alas! I fear for the last time – at any rate for the last time to the house of my dear friends the Thomsons – He – the Major is ordered to Umballa & a very different sort of person is coming in his stead. We are all very much grieved at the loss of him – I am so above all – Campbell & I are going to Hissar to look at some cows – that Thomson is going to sell – I think I shall buy one – Being stationary I ought to have a complete farm-yard, whereas I have no domestic animals except my horses & two sick dogs – I am going to keep babits [sic] & one cow! If there were a Mrs Juxon to feed the ducks & chickens I would keep lots of them – but for myself the occupation pleaseth me not. The moment I received your last letter I wrote off to the Agra Bank for a Bill on Messrs. Coutts & Co for the sum of 40£ because I had a bill for that amount by me – The Secretary wrote back to say that he could give me bills on the Agra Bank's own Agent only & at nothing less than 3 months after sight – I wrote instantly to beg he would lose no time in sending me a set of bills – as he terms the 3 – on his own Agent and at 3 months' sight – I expect them to arrive to-day; but if they do not come I fear the day after tomorrow will be too late for the next mail – Our letters come in in the evening & go out in the morning, so you see that if I get no letter from the Secty to-day, I shall be not able to send them to-morrow, which is the last safe day. The bills being upon the Bank's Agent is no disadvantage. The late fearful doings & losses in money transactions, I suppose account for the Bank's sticking only to its own Agent and moreover granting no bills at sight -

1v

When you have got the Bill cashed, will you pay it to Aunt with my best and dearest love – Poor dear soul, I had no idea that she was so dreadfully “hard up”. I wish you had mentioned the fact before – I am so fully absorbed in thinking of paying off my debt to Stowey that I completely lose sight of such demands upon my purse, which I am quite ready & willing to pay when I remember or am told of them – What I have sent poor dear Aunt Jim is exactly one month's pay; for I regret to say the rate of exchange is so unfavorable that I shall have to pay the odd 47 Rs nearly 5£ for the Bill I hope Aunt may find this sum a present relief – Whether or not it lasts till I have paid my own debt, I will send her lots more when called upon. Eno' for business – after so sad a subject I scarcely like to jump at once to my life of pleasure & happiness – We have been so gay & merry that even you must envy me. I told you of my reconciliation with my fair friend. I should tell you that she cut me because she thought I was a most dreadful character – I have before told you that my house is the common resort of all the good people of Hansie – I should also tell you that some 2 or 3 of our new friends were once upon a time great gamblers, & that the husband of my friend has ruined himself by gambling. Well, these good people being in my house took it into their heads to raffle a gun & then a dressing case & the something else – then the losers resorted to cards to recover their losses – and so things got worse & worse till I was obliged to say that I would have no more business of that kind done in my house. My house was called a H-ll, & I the keeper!!! Though this was spoken in joke, my fair friend thought it was all true & thinking that I was leading her husband back into his old courses, very reasonably cut me – She told me all this the other [sic] & said that she was nearly going mad with fear & alarm - Hearing from the best source that I neither put in for the raffles, nor touched a card, she of course no longer felt the sense of hatred or fear of me, which were strong enough before. You have no idea of the pain this explanation gave me – The idea of being supposed as gambler. Since the explanation we have been as thick as thieves – I have dined with them every night for a week – We ride out to the country house every evening – We shoot

ducks in the tank – drink beer – the lady partaking of both the latter amusements – we go home 3 in the buggy – dine together & afterwards have some of the best performances I ever heard upon the piano – The lady is the most excellent player I ever heard - & a splendid rider – We fairly race all the way to Dhanah, the country house, which is 3 miles from this & more - My trips to Hissar I have already

2

mentioned – Our billiard table is up & we all meet & play every day – Besides the cultivation or promotion of sociability, & healthy exercise to mind & body which the billiard table effects, it has kept some of us, at least, from those hateful things – the d---l's books – the Cards. Did I ever tell you that in hot weather – in the real hot weather – the Major, Adjutant & myself used to play a rubber of whist ever day – We have now done it for 3 seasons, & without as much as a rupee changing hands – Amongst ourselves it was as innocent a recreation as we could find - & carried us through the terrible afternoons most pleasantly – But I must say I should be afraid of touching a card with some of my neighbours – Fortunately the billiard table removes all inducements to playing at cards for mere amusement – There's a poetical jingle in that last line or remark. March 3rd No letter from the Secretary came last evening I am sorry to say – If I should get one to-day I will despatch it tomorrow whether too late or not – At the worst, it can but be detained at Bombay for a fortnight – Possibly the Secretary himself may forward the Bill to you if he finds that they will be too late for me to do this mail – I have left the finishing of this to the last moment & therefore have not time to read your last letter again, which [torn] always do before sitting down to write to you. I don't believe that there was any thing in it for me to reply to particularly. Your accounts of all the family are most happy & cheering – perhaps I ought to except poor Berty in his solitude – You spoke of my going home & should tell you that I shall scarcely be rich enough to go even if our Furlo' memorial were granted, of which there seems to be little chance – I made a mistake in saying that the memorial of the Civilians had been granted – merely some alterations have been made. Next winter but one I am entitled to my furlough as I can get 6 month's leave in order to go to Calcutta – But that is so far off – it may be said of the place as well as of the time – that I cannot fix my thoughts and wished much upon the promised happiness – If I go home I suppose I shall have to visit N.F.Land to see my brothers! I should not like to be so near them, without running over to see them – So Frank past some portion of his holidays with you I hope you had a delightful party – I mean I hope you were all in good health – if you were you must have been happy -

2v

I got a letter from Genl. Barton by the last mail in which he tells me that Harriott has paid the last penny of his debt – You cannot concieve how grieved I am at having written to him (H) & abusing him for not having paid his debt – My only excuse is that I was put up to it. Genl. B. compliments me by saying that our honorable name is so common, that it did not remind him of his friend the Jones – that's me – Otherwise his letter

was very civil! For he said he should like to hear from me if I would write – I should like to correspond with another General as I knows of. Genl. Hodgson I see by the papers is on the way to the Hills – Simla I think I shall go there for a sky [sic] – I have had no holiday yet, unless you call the whole of my life a holiday – Its not much unlike one. Baboo says – Your letter I want Sur! So I must give it to him - & to you and your's all the blessings I have to bestow -

Your very affectionate son Henry

[addressed:

Indian & Steamer Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

Via Southampton

stamped:

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1

Hansie March 18th /48

My dearest mother I write a second time this month merely to send you "this my second of Exchange" for poor dear Aunt Jim. I hope the receipt of it or of the 1st will at least cheer her a little. You speak of her weakness – but I trust it is nothing more than is usual at her time of life – If having a few rupees will enable her to live where she wishes I shall be glad indeed – I have no news, so I have just read your last letter again to see what there is to talk about – I feel much flattered dear mother by your comparing me in the how dah²⁷⁹ to a die in a dice box. If 10 stone will not keep a man steady I don't know what will – I don't go Tiger shooting, though I wd give a month's pay to do so. You seem to have no accurate ideas of a what a howdah is. The last time I was out I read one

2

Volume of Peter Simple²⁸⁰ most comfortably – a howdah is as snug as an arm chair if the Elephant could walk up a wall like a fly, it would be difficult to fall out. I must set your mind at ease about the danger of the billiard table also. None but trifling bets are allowed & there is but one person fond of betting at that game & of course he cannot bet by himself. The only way in which we play for money is at pool, & we play for sixpences, which term we give to 4 anna bits – a ¼ of a rupee & it is a game at which the merest beginner can lose nothing 2 days successively. You need have no fears of my playing to lose money or to win it either – for at this game – at Billiards generally the game can always be made even – Besides my dear, I am very anxious to save every rupee I can, in order to pay Stowey, though the time I am to do so seems remoter each year – I am afraid that at the end of 10 years I shall find myself still his

3

debtor, not that I care much if I have plenty of money to take me home – Your accounts of all at home & abroad are comfortable. I should wish very much to join some of the pleasant parties that you make to Malvern – We have been practicing pic-nic breakfasts at Danah morning after morning. We drive or ride there, take a hour's stroll with our guns & go back to breakfast in a sort of gipsy camp – with a pretty gipsy to pour out the tea – We sit on the ground i.e. the gentlemen – the sportsmen, while the lady sits enthroned on the buggy cushions, dispensing breakfast, mirth & laughter. Our little station is again full – the Thomsons are here for a few days on their way to the Hills – Alas! not to return – Did I tell you that we had a young Civilian appointed here. He has a Piano!!! so I am looking forward to practicing & playing with him – That would be delightful indeed – I have told you before that my old friend & chum Mr Wale is coming here next month -

& I have promised that if he will stay here a month I will accompany him to the Hills – to Simla. Suppose I was to fall desperately in love while there! A thing I am exceedingly likely to do – For the 999th time, again I am beginning to sigh about my lonely lot – particularly when I see daily such bright examples of domestic happiness – But I must talk no more about this – nor about any thing else as there is neither room nor time – except to say god bless you my dear mother – Send my best love to all & tell you that I am your very affectionate son Henry

[not addressed]

1

Hansie May 8th [1848]

My dear mother Your long silence had made me very uneasy till I received a nice little letter last night from dear Irene. You must know that for 2 mails I did not get a line from any one, and now it is 2 months since I had a letter from you - I did not know about whom to be alarmed - I thought perhaps poor Aunt was not well, but then for my consolation I considered that her indisposition would not prevent you from writing - However I am at last relieved & glad I am to learn that you are all well - dear Aunt included. My last letter was to Irene as you'll have discovered by the time you get this. I have nothing new to tell you tho' it is so long since I wrote. We are in the thick of the hot weather, with closed doors and darkened windows, punkahs going, see saw without interruption from the beginning to the end of the month, and when the wind blows up go the batties - Our billiard table is a great blessing to us - without it I should be miserable - I spend 2 or 3 hours of the afternoon at it, after every part of my body is aching with lying down & sitting & my eyes & brain bewildered with reading - Oh! these are dreadful days - with 15 hours of most beautiful sunshine - Alas! it is to be feared that we shall not be allowed to enjoy them in undisturbed peace - You have your strange eventful doings in half the nations of Europe, and we are not without some alarms - There is a real row in Mooltan - the southern parts of the Punjab. They - the Mooltanies - murdered 2 of our politicals, and started into open rebellion.²⁸¹ They have taken into their service as many cut-throat rascals as they can get hold of - and they are not a few in the Punjab - Indeed they are said to have 60,000 men & 80 guns. No force can at this dreadful season take to the field against them, and what will be the state of things by the time the cold weather begins none

1v

can foresee. One of the poor fellows murdered I knew very well during my first sojourn at Delhie - It is greatly to be feared that more of the politicals will be sacrificed - They are in all parts of the country & protected only by Seikh troops - The 500 men that were with the 1st victim went over to the enemy - The fort of Mooltan is considered as strong as any in the East!! People think that we are in as bad a fix as we were in the last campaign - One great difference however there is between our then condition & the present - viz that we have not half so many English troops now This is a matter of all absorbing interest to all in India, so you must excuse my dwelling on it so long. Our friends at Lahore write to say that hosts of Seikhs are marching off to Mooltan & that even coolies who have been building our people's houses have thrown down the hod & taken sword & match-lock & marched away to Mooltan. Our great hope there is that if the rascals cannot commence any mischief now, they will not be able to hold together till the cold weather, for such a

vast force will soon exhaust any hoarded treasure. We get out of scraps in a wonderful manner, so we may out of this - I only hope that we shall not have to march at this season - A detachment of our's & of the Cavalry have already gone to occupy a ghat or ford opposite Mooltan. Now for other matters - I am happy to hear from Irene that Aunt Jim has commenced her tour to all her old friends, and I am glad to think that the money I sent will be useful & most opportune. I have not made much progress towards the completion of my 200£ but I do all I can - I see in the papers that the 5 pr cent loan is positively to be shortly closed, but I fancy we must first see Mooltan settled. I shall buy no more Governmt Paper until I have paid off my debt, as there is so much difficulty in getting hold of yr money - besides sometimes one may have to sell out at a discount - which is not pleasant. Irene does not speak of our dear brothers in N.F.L I hope they are happy well & rich or getting so. I often feel a half determination to write to them both - but the heat melts my resolution - After the first shower of rain I may feel

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sufficient vigor - at present I certainly do not - By the bye we have not had more than one slight shower since the Irregulars were here, the 5th November & perhaps a month before that - My poor garden has suffered very much in consequence & from the premature heat of this season - Dozens of trees have died & many a much coveted and tenderly nursed one has been dried up within the last fortnight. However mine is a garden at last. I have 5 peach-trees covered with fruit - 20 lime trees - but scarcely more than one orange tree with much fruit - The young trees have an abundance of blossom - but alas! the fruit has perished - I forgot my plum trees - I have several with about 20 plums on each & they are nearly ripe. Besides I have made a beautiful arbour with honey-suckle on one side & jasmine on the other. My old friend Thomson sent me a honey-suckle that was a complete cartload of itself - From it I have sent daily a little bunch of blossom to my fair neighbour, with a fist-ful of Toss-Edwards & scotch roses - and have been making all manner of love! Heigh-ho! Pray excuse that sigh, mother dear - What have I more to tell [worn] I have spoken of the weather, of my finances, of the state of the country, of my garden, of the billiard table, & quite enough of the state of my heart. Oh. There's the Ice - I hope it has not all melted, for I have not yet opened the pit. We intend to commence upon the Ice in the rains, when every thing is so nice and hot and muggy, and when every body animate & inanimate is covered with a delightful dew and surrounded with the most enchanting haze - When nothing can be cooled, except with Ice. I have not spoken of my friends & neighbours. They are much the same as they were when I wrote last. During the hot weather I do not visit any where except at the Billiard room. Even during the cold weather I greatly neglected my duty in calling on my neighbours. For 3 months there was a nasty vixen of a woman staying at my Comdg Officers so I have become a perfect stranger in that house - for I never went there during the visit of my friend & have not been there since till today after an absence of nearly 5 months!! To-day I went to see the baby²⁸² who is sick and I fancy our long interrupted intercourse will be renewed

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I shall be glad at this because indifference - or the appearance of it leads to very unpleasant feelings - & my not going 10 yds to see a friend shows anything but the proper feeling - I certainly renew my acquaintance under unhappy auspices, for I would as soon march to Delhie as attend Mrs C's child. She poor woman, has lost 3 children & in consequence is very much alarmed at the least thing - asks 50 different people their advice and acts according to none - or according to the worst. She has a little six penny book about children's com

-plaints in which each disease & its treatment are summed up in a small page - The other day the child had Diarrhea - she consulted her book and found the remark at the bottom of the page which to round off a period or to introduce, in an easy manner, the next Chapter on Dysentery was - "this

complaint if not checked will turn into DYSENTRY. " This sapient remark was quoted by her to her husband before the child had taken 2 doses of physic - as "if Mr Jones does not cure this it will turn into" - the next chapter - That sort of thing is very unpleasant - and accounts for my great dislike to attending children

Give my best love & thanks to dear Irene for her letter - & love to Every one. You will be surprised to hear that I am being reduced to my former fair proportions - In stating the condition of my health I could not say any thing satisfactory than that - I was afraid that I was getting into the shape of a barrel. I have returned to my discarded pantaloons!!!

[upside down at top of first page]

God bless you my dear mother

Your affectionate son

Henry

[addressed:

Indian & Steamer Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones

Clifton Villa

Portland Place

Leamington

Warwickshire

Via Southampton

stamped:

PAID 3 JY 1848

LEAMINGTON JY 3 1848]

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Hansie June 5th 1848

The mail (English) came in yesterday & there was no letter from you my dear naughty mother - I'll requite you, you may depend upon it - I was sorely tempted to neglect writing now, not only by your neglect of me, but by the lateness of the hour & heat of the day - not to mention that I want my breakfast which I cannot take till I have finished my letter - You gave me but little news - except of your thumb(!), I have even less to give you. I am jogging on in the old way & getting through the hot weather most pleasantly - It would appear that the rains have already commenced & rather unseasonably I fear; for unless we have late rains, August & September will be insufferable & the cold weather delayed considerably. We had the most tremendous gale I ever experienced in my life, a few days ago - The chappa or thatched roof of my verandah was nearly carried away. It is of enormous weight being 16 feet broad - the beams are very heavy & the whole secured with ropes in a hundred places, to the walls. The appearance of the station in the morning was curious indeed. The roads here & there blocked with huge branches of trees - the thatch blown off bodily from a hundred houses - The thatch of the Hospital was scattered on the top of the building like loose hay in a field - But strangest sight of all was to see the ground, wherever there were trees, strewn with birds, chiefly sparrows, doves & minas. Under one tree I counted 78 dead birds - There must have been a hundred - I walked about a mile along the bank of the canal & there the birds were so numerous you could scarcely avoid treading on them - All my servants' houses were not only

unthatched - but the thatch blown to the winds or to single straws - I said I had no news - I think there is news though bad news - as it has

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or will cost me 50 or 60 Rs to repair the damage - The mail of yesterday though it brought no letter from you, was full of good news, which has relieved the anxiety of every Englishman in the country - I allude to the triumph of your loyalty on 10th April²⁸³ - What a time of excitement it must have been in and about London, and throughout the kingdom indeed - Another source of anxiety & alarm has been somewhat alleviated since yesterday - I told you in my last of the rebellion in Mooltan & the conspiracies & plots in Lahore & the Punjab generally, and of the murder of 2 poor political agents. I forget whether I told you that a conspiracy to murder all the Europeans at Lahore had been found out - Our authorities immediately hung a Seikh General, Khan Sing, and a Moonshee. All the Durbar are implicated it is fully believed, though as yet nothing of the particulars has been made public - On the rising in Mooltan a great stir was made & the Officers on leave were ordered to join their regiments - Reinforcements marched to Lahore, & different Seikh posts & forts were occupied - Every one was anxious to know whether an army would take the field at once or wait till the cold weather - The discovery of the plot has shaken all the hopes and expectations of the plotters - Moolraj, the Governor of Mooltan is being deserted by thousands & has now only 8,000 men instead of 60. One of his strongest forts has just been seized and all his hopes of making a stand against are, at present, smashed - I saw this in a letter from a political agent yesterday - The scheme of Moolraj and his friends was this - and a good one - disturbances were to be made here and there to withdraw detachments of our troops from Lahore; the massacre of as many Europeans as could be effected and in the midst of the confusion & dismay Moolraj was to have marched on Lahore & if he had commenced his march there could have been no fear of a lack of troops, for tens of thousands wd have gladly joined him - The Seikhs of course had been tampering with our sepoy & 12 men were discovered to have taken bribes & attended the meetings of the conspirators - That's not many among 12,000 certainly - The above news will be grateful to us all - particularly to the poor

2

Europeans who are marching in this fearful weather. One regiment which marched from Meerut a few days ago has already 300 sick. I am afraid dearest mother that I shall tire you with these long accounts of national affairs - but what domestic matters can I a poor, lonely, miserable bachelor have to talk about? By the bye talking of poor bachelor, you will be glad to hear that I am fast saving my 300£ - My cash in hand & receipts this month will exceed 2500 Rs or 250£ - My expences will be 200Rs at least on account of repairs, but I shall have on pay day the 18th or 20th, as much as 230£!!! Is that not good news - But still I must keep every penny till the rate of exchange alters for at present it is only 1/8 the rupee, and were I to send my money home now I should lose 40£ sterling - You would like to know how I have thus suddenly raised the wind - chiefly by strict economy it is true, but I lately got an offer of 2[torn] for my large pictures - Martin &c and immediately accepted it. I am now so near my liberation that you will guess will not throw away a penny - But for my last remittance I should now be free, if I had delayed all payments for a month - I dont mean to lament that act of duty, but to show that I am doing my utmost to save & that its scarcely my fault that I have not paid this debt of 8 & ½ years' standing - I hope soon to have done with another of my - to you - harassing topics - the first was love, the 2nd is money, then I shall have the weather & my furlo' to talk about. I have now one leettle adventure to tell - my miraculous escape from a broken neck & drowning - The night after the storm - the 2nd instt. was the blackest night I ever knew - I can't say - saw, for I couldn't see the trees over my head, nor the houses nor the wall against wh I walked; still less could I see the night - But to my adventure - I left our Adjutts house with a friend, having about 120 yds to walk along a straight road to reach my gate

- My friend finding that he could

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not see a single object, not even his own person, returned into the house for a lamp off the table - we have no lanterns - while I manfully trudged away. I had not walked 10 steps before I felt that I was not going in the right direction - I began to feel about for either wall, but unfortunately I commenced my search exactly opposite the Drs [sic] gateway. After some 5 minutes I found one leaf of it flung open - but I was so bewildered that for a long time I could not tell whether it was the one near

-est to or furthest from my house. This difficulty was got over in about 10 minutes more. Having got to the further side of the gate-way I was resolved to keep to [sic] wall though I had to walk in a ditch in which the water was up to my knees - When I reached the end of the wall I had merely to cross the road to my gate. In this I thought I could not lose my way but I was mistaken - A small bridge over a drain opposite my gate - I walked clean over one side of the bridge & fell into the drain such a thump I thought I had broken every bone in my body - I was ½ stunned only and bruised, nothing more. Had I been merely blindfolded I could have found my

found my way, but never in such darkness as that - My dear mother I have wasted all my paper in such foolish chat - but I could not stop for the world Give my best my dearest love to every one at home and abroad - I am yr loving & affectionate son Henry

[addressed:

India P. Paid

Mrs John James
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

Via Marseilles

stamped:

30 JY 30 1848
LEAMINGTON JY 31 1848]

1

Hansie 4th July 1848

My dearest dear Mother - I am commencing my letter a day before the mail starts, as in this weather one can't write much at a time - It may be 2 days before, as I may be tempted to keep my letter till the 6th in the hope of getting one from you tomorrow afternoon - The Express from home arrived here yesterday & we always get our letters 2 days after. The last Mail brought two of yr letters - 20th April & the 1st May - the latter I was glad to see announced the safe arrival of the present to dear Aunt. Your last letters, tho' clearly welcome, do not offer many subjects for me to descant upon, nor can I talk, unless prophetically, of what I hope to hear from you tomorrow, so I must for the present indulge you with my usual hot weather narrative - of which I trust you are getting less painfully susceptible, as I myself am of the dreadful suffering! Would it be interesting for you to

know that we have hitherto had a very very hot - unintermittingly hot season? - I fear not. We are not much accustomed to read about the temperature of this country in the papers; but of late every correspondent in the paper winds up his letters with "the weather is fearful" - or terrific, or "frightful". We have not had a cool moment for the last 3 months - We have had for the 3 weeks the most extraordinary violent winds morning, noon & night - most unpleasant at all times except from 9 a.m. till the evening, when we're in-doors & have a tattie up - When I take my morning ride I can scarcely keep in the saddle & I am nearly scalded by my hat being torn off by the wind, though I cram it down to my eyes. It is pleasant enough in the house, but that the confinement is becoming as painful as solitary imprisonment. It is the time that I feel the want of one friend - a domestic one - But I must not waste all my paper about the weather - As a set off to this intolerable quantity of weather, I must tell you that my funds are increasing fast and that I have now 2500 Rs or 250£ saved - I hear that the rate of exchange is not likely to be soon more favourable - But

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the Bank promises me 6 pr cent while I leave the money in their hands, & therefore I shall be in no hurry to send it home, at the present exchange which is perfectly ruinous - They give now only 1s 8d the rupee, so that 1/6 of one's money is throw away by getting bills on England - You know not how sweet is the feeling of the near approach of my liberation how I hug myself & rupees too! Another event sweeter still too to contemplate, is fast approaching, God willing - viz my furlough - Four days back was the anniversary of arrival in Calcutta. In 18 months more I may get leave to go to Calcutta in anticipation of my sailing to England - that is I can get 6 mos' leave to enable me to prepare for my trip & travel down to Calcutta. I wish it were the approaching cold weather in which I was to start, instead of the one next to it. I need not wish that perhaps, as I should have no funds. Should not I though? I am forgetting my valuable property - Of course - I could go tomorrow - as far as that is concerned - But we wont talk more of such remote happiness - While I remember it, I may mention that a few days ago I recd a letter from a Mr Thos Taylor once a pupil of dear Tom's, full of affectionate remembrances of him & asking for his address. He (Mr Taylor promises himself much pleasure in seeing me next cold weather & talking of old times & places - I meant to have said friends - Will you tell Tom of this as perhaps Mr T. may not write to N.F.L. - besides I was obliged to caution him against the mention of one of the inmates of his Clapton home. To refer to yr letters, which I read (of course) before I sat down to this - You say you are glad that the suspicion of my gambling reached you from no other source than myself - I fancy dear mother it would be necessary for me to be utterly - hopelessly ruined by it, before it would be notorious or even worth mentioning - It is carried to a fearful extent by some & not a few in this country - A court martial occurred a short time ago and during the proceedings it was discovered that on a match at Billiards bets by one man were made to the amount of 400£ not rupees but pounds - This was nothing very extraordinary - I have known 'Ecarte' played for 50 Gold mohurs a game - one gold mohur is 16 Rs Happily I always regarded gambling as the worst most hideous vice in the

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whole catalogue of vices - I know a person in the station who lost so much that with his good pay of 500Rs a month, he can scarcely pay the interest of his debts!!! gambling debts - 5th I'm afraid to leave my letter till tomorrow, but shd I have any occasion to reply to yrs that I expect this evening I can easily write tomorrow another - You will be glad to hear that the rebellion in Mooltan has been completely knocked on the head. We have not as yet any certain intelligence of Moolraj, the Govr of the country & who murdered our unfortunate politicals. Some say that he has been delivered up by his own people - There was a battle fought 12 miles from Mooltan - the capital, and Moolraj thoroughly licked, his guns taken & his followers dispersed - Our alarm, though great was not unreasonable, for any disturbance might prove almost our ruin - With countries filled with bigoted foes on every side, what might not follow any little failure to our arms?

Besides we have not troops sufficient to attend to two businesses at once - Fortunately our enemies for want of unanimity, are never able to form any combination against us - This is the third attempt to resist our authority that has been made since we occupied Lahore - The others were in Cashmeer & at Kangra. Our rulers must hardly congratulate themselves at finding that not a man from Scindh joined the Mooltanees - they are close neighbours [worn] speaks well for their disposition towards us or their appreciation of our strength - Whenever any disturbance occurs towards the N.W. we hear of combinations of all our foes - Affghans, Seiks, Beloochees, Cashmeereans &c &c; of the proclamation of a religious war in which the "Faithful" of all nations are to join - The very mention of such things is enough to induce us to leave the country at once. We constantly hear of countless hords of these nice fellows being just on the point of starting - they are more horrible than ghost stories - I mean such reports - Is it not shocking that I shd have nothing of a more private, personal or domestic nature to talk you about than this? In a short time you ought to become familiarly acquainted with the political relations & domestic manners of all the nations of the East - these parts of it. Is there any other subject that I can talk about? Since the commencement of this hot season I have, very contrary to my usual custom, taken to riding some 5 miles every morning - I used to take my best & sweetest nap early in the morning, instead of getting up. The consequence of my new habits has been to reduce my incipient corpulency & I am nearly the same weight I was 8 years ago. Dear Irene gave me a most dismal account of her grey hairs & other premature failings of her charms - You will be horrified to hear that within a month I have lost a patch of hair the size of a half crown - If it is goes on I shall be bald in 2 years That will never do if I am to attempt to win a wife when I go home - I wonder whether poverty, age or destitution would induce any one to become Mrs Juxon Jones

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Will you ask that idle procrastinating, enviable brother of mine - Frank, when he is going to send me the photographic likeness of my dearly beloved mother? I think he was directed to send it to me some 6 months ago - Does not the sinner owe me a letter? but I must let him off I suppose. This question reminds me of my ungallant ungrateful behaviour to dear old Fanny Bent. When I read yr account of the lordling in her house I blushed at my unpardonable conduct so long & so violently that my face was all blistered as if I had been in the sun the whole day - in fact people asked me if I had been shooting - No, said I - I have only been blushing

I wonder whether it is too late - not to amend my fault, but to obtain forgiveness - In this part of the world how is it possible to write? So even Tom with his cultivated mind & learned associates finds himself sinking down to a Collonial level - What must you expect of me? with associates almost uneducated & without books even - If you dont find me with fewer ideas than a brute it is not my fault - However it does not make me very unhappy - for I philosophically reason, that a little learning in being a dangerous thing, I had better remain without any whatsoever - There is not even a person here fond of a joke - or I shd have said capable of making one - so that our conversation is never amusing or very seldom so - We are duller than ditch

water, yet contented & happy - even merry tho' without much reason - I shall be making you dull with us if I go on in this way - Give my affectionate love to all at home & abroad - God bless you dear mother - Yr affectionate son - Henry

[addressed:

Via Marseille

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place

Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

LEAMINGTON AU 20 1848]

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Hansie 17th August. 1848

My dearest dear mother The mail goes from Bombay 10 days later than it has been doing during the monsoon months & this may make you despair for some days, of getting any letter from me this month. Though it is 1 month & 10 days since I wrote I am wholly unprovided with matter of interest or novelty - If the Govt have stopped the 2nd monthly mail on the grounds of the perfect incapability of their subjects to write during the hot months, they show their discretion & judgement. All that interests us is the news from Europe & the recent horrors enacted in Paris²⁸⁴. By the by, what do you think of last mail having reached us - us at Hansie, in one month and 4 days!!! Is that not wonderful? To return to European affairs - as you know as much about them as I do, I need not dilate upon them further! In my last letters I have kept you 'au courant' in all particulars of the war in Mooltan & of the weather. From Mooltan we have heard nothing for a fortnight & nothing has happened since I wrote last, but the march of a little army and a large siege train to Mooltan - I say nothing has happened but I fancy that I am speaking somewhat incorrectly, for the force was to have reached M. on the 10th or 12th, so that there is every probability that much has happened, & too much, I fancy for the Multanis - Now for the weather - most wonderful weather - What do you think of our not having more than 4 days' rain during the last 3 months? & this melancholy fact is true in respect of half of India - at least a half of this Presidency. But for the abundance of rain in the lower Provinces we must have had a direful famine - In ordinary seasons ploughing & sowing is commenced in the early days of June, but this year it was commenced only 10 days ago - Two days of rain induced the poor disappointed husbandman to begin his labors, since rendered utterly vain by the absence of all further rain & the continuation by day & night of a tremendous "high and dry" wind - There is not a blade of grass

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to be seen in the country - Our winter will be dreary indeed if all around us remain as barren as the desert - If there is no cultivation I have no shooting - without shooting, no exercise & without exercise I am not recruited after this fearful season, or prepared for the next. Please God, I will have a fine recruiting in England some 2 years hence. Wont that be fine? As that long-looked-for time is in a manner approaching I think of it every day. Next cold weather - I mean that of 1849, I may commence my journey towards England - I am entitled to start on the 30th June from the shores of India and as it is a long journey to Calcutta I may get 4 or 5 months' leave to enable me to reach Calcutta by that time - I should not like such a trip in the hot weather, so I must necessarily start from this in February or March. God grant that I may live to see that time & you too - I must scrape together money as fast as I can - By the by did I tell you of a loss that befell me some time ago, by a robbery of the Post Office? There is no doubt but that the Post Office people broke the locks of the door & of a box in the office & tossed the contents of the whole place topsy turvy to give the appearance of its having been forcibly entered & ransacked - A sum of 72 Rs was stated to have been taken out of the aforesaid box - This I know was not the case because money had never been kept in the Office - Besides at least 6 of my servants were sleeping in front of the Office within 3

yds of the door - I say sleeping, but I shd rather have said that they were lying on their cots smoking & chatting - for natives keep awake the whole night to enjoy themselves - Strange too that of this sum, 40Rs had been kept by me for several days & had been paid by me to the Baboo for remission to the Treasury - The Govt decided that I was to make good the loss because I had no guard of any kind over the Office - I thought it very hard that I should have been made answerable for 40 of the rupees inasmuch as I had done my best to take care of it - The best of it was that the Lt Governor said he had no doubt but that the robbery had been effected the way I have described to you - This unhappy decision reached me just in time to stop 72 Rs of this month's Pay - but for this loss I should have

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2876Rs or 280£ and odd. My remittance to the Bank will be 250Rs instead of 400 - I have at this moment in cash 270£ I mean in Govmt Paper, in the Bank & the Draft (before me) for remittance amounting to 250Rs. Unless some unexpected misfortune happen by this day next month - before my birthday, I shall have saved my 300£ - saved easy, that is with funds in hand to carry on the war - That is a comfortable assurance truly - Only think, I shall not write to you again until I have accumulated the whole of this debt which I thought I should never get off my hands - I must allow the interest in this country pay for the, at present, ruinous exchange - I got 6 pr cent from the Bank and 5 from the Govemt. So much for business. You all seem pretty jolly at home - but its a great pity Tom & Berty are such bad correspondents and in such an out-of-the-way country. The family would be much jollier were they all in England - settled of course. Are there to be no more marriages in the family I wonder & excepting mine of course!! Will you dance at my wedding mother dear? We m[torn] try and find out a Lilliputian lady, who has good sense & affectionate little heart, a total disregard to muskito bites, and "has no objection to travel" as the advertisements say- But we'll talk at greater length on this, to me, most interesting subject when we meet - If you think I could not get suited in England pray tell me so, because I may escape much mortification, by taking home with me a rib in case your opinion should be adverse to my hopes & wishes - "Hurry, my dear, you may as well stop at once if you have nothing more sensible than this to talk about" - quoth Mama "Well my dear mother, replies loving & affectionate son, I have nothing more rational than this dear subject to talk about" The Baboo says - "Sahib! If your letter was done, the dak (vide Bella dear - (thank you my love for your few dear lines)) is ready go" Very well Baboo, I must just say God bless you all, to mother and darling family, from "eend to eend" Yr affectionate son

Henry

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[addressed:

India Postage Pd. Via Southampton

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

HANSI 16th Augt/48
AP 31 OC 31 1848
LEAMINGTON OC 31 1848

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Hansie 19th Sept 1848

My dearest mother I have just overhauled your last letter which I am ashamed (for you) to find of such a primeval date as the 19th June - Are your fingers still very bad, or are you writing too much to other correspondents? Or are you, like me, discovering that you have little or nothing to write about? though, allow me to say, that such a discovery you will never make. It may be that you are hoarding your energies & news for a letter on my birth-day. How monstrous old we are getting - I the youngest of our generation, am actually within 2 days of my 33rd year. To me it is incredible. I think my dear mother you must have made a mistake about the year in which I was born - for it must have been in '18 instead of '15 according to my calculation & my looking glass. It is true that one whisker is getting gray & that I am getting just a leettle bald, but this must be attributed to the climate, to the hardships & sufferings of my campaigns, & to my constant anxiety - to go home. Well dear mother, I have at last saved the whole amount of my debt, as I told you I would do before my next birth-day - The exchange is improving I rejoice to say but it is not yet up to my mark - The above communication tho' old news to you - or the next thing to it, will be gratifying to those whose property is in pawn for my loan - I mean my dear darling sisters - Tell them the news with my best love, and assure them that there is no chance of their being imprisoned or ruined through me - unless the Govt & the Bank fail - Alas! alas! I have no news whatever for you, and

have no time to discover any, for I am writing - not at the 11th hour, but at the 9th at which hour our post office is closed - Must I waste another minute in telling you that I am writing at rail-way speed? I have - yes, really I have just completed two long and perhaps tedious letters to my NFL brothers - I am afraid they will refuse to take them as they can scarcely recognise my hand-writing. We have had no rain since I wrote last - and altogether we have had but 5 days' scanty rain during the season - however it is now getting very cool & as I have often told you, the cold weather will commence the day after tomorrow - my birth-day. There are wars & rumours of wars again - The whole Punjab is in a sad commotion - Our friends of the Cavalry here are ordered to be ready to march at a moments notice - I shall sadly deplore the loss of my Dartmouth friends²⁸⁵ - I shall not again have such nice & intimate companions - I have felt & been made almost a member of their family - We are as anxiously on the look out for daily news as we were during the last war - The force that went against Mooltan have been able to affect little - The place was expected to have fallen by the 15 but as yet we have heard of no progress. The Seikh force that was sent by the Durbar, & which has been fighting with Moolraj, and was assisting us at the seige, has joined the enemy, & thereby infinitely increased the difficulties of the beseigers - The force of the latter is scarcely half that of the Mooltanees - The Fort is found to be most formidably

strong, surrounded with enclosures, gardens trees & water-cuts - besides there is a town to be attacked and taken, before the Fort can be attacked. Besides these difficulties there have been several serious outbreaks in all quarters of the Punjab, and two more of our unfortunate Politicals are in danger of their lives - having been deserted by their Lahore troops & obliged to take refuge in the fort of Attock without troops to protect them - If there were not more momentous & alarming goings on in Ireland²⁸⁶ I think that Lord Hardinge would catch it for the miserable mis-management of the Panjab - He reduced the army immensely & sent home many European Corps, thinking there would be no more wars in India - If Mooltan is shortly taken things may & most likely will become quiet again, but if not - who can say what may happen? Do you like this kind of intelligence my

dear mother? If not, I am afraid I must still give it to you, just to give my letter a decent exterior! I must I am sorry instantly conclude my letter without any more chit-chat - interesting or otherwise. I cannot bring myself to prepare letters & so when I write more than one letter, the last served must be the sufferers (?) I have nothing further to narrate - it is eno' for you to know that I am in excellent health - that I have 3000 Rs in the bank - Not the slightest alteration has occurred in my mode of life, except that I am beginning to gasp from the coldness of the water - good sign that!! Give my dearest love to all the family young and old - & thank dear Sibella for a few lines in your last. God bless you dearest mother - I am your loving and affectionate son Henry -

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[addressed:

Via Marseilles

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

HANSI 19 Septm /48

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October 18th 1848

My dearest mother I am on a visit at Hissar from which place I am writing, and if you find my letter abruptly broken off or rather rambling you must attribute it to the absence of the quiet & retirement prevailing usually in my own house in Hansie - and if I omit to mention some of many interesting matters contained in your last letter, pray remember that I cannot refer to it now. If I were to tell you the unalloyed delight the sight of your dear dear face gave me, how I looked at it & kissed it the whole of the 1st day; how I have set it always before me during the day, taken a peep at it before going to bed and as soon as I rise in the morning, you would suppose I was indulging in rhapsodies, or that I was daft, or that I mistook it for the picture of my ladie love - But such suppositions would be altogether wrong - for the likeness is so perfect that I cannot help feeling that I actually see you and am enjoying your very bodily presence - And dear darling Irene too is represented to the very life, looking as sweet, pretty and dear as ever.²⁸⁷ How could she have so alarmed me about gray hair &c &c? You both are the object of admiration & love to all the ladies & half the gentlemen of the station- i.e. of all the latter who have been allowed a peep. As soon as it was heard that I had your pictures I was entreated to show them - Major & Mrs Campbell are in love with you & Mr & Mrs Hockin exclaimed 50 times "What a dear dear old mother" & at dinner the lady & the two gentlemen proposed & drank your health with a heartiness that wd delight you; the bachelor brother slyly including "the daughter" a privilege denied to the married gentleman, at least aloud & before his spouse. My dear mother your picture has given me such sweet, serene pleasure & happiness that I cannot help regretting that I did not get it years ago; for I feel & know that no time will change or diminish such feelings - What a blessing it would have been to have had

you & all my beloved brothers & sisters about me, thro' such life-like pictures - I say "would have been", because I think it too late to ask for them now, contemplating, as I do, commencing my journey to the homes of the dear originals, after the lapse of one year more - In the mean time I suppose I must content myself with looking at & kissing (fortunately there is glass in front) you & dear Irene daily & picturing to myself the completion of the family circle - Pray tell me if these pictures fade quickly I have seen many that are mere shadows of a shade. To go from this

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darling subject to others - What exceeding liberality Mr Stowey's is - I cannot say how noble I think it - I feel as grateful as if it relieved me from an intolerable burthen - To my dear brothers it must be a great boon indeed - For myself I feel the more bound to hasten my payment, having the money ready; but Mr S's liberality was not intended to inconvenience us - Will you convey my sense of his goodness to him? I should tell you that a neighbour the other day sent for a Bill on London for 50£ & had to pay 600 Rs!! So much for the favourable rate of exchange - If I were to send home my savings now I should have to pay 600 Rs or 60£ for the Bills which would be a fearful loss. I am come to Hissar I fear for the last time for a long time - All are ordered away from this - What our own destination may be I cannot guess - You may see in the papers that we are making preparations for war on a greater scale than at the period of the Seikh invasion - People from all parts of India are ordered to join their Regmts on Service - even Secretary to Govmt Charles Reynolds²⁸⁸ who has not seen his Regmt for many years has to leave his appointment & join his Regmt at Mooltan - I think he must come through this. Mr Edlin and many more Doctors are ordered from Calcutta to the army at Ferozepoor. You may see in the papers some account of the state of affairs, but they are so often so wretchedly incorrect that I must give you some short and true statement - We read in the Times (London) such an absurd account of Edwards²⁸⁹ proceedings & victories that it was quite melancholy to read it - It certainly appears that Moolraj was trifling with him. He was able to affect infinitely more with his rag-a-muffin troops than we with a well appointed force of 7000 men including 2 European Regmts - But to give you a little of the news - After 2 bloody fights at Mooltan we were obliged to raise the seige - the ostensible reason was the desertion to the enemy of our Seikh allies - but in reality our force was infinitely too small - Since the 14th September our little army have remained in an entrenched Camp about 4 miles from Mooltan. They are to be reinforced with troops from Scindh & Bombay in numbers equal to the force already at Mooltan, including 2 more European Regmts. They are expected to reach Mooltan about the 25th of this month, when I hope operations will be resumed & this fearful obstacle to the carrying on of the war will be got rid of. An enormous force, for this country, is fast collecting about Ferozepore & the frontier to be commanded by Lord Gough²⁹⁰ - This I trust will be of such overwhelming strength as immediately to crush the enemy - or cause them to vanish - Already the army is ordered to be

2

restored to its former strength which Lord Hardinge so unwisely reduced, and many more Regiments are said to be about to be raised - as many as 15; and the annexation of the Punjab appears inevitable - These are the chief features of the state of affairs - I give you one interesting particular - There is a very strong Fort called Govindghur 30 miles from Lahore, which being occupied by us, the Seiks were bent on getting possession of - Fortunately we got intelligence of their intentions & sent off a force to occupy it, which by great good luck was able to get into it & thus prevent the 2nd strongest Fort in the country from falling into the hands of the enemy. You know that we took away almost all the guns from the Seikhs & allowed them a very small quantity. In this fort were found buried 52 new guns & provisions for a large garrison for two years. The faithful patriotic Sirdars - the Durbar made these nice little preparations for our benefit - The whole of that villainous set of rascals are happily in durance vile - Every thing is pretty quiet at the moment - a calm before a tremendous storm - The army before Mooltan are quietly awaiting

reinforcements. Chuttar Sing, the leader of the Seikhs is I suppose preparing for the coming struggle, and we are, without doubt doing the same. The 1st November will I believe see the opening of the ball - Is that enough of political ma[torn] Do you think, mother dear that Tom & Berty would send me their pictures They are expensive matters to them I fear. You mention yr regret at the high postage I had to pay for your darling representation - I wd forfeit a month's pay for it - I am forgetting to speak of what caused me very much pleasure for days & days after I recd your last letter - I mean dear Berty's improved position - being at last the master of a house & household. I wish it may soon be, master of a family too - Poor dear fellow, how bitterly he speaks of his hitherto wandering life - I anticipate with no little pleasure the receipt of his first letter after his newly acquired dignity - Perhaps he may announce his acquisition of a superintendt for his cow. There is another Spin coming to Hansie - Her sister is the wife of the Commissars Officer - who took Major Thomsons place & who is now ordered off sharp to Ferozepore, & the family are I believe coming to stay at Hansie during the war. She told me that her mother & un-married sister were at Delhie & that if I chose to go to Delhie I might escort them back to Hansie - If the sisters are at all alike I am sure to fall in love immediately, for the married one is as nice a person as I ever knew! We talked about

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this interesting subject yesterday - I imagine my bachelor days being near their end! Will you give my love & best thanks to dear Bella for her letter & tell her that I fully intended writing extensively by this Mail but being from home & in a room with three noisy fellows I can accomplish nothing of the nature of a letter - & please give the same love to dear Irene & thank her for her sending me the breathing image of herself - only with a leettle extraneous severity in her expression - which never was hers - Every well remembered feature do I see - in fact neither of you are altered in the slightest degree - For myself I can say that you will find me much

altered. My sister Bella sent me a little petition which I shall be most proud and happy to grant but it will not be possible the next month - I think that I shall at last be able to give my loving sisters a little memento of their absent brother - i.e. the shape of some reels of cotton & a needle or two - this I will do if we remain undisturbed another month - but if we move you know how needful are in the sinews of war. Give my affectionate love to Fanny Bent - Alas for poor Mrs Reynolds' calamities - She will not like to hear of Charles's being ordered to the seat of war. Many people suppose that there will

be no fighting, that the enemy will never face us - You asked me to tell you what letters of yours I get - Your letters of the 20th July & 18th August reached me on the same day - hence my grief at getting no letters - The picture & 2 letters reached me on the happy & memorable 7th instant. God bless you dearest mother - your very affectionate son Henry

[addressed:

Via Marseilles

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwickshire

stamped:

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Hansie November 4th 1848

My dearest mother Here's writing time come again & nothing - nothing happened for me to write about; but in these trumpeting times of war I suppose I should not allow one mail to go without a line from me, if it is only to tell you that I have not yet joined the army of the Punjab - I am indeed glad that duty does not call me to the expected scene of action, for I love peace better than war & batta - the only reward obtainable by us poor Doctors - I prefer passing my time in inglorious ease, watching the growth of my pease & cabbages, to being up to my elbows in blood - for I am, in this heavenly weather at least, surprisingly happy; and indeed I fear that when the time comes for me to start on my journey homewards, I shall feel the pang of parting from the peaceful, pleasant, place, deeply - very deeply. But I must not let my attachment to dear Hansie interfere with my long anticipated trip to see you all, nor should I tell you that I shall leave it with sorrow. I have only to take you - yes, your very self out of my desk & all my attachment to Hansie will be immediately weaned. Your dear picture is still the object of daily long & sweet contemplation, for every morning I take a look at you in my bright cheerful room & think its brightness & cheerfulness increased ten-fold by the treasure it contains - How often do I lament that I had it not years ago - one good effect its possession would have had - I should have hoarded & scraped & saved till I had paid Stowey!! I could not otherwise have looked you in the face. Dear Irene will I am sure excuse these rapturous feelings when I tell her that she has a great share in them - her picture is my second brightest jewel - I wish we had some young ladies like her amongst us - what a train of suitors she would have were she to come to Hansie! It is expected that a pretty subject of contention envy, rivalry, duelling &c will be here very shortly - Who knows but that I may enter the lists - But I have spoken of her before - Shd any thing happens to me in consequence I'll let you know quickly

Before going on to what must, in these troublous times, be the burden of my sing song letters, viz. war and preparations for war & consequences of war &c, I must tell you, what I forgot on two former occasions, that brother Peter & I have been corresponding - He is Post Master like myself & in one of his public dealings with me he enclosed in a letter a slip of paper with these words "I hear a great deal about my brother Juxon from Uffculme - he must be a very nice fellow from all accounts' P. A. Robertson" I replied upon a similar scrap of paper that I feared that his Uffculme correspondent was partial & a flatterer - I said how do ye do, and expressed a hope that our intercourse might some day extend beyond its very confined limits - I have been looking out for Berty's promised letter but with only the old success - Poor old fellow he must be quite bewildered with the variety & novelty of his new pursuits - I wonder what his furnished house will look like - I have pictured to myself steams of hot water in every part of it, wet towels in dozens, soap, brushes & foot tubs in every room & on the stairs. Is my representation a correct one? has he been able to get himself perfectly clean yet? How he dear fellow would luxuriate in this country where washing bathing & dressing are of such frequent necessity - where one may lie soaking like - like what? I want a simily [sic] - like a piece of salt meat (in this country) the live long day. Whether he is the same or altered I can fancy that he must have recd a great increase of happiness - I hope however to hear a full & true account of him - & of Tom too - Now for the rest of the family. I have nothing to say to or of them except to say that I remember them with love and affection - & hope to see them shortly. I really am ashamed of my monstrous ingratitude to dear Bella in never writing any answer to her loving chatty epistles - but what can I do with 2 correspondents in one house? write half of what I have to say to one & conclude the subjects in the other? Besides I can but with great

difficulty get through my letter to you for my house is now infested to such a degree that to write a letter I must stay at home instead of sauntering about in the glad sunshine of a morning - From eleven to 3 pm

2

every chair, couch & table even is occupied by the heads and heels of 6 or 7 great he fellows - This has been going on now for some 8 months & really is becoming insufferable - I love solitude - to enjoy on my sofa a pleasant book or pleasant thoughts of you at home - with an occasional glimpse at the bright sun & bright garden - I abhor what is called in somewhat impolite language, a jaw - a halting, blundering, noisy & stupid chit chat - particularly 4 hours a day, accompanied with brandy-pani & cheroots - The ostensible reason for their visiting me thus - I shd say living with me thus, is that they come to see the Mails opened - I would give up the Post Office if by doing so I could get rid of them - but it is idleness that makes them herd here - They ought to see that I dont like it - besides I never enter another person's house except to dine - Enough of this nuisance. So we hear that the 2nd Clive - Mr Edwards is to be made a brevet Major & C.B. How the good people at home have been gulled - He has the same troops with which he conquered Moolraj, backed by 7000 British Troops & yet neither he nor the British troops have been able to check the movements of only a small portion of Moolraj's army - There can be no doubt that Moolraj's efforts were mere feints, made for the purpose of drawing some small force of ours in the most dreadful weather, towards that distant place. If the force under General Whish²⁹¹ had been to any considerable degree weaker than it is, it might have been annihilated months ago - But to give you the news - It is not expected that operations against the Fort of Mooltan will be renewed before December. A very large force is coming up from Bombay to help them - Our army is I suppose now assembled or nearly so - Hosts of Regiments crossed the river long ago - The rebel chief Chuttur Sing, at the head of some 20,000 men, is a few marches the other side of Lahore - Of our movements nothing is yet known publicly - We hear that all the Forts & walled places throughout the length & breadth of the Punjab are to be levelled to the ground - We understand that the walls of Lahore go first - that is on the advance of the troops to meet Chuttur Sing - Two strong forts have already been razed, & in one a princely palace was blown up - This is the only way to obtain a chance of future peace. The Seikhs live but by the sword & while they

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can find a fortress, they will take to no other profession - I guess that the Seikhs will be made to suffer in this war - the knocking down of forts & palaces will put the chiefs a little out of pocket - The Governor General said something the other day which intimated his intention to try the effect of severity with the blood thirsty Seikhs - he said "if they will have war instead of peace, they shall have it & with a vengeance" - Is not this a sad country in which there is a war every year or nearly so. In my quiet retreat I look upon these dreadful proceedings as

if they were enacted in a different age or another sphere, though scarcely beyond the sound of the cannon - I shall have enough to chronicle now, I fear, in each of my letters, but I hope it will be nothing but what I should wish to chronicle. I mean no mismanaged affairs like those of the last war - Food in all this part of the country is almost at famine prices, which is not at all favourable for the army - the poor are wandering in troops to other parts where food may be found - I shd like to know about the potatoes in Ireland this year - I trust there may not be another famine in that [faded]

land - I have not mentioned my garden for months & months - It is in a most blooming condition - and in progress of being made as neat as a new pin. Last year I had peaches on 4 trees & plums on 4. This season of course all will be in perfection. I have not unfortunately built my vine-yard. I kiss your picture & say God bless you dear Mother

[addressed:

Via Southampton India & Steam P. Paid

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

PAID PM 23 DE 23 1848]

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Hansie December 4th /48.

My dearest mother It is a month since I wrote & still I have the same last letter to announce - viz your's of the 16th August - I think you must send your letters round by the Cape if you send any at all - Were it not for your dear image before me I should begin to think that I had no mother. However I have myself, of late, proved rather a bad correspondent, but from most prudent motives - I felt half inclined to let this Mail go without writing, as I wished to wait until the aspect of affairs is improved or at least altered; for at present things are in such a state as to cause us unceasing anxiety - From the papers you will learn of our 'fry', but not that I am at Hansie & thus far out of harm's way. Beyond this little, but to you, interesting intelligence I have nothing to speak of but state affairs. Nothing whatever passes here worth relating - Just as in the last campaign, we pass our time in looking for the post & discussing its contents after its arrival. No changes either have happened, our friends of the Cavalry being still here, in hourly expectation of orders to march - but alas! their hope has been deferred until they are sick at heart. I must give you some account of the state of things in the Punjab - The Seiks are at a place called Ramnuggur on the Chunaub river, in immense force, at least 50,000. The Comdr in Chief with our army is in front of them. On the 22nd of last month a gallant but disastrous affair happened. The Comdr in Chief, with a large party of Cavalry & some guns, went out to look at the enemy, when seeing a body of the enemy's Cavalry they immediately dashed at them - The enemy's Cavalry swept off right and left & discovered to the astonished eyes of our little force a body of infantry (10,000) & guns in position - The fire that was opened upon our people was most terrible and destructive - A nullah in front of the enemy's position was filled with match-lock men - The 14th Dragoons rode straight into the nullah & suffered severely in consequence - None of the rest of the Cavalry followed their rash example fortunately, so that the 14th were almost the only sufferers to any extent - they lost some 37 killed & wounded. Poor Genl Cureton²⁹² was killed - the Coll of the 14th was killed & many other officers were wounded - This action took place in the sandy

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bed of the Chunaub & the guns having been brought up as near the enemy's position as possible were soon deep sunk in the sand; they were mere 6 pounders & were soon sent to the right about by the enemy's heavy guns, & alas! when they attempted to retreat, our gun was sunk up to the axletrees & immovable & obliged to be left! The Seikhs immediately rushed out, took the gun off the carriage & walked away with it in triumph - Of course there are no end of rumours about the insufficiency of our force, & of our being obliged to retreat to this place & that - but I am in daily -

hourly expectation of hearing of our having crossed the Chunab & fought a grand battle - Most unfortunately a large proportion of our army is at Mooltan & several Regiments are scouring the Jullundur Doub, razing forts, & playing the very mischief with small forces of the rebels - the latter circumstances should not be termed unfortunate, but the absence of 5 or 6 Regmts from the main army perhaps is felt. This is the state of affairs as far as we have heard in the north of the Punjab. As for Mooltan I can only say that the whole of this country & no doubt the whole of England will be surprised & indignant when it hears that not one man has been sent to the assistance of Genl Whish, tho' it is 3 months since he was obliged to suspend operations - It appears that the General who was to command the reinforcements from Bombay & Scindh is one month senior to Whish & if he proceeded on to Mooltan must necessarily take the command away from Genl Whish - The Comdr in Chief therefore ordered the other Genl, Auchmuty²⁹³, to remain in Scindh. He has done so but alas! he has kept all the reinforcements in Scindh also - Fortunately our army will give the enemy employment, or they would in one hour sweep Genl Whish & force from the face of the earth - In these parts it is said that if Genl Auchmuty escapes with his life he will be very fortunate. You cannot conceive the anger, indignation & disgust that is expressed towards Genl A. Had his reinforcements not been purposely held back Mooltan would have been ours & we should have had an army of 13 or 15,000 men (with 4 European Regiments) to assist our Comdr in Chief in his present difficulties - and I think that half the blood that will be shed must be upon his head, because the Seikhs would not have attempted to

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resist us had we these 2 armies in the Punjab - So they made Edwardes a Major - The good people did not know what a kettle of fish he was cooking for them - The praises, eloquent & flowery indeed, that were bestowed upon him by the home press, were only in a very slight degree deserved - He's collecting, organising & equipping an army & marching it to victory in fewer days than others would have employed in mere talking about the business, is the merest nonsense that ever was penned. Genl Courtland²⁹⁴ whom he accompanied or vice versa, had as fully equipped & as well trained a force as ever Seikh commanded - besides every Seikh is a soldier & nothing but a soldier; and all that is required to form an army is to collect a lot of money. Wherever rupees are to be found there will be trained soldiers at hand. Fortunately for the present peace & safety of the little army at Mooltan, they gave the enemy on the 7th last month, a most complete thrashing & took their nine guns which they brought out of the fort, with the loss of 5 or 15 men on our side - It was an affair more glorious than all our old Chief's great & bloody battles - One word more & I shall conclude this very military letter - a first rate despatch, I shd call it. An army of reserve is to be formed & I imagine, is already in progress. Before I write to you again God only knows what events I shall have to record. From not having heard from you for so many months I have not an idea of what you have been & are about. I have not a word to say to you about home, except that I wish all health & happiness & God's blessing. For myself I have greatly enjoyed this heavenly weather & the only drawback to my perfect happiness is the anxiety I feel for the success of our arms here. I have been for one week up to the eyes in dust & white, red, blue, green & other washes - The inside of the house is finished all but one room. Of the neatness - the actual beauty in the coloring & arrangement of my house now, you have no conception - I have cleared out the accumulated dust & dirt of two years & great is the comfort I feel in consequence. The elegant appearance of the estate has called forth the remark from many pairs of lips - "now Juxon you want a piano & somebody to play it -" I dare say I have not told you of the 2nd, the young Spin that is at Hissar - I saw her on her way through this & handed her into tiffin - I was much disappointed as far as outward appearances go - The lady has very red hair, freckles and appears to suffer

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to suffer from an habitual cold - I have been invited to go & visit the ladies (They are alone now)

but from the severe sickness of Major Campbell's child, & from being obliged to superintend the repairs of my house, I have not been able to visit Hissar - Besides I do not feel in the humour for holy-day making, while matters of such vast importance are pending in the Punjab - After the settlement of the affairs of the Seikhs I may go visiting & love making too perhaps - I am seriously inclined that way I can assure you for a careful inspection of the crown of my head & of my light whiskers

shows me that I am falling into the seer and yellow leaf - and that if I mean to marry I must do it before long - It is getting near the time for closing the Post Office, so I shall not be able to dilate upon this interesting subject as much as you might wish - All the people are assembled here so that I cannot get through a sentence without a blunder - No letters from N F.L what a shame! Give my affectionate love to all brothers, sisters, nephews & nieces and to dear old Ant [sic] Jim - whom I have not mentioned I regret to say in any of my last letters - but I have always remembered it as soon as I have closed my letter - Some letters have come from the army, so I wont close this until I have heard the news.

5th. There was no news of importance yesterday - only that the enemy were in a very strong position in an island in the middle of the river - that we were getting up our big guns (24 lbs) to pitch into them - They say that our army is much too small - We have only 4 European Inftry Regmts much too few - This is all - so I must here say God bless you my dear mother Yr loving son Henry

[addressed:

Indian & Steamer Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

Via Southampton

stamped:

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LEAMINGTON JA 24 1849]

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Hansie December 19th 1848 -

My dearest Mother I have just finished a letter to my newly married brother,²⁹⁵ and as I have a very few moments to spare for writing to you and no news except on the progress of the war, which I have given to my dear brother, I send his letter open to you, for you to cull the simple matters therein contained - and please to forward it to Berty soon. I see in reference to my Dak (post office) book that I was writing to my N.F.L. brothers on the day you were writing the last I have received - Our news is down to the 7th Novbr & yr last which arrived a week ago is dated before my birth-day! The birth of another girl²⁹⁶ at Uffculme is glad news - tell Frank with my love that I hope to see his darling bairns before they number 1 dozen. I have not a syllable of news - & nothing in yr last letter to talk further about. I was rather amused at the quantity of damson preserve you were preparing to sweeten Berty's wedded existence - Would you suppose

that I make jams & preserves yearly? I do & have during the last week had 12 jars of such varieties filled - Half of what we call 'putwah' jelly - made of a species of Hibiscus²⁹⁷; the rest is marmalade made of the large lime, about the size of my head. The materials (the fruits) are supplied from my own garden. I wonder what effect this terribly expensive war will have on the rate of exchange. My money is lying in the Bank ready for

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remittance to England - but I am getting interest for it and at 6 and 5 pr cent, which in a short time will pay for the exchange. I was so amused at your pleasure at my economy & your supposing that it was to be attributed to the heat which prevented my going out to spend it! Dear mother you must know that there are no shops in which to spend money - The chief modes in which the money is spent is in drinking Claret & Champagne & giving numerous tiffins & dinners - by buying horses, buggies, guns, rifles, furniture - none of which are bought at shops, except the latter & that seldom except in Calcutta - We buy of each other - Betting at Billiards, Card playing for however small sums if daily protracted & with bad luck runs away with lots of money. The purchase of our billiard table was a leetle extravagance - but no more than the making of Ice - being necessary to our health & happiness - I have been looking at my accounts for the last year - I find that my expenses have averaged 266 Rs & savings 178 - making savings during the year 2136 Rs or 213£ - very slow work I have omitted the 40 I sent home - at an unfavourable time too

1v

This year I shall, God willing, do better, as I shall remember that all I save will be shortly converted into shillings - besides I shall remember that what I now save is not to be paid to others as a debt - For the latter purpose one has great difficulty in being much interested - I have found Cheroot smoking very expensive & shall make a desperate effort tomorrow - for I have only 6 cheroots left - to give the practise up - I have often tried to do so before; have made myself miserable for 2 or 3 days - searched all day long for a stray cheroot & on the 4th day written for 6 months supply. I heard a strange piece of intelligence yesterday viz that in some way or other two of our large guns were spiked during the night! I should not like to be guard or sentry over the guns on that night - As we were not in action it did not much matter, but it is sad to see that our enemies, whether from the other Camp or from our own, can do such things.

2v

You are beginning to count the months to my furlo' too soon rather - There remain 18 months after the 31st December 1848. Before the end of 50 by God's blessing I trust to see you all - all

I must not detain my letter for another minute Give my best love to all & every member of the family & believe me dear mother - your loving and affectionate son Henry

P.S. You speak of the Southampton route being open - it is closed during only 3 months in the year - but instead of being usabile [sic] twice a month it is only once, viz on the 15th of the month - When our letters leave Bombay on the 1st of any month we cannot pay the 1/- steamer postage

[addressed:

Via Marseilles

Mrs John Jones

Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

Pd. to Bombay

stamped:

HANSI 18 Decr
1 FE 1 1849

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1

Hansie. January 4th 1849

My dear dear mother I wish you and every member of the family a happy new year, a good new year, the best of good years - Of course I have been toasting you all once a day since Xmas day. You must have been doing the same towards me of course - I hope & trust that I shall have but one occasion for paying you all this compliment at so great distance, before I shall have the indescribable pleasure of drinking your health at your own table. The year 50 I ardently hope may find me at Clifton Villa or wherever you may be - I have nothing to talk to you about but the state of the war & of our solitary Xmas - Not that we have been wanting in peace & contentment, but we have had no merry-making - Our Xmas party was only 6 in number & we ate, drank, chatted & laughed in our usual small way. Our enjoyment of the cold weather has been considerably abridged by the melancholy desert-like state of the whole country & the absence of all game. I have had no excursions to Hissar even, as all but the Doctor have left the place - All my enjoyments consist in the passive ones of having fires, wearing cloth clothes & feeling no inconvenience from heat. I take my daily constitutional walk at sun-rise, and superintend my Ice works, return to breakfast - play the fiddle or at billiards - take my gun & walk over the dusty weary looking country - then smoke my cheroot on my return - talk about affairs in general - & read the papers, if on "paper day" - In a short time I go to dinner & find great difficulty in keeping out of my bed till 8 o'clock. There's a useful, varied & profitable life! From this scene of peace and quiet I must turn to that of war. As I told you in my last the number & position of the enemy is such that our army cannot carry on any offensive operations - The Comdr in Chief

1v

and the army with him (21,000 strong) are exactly in the same position as when I wrote last. Nothing is to be attempted until Mooltan falls, which event now appears not be very far distant. The Bombay troops reached Mooltan on the 25th and operations commenced on the 27th. A hard fight to reoccupy our old position close to the Town, occurred on that day; but we have recd no particulars beyond a long list of Officers killed & wounded - 17 in number - Not a moment will now be thrown away & every desperate exertion will be made to take the post as soon as possible - Of our own troops before the place, we have between 15 and 16,000, and their aid is urgently required with the C. in Chief - In such anxiety and haste are the Govmt to hear of the progress of the seige, that they established relays of horses for bringing the Mail from Mooltan to the Camp of the C in C. Dost Mahomed has come down to Peshawar & it is said has entered into alliance with our enemies - which were before too numerous for us - We are in hourly expectation of the glad tidings of the fall of Mooltan, and when it comes I fancy our troubles will begin to vanish - The army from Mooltan could reach the C in C. in 18 days, so I suppose that before 18 days have elapsed after the capture of Mooltan, the enemy will have disappeared - there is a Brigade of nearly 6000 men scouring the

country to the eastward of Lahore, capturing & destroying petty chiefs & their forts - There is an army of reserve fast assembling between Loodeanah & Ferozepore with which is the Govr General - When these forces unite, excepting the latter, we shall have a force of 42,000 men, sufficient I should hope to fight Seikhs & Affghans - But what

2

evils are inflicted on the country by the enormous expense of this long continued war, made 10 fold more expensive than usual by the almost famine price of grain & food of all kinds - Did I tell you, that persons who under other circumstances would have had 3 or 4 horses with them in the field, are obliged to content themselves with one? You would be surprised to see in the papers accounts of cricket-matches & races which our Officers & men are carrying on under the very noses of the enemy, both at Heelah & Mooltan - The former is the place that the army has remained at since the action & retreat of the enemy on the 3rd December - So it is a month that we have been looking at the enemy & doing positively nothing - We had previously been close to them for more than a fortnight. I dont know that we shall be able to do much with the enemy even when our whole force is united, for the country is almost impassable, from rivers, hills, nullahs, ravines &c; not to mention some 80,000 Seikhs & at [torn]he back of them lots of Affghans, not that the latter are much to be feared either in hill or plain - I suppose the enemy will disperse of themselves when they see the Mooltan force approaching - Their idea is I fancy, that we can never take Mooltan, & therefore cannot unite our 2 armies, within any reasonable time. Well, that's a full true & particular account of the progress of the war & quite enough for one bout - When next I write I hope to have good news to give you. Very likely this very steamer may take home the account of the fall of Mooltan. Did you forward my letter to dear married Berty? I have been looking out for a letter from him - What have you been about that you send me such old letters - Your last is dated the day before my birthday and our last news from England must be of about the middle of November - but I must not quarrel about your last letter as it contained the blessedest news I have heard for years & years - Poor fellow, I hope he may have a long & happy rest after his long years of miserable wandering -

2v

5th Decbr I left my letter unfinished yesterday in the hopes of getting some more news from Mooltan, but none has come. After my letter writing yesterday I went out shooting and took the longest walk I have ever taken here - Major C. went in my buggy to Hissar for some 3 or 4 days shooting, & I was therefore compelled to walk all the way out & home - With a buggy I shd have saved some 8 miles. I went out for nothing but floriken & I saw what I fancy nobody else has seen - viz 5 of them sitting under one bush, so that if I had got near enough I could have potted 3 with one barrel & have got 1 at least with the other - I was out with a boy who had never seen these birds before & when I had only 10 or 15 yds further to go to get within good range - he started them with exclaiming "look look. There they are; there they are" - I was never

so disgusted in my life - I was pressed to go to Hissar by Capt. Gerrard²⁹⁸, who is Major Thomson's successor at that place - I could not go on account of there being no other Doctor here - I should have enjoyed a trip immensely, particularly as he and our Major are going into Camp - Formerly we used to lose half the day in getting to the shooting ground on those rather slow coaches the Elephants - I suppose your next letter, if ever I shall get another, will give most interesting particulars of dear Berty's wedding - The news of dear sister Netta - I shall be very glad to get the letter & the news - The Mail is hourly expected from home

Do my loving sisters entirely forgive, from the bottom of their hearts, my unbrotherly conduct in not writing to them? & do they believe that it is impossible nowadays for me to write 2 mails - Give

them & my brothers, nephews, nieces &c my dearest love. God bless you dear mother [torn]m yr affectionate son
Henry

[addressed:

Via Southampton - Indian & Steamer Postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

HANSI January 5th
PAID 27 FE 27 1849
LEAMINGTON FE28 1849

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1

Hansie, February 6th /49

My dearest Mother I did not write to you by the last mail, first because I had recd no letter from you since my last of 5th January & 2ndly because I had nothing to tell you but about our disaster in the field - but I must not let these reasons again prevent my writing. Your last letter was dated 22nd October - I fully expect one from you to-day so I shall not close or despatch my letter till tomorrow - The want of all news from you and my N F.L. brothers will prevent my expatiating upon any home or family events - I must confine my intelligence & remarks to the events of this country - so, here goes for 3 pages about the war!!! My last letter gave you a full true & particular account of the action at Heelah. From that day, the 22nd Decber, till the 10th January our army remained in front of that of the Sings, separated by about 12 miles. About the latter mentioned day intelligence arrived of the approach of Chutter Sing & Dost Mahomed with enormous reinforcements to join Shere Sing - This induced the Comdr in Chief to attack the enemy without loss of time, and on 13th January the most bloody & desperate battle that India has ever seen took place, and that alas! without the slightest benefit and advantage to us - You will no doubt see the papers teeming with accounts of this sad conflict & with comments on the generalship of our Comdr in Chief, who in his 3 campaigns in India has needlessly thrown away more lives than would suffice for 50 campaigns. As usual the Infantry had to attack the enemy's guns - (though our artillery is more numerous, infinitely larger - heavier than the enemy's & better served, as shown in the action at Heelah where our Artillery put the whole Seikh army to flight) The consequence was a loss on our side of 96 Officers & two thousand six hundred men killed & wounded & four of our guns captured!!! and in exchange

1v

for this fearful loss we have got 12 of the enemy's guns - 12 of his 60! all very small ones & one, only a 3 pounder. The Queen's 24th Foot lost 23 Officers and including the Officers, 518 men killed & wounded - they were indeed nearly annihilated & in capturing guns too! Of the Officers thirteen lay dead before the guns & were buried in one grave. The Native Regiments suffered, many of them, to nearly the same awful extent. Sad as is this account of the waste of life, something even worse in the eyes of most men, remains to be told - At the very commencement of the action the

Brigade of Cavalry on the right, which included two Regmts of English Dragoons (not the ever gallant & glorious 3rd) was ordered to advance against the enemy's Cavalry. They had advanced a short way when they returned at full speed in the most fearful confusion - they rode over 2 troops of Horse Artillery, which were unable to get out of their way, & went straight away to the very rear of our army, even beyond the field Hospital, galloping over the tents & doolies - The Seikh Cavalry followed these unfortunates & from the utterly helpless condition of the 2 batteries - the guns, horses & riders being overthrown - they were able to capture & carry off 6 of our guns! Two of these were retaken by the Infantry afterwards. Could you have believed that such a sad disaster could have befallen our gallant troops? Yet this is all true - What a sensation it will create at home. The Comdr in Chief's despatch even, when every misfortune or misconduct is so glossed over that none but those otherwise informed, could even guess at the existence of them - the matter is so mentioned as to leave no doubt of the misconduct of the Cavalry. Not an Officer belonging to those Cavalry or Artillery Brigades is mentioned in the despatch, although scores of those of the Infantry are most highly praised - Indeed they deserve all praise, for greater bravery could not have been shown by mortal men - After going through the terrible ordeal of half an hour's exposure to the guns they had with their thinned & scattered ranks to engage in a

2

hand to hand fight with foes six times their number & fierce as very devils - The Queen's 24th & 2 Native Corps were thus nearly cut to pieces - disdaining to retreat though opposed to thousands. As usual with our great Commander, the battle was commenced at so late an hour, that though we drove the enemy from all his positions & spiked about 40 or 50 of his guns, we were obliged to relinquish all but 12 & retire from the field, leaving the enemy the whole night for removing them, & what is 10,000 times more sad, allowing parties of the enemy to wander about the whole scene of the dreadful fight & murder all the unfortunate wounded - The next morning the Seikhs were in their old position, minus only eight guns, & fired a royal salute with our own guns! Yet this is called a victory & salutes were ordered to be fired at every station in India - This bloody battle was fought at Chillianwalla, near the banks of the Jhelum - Our army is on the same spot as that to which it retired on the evening of the fight - Chillianwalla was the first of the enemy's outposts we attacked - At this place we have been obliged to fortify our own position & even to fear an attack from the enemy!! All this looks black enough - but I have a bright picture also to display to you. Mooltan has fallen - Moolraj & his force marched out an hour or two before our storming parties were to have marched in on the morning of the 22nd January - By this many lives were saved which would have been sacrificed for nothing - The fall of Mooltan of course has enabled Genl Whish to march his fine army (almost equal in number to the C in C's) to the assistance of the crippled & almost besieged Comdr in Chief. Genl W's force marched from Mooltan on the 27th Janry & is expected to join the C in C's Camp before the 15th of this month. There will then be another dreadful fight - They (Siekh) are entrenching & strengthening themselves as fast, and as well as they can & dreadful will be the slaughter of our brave, devoted troops if they are led as they have always hitherto been by this old idiot - God grant that the C in C. may make use of his guns in the next fight & of the good counsel with which he is surrounded, but hitherto only in vain -

2v

Under an able General this war would have been finished three months ago. Does it not appear impossible that our C in C. should always wait till the enemy have made themselves as strong in position as the greatest skill can contrive, before he goes to fight them - that he should make no use of any military knowledge or tactics - that our formidable artillery should be kept merely to fire salutes - But why do I put these questions to you? because I suppose that I have no reason left when I think of these things - After the flight of the enemy from Heelah the C in C instead of pursuing them & attacking them before they could get into a position, quietly remained where he

was, fired a salute & three weeks afterwards, when they (the S) had made every necessary preparation he goes to attack them. The Seikhs in the last war fought very little when their guns were taken & their Cavalry fought not at all - Now the latter can boast that they made our Dragoons fly with only a look! (strange to say our Dragoons lost one man only killed) & their Infantry fight while they can move a hand. I cant help comparing the skill & success of Genl Whish with the ignorance & misfortune of our Chief General, tho' perhaps you are getting tired of this subject & my expressions of disgust & indignation at the latter - When the town of Mooltan was taken on the 27th December General Whish marched his forces by the flank & rear of the enemy's works which were very strong & almost insurmountable - The consequence was that the enemy were driven into the Fort with little or no loss on our side. Had we attacked them like bull-dogs, right in front, where they expected we shd have done & where no doubt the C in Chief would have ordered the attack, our loss must have been fearful, if we had not been even driven back - Whish's former fight was similarly successful - we killed numbers of the enemy took all their guns & lost 7 or 8 men! It is commonly remarked that had the C. in Chief commanded at Mooltan he would have sacrificed three armies before it - Fancy the papers openly urging his immediate supercession - I heartily wish some ferocious Seikh would capture him & keep him safe.

3

Though I say that the fall of Mooltan & the approach of Genl Whish's force to Chilliunwalla to aid the C in C. is glorious news, yet I regret to say that few have their hopes or spirits much raised, except the poor fellows that fought the last desperate fight - thousands of wives & children & friends here & at home must be awaiting the next fierce struggle with deeply painful feelings & all anticipate a fearfully bloody & mismanaged conflict - The day after the fight the most tremendous rains commenced which have continued for weeks without intermission & the discomfort & depression of spirits in the camp have been most pitiable - I saw a letter yesterday from the Camp saying that the sun was shining & the spirits of all fast rising - Would you conceive it possible that so little trust is put in the skill of him who has the direction of our armies, that the wildest reports gain immediate credence, even amongst the European community. Two days ago we were made very uncomfortable by the arrival of a letter that stated that the Seikhs had attacked the C in C & completely defeated him & captured all our guns! This was in an English, not a native letter - Happily the letter I speak of arrived yesterday assuring us that all was well in camp. You will be interested by some of the contents of this letter. You know that many of our political Officers are in hands of the Seikhs. They are in the Camp of Shere Sing (opposite the C in C.) & on 26 ultimo one of them, Lt Bowie²⁹⁹, was sent over for 24 hours to our camp, of course to offer terms to the C in C. I need not say that they were too preposterous to be listened to. But what I wanted to tell you was that Lt B has been treated with the greatest respect & even kindness by his captors - He dined at Shere Sing's table every day. He took back with him 1000 cheroots to distribute among his Seikh friends - You perhaps know that the Seikhs care nothing about the prejudices in matters of eating & drinking as all other nations of the East do - barring beef - They will not eat beef because it is unlawful to make it, that is to kill bulls or cows - The letter I quote from says that the Sings will fight while they can get pay & keep together

3v

because the profession of arms is their only livelihood - At Mooltan many of the wounded Sings (all-people now call them Sings instead of Seikhs) fell into our hands & were taken care of in our Hospitals - On being asked where they would go when discharged from hospital, they invariably replied to join Shere Sing or some body else in arms against us, as they had no other means of earning their bread - It has often been remarked that if we thoroughly rout & disperse their army they will be murdered by the people of the country in every direction, as they are hated & feared by the cultivators of the land, whom they have ever oppressed. I fancy that ever since their army has

been assembled they have been helping themselves to money & supplies with no very scrupulous hands, as there has been no government to pay or keep them - I did not tell that in the C in C's army we have but 4 European Infantry Corps. In the last war we had 7 or 8. The want of them has been greatly felt as well as the reduced strength of the Native Regmts. The happy economy of Lord Hardinge has cost the Govmt thousands of rupees for every single one saved during the short period of peace. It is estimated that the daily cost of the C in C's army is 10,000£ a day - one lack of rupees. Genl Whish's force is not included, amounting to 16,000 men - The army of reserve is not included nor the troops that have so long been fighting in the Doab - By the bye there are many other alarms to describe to you; one of which, the most terrible, has just passed away happily. The King of Nepaul³⁰⁰ came down from his hills with a large army & artillery - & frightened all the people from Meerutt to Calcutta. Troops were immediately sent for from Madras which have arrived in part - A Queen's Corps that was going down the country to Calcutta was sent back to Dinapore - another that was coming to join the army of reserve has been detained there - All the native princes who are our friends were to be called upon to send troops &c &c &c - Happily his Majesty walked back to his hills on falling sick in the Terai - the valleys under

4

the hills - and he said he had only come down on a shooting excursion with 10,000 men! But only fancy the vast extent of country from Meerutt to Calcutta being without sufficient to repel 1000 men - let alone an army! Not a single European Regiment in all this immense tract of country. I forgot, there was one - the 1st Fusiliers. Before telling you of the next threatened invasion which is not so much of a joke as the last, I must mention that a vessel full of Cannon was captured on the river the other day - to whom addressed cannot be ascertained - Here is the last of our troubles as far as known at present - The Affghans are going down to attack Scindh in the absence of half the troops of that country & ships & steamers are busy taking troops from Bombay to Scindh. Troubles enough and expense enough for our penny wise and pound foolish rulers. I fancy that when next I write to you I shall have nothing to tell you but of a great sanguinary & successful battle - of the dispersement of the Seikhs & Affghans & of the return of our own army to cantonments, the latter a most desirable event to this half ruined country - When are we to look to railroads or improvements of any kind in this distracted country? Not until many years have elapsed & not until our army is in a much more efficient state, both in numbers & in a head! It is well known that our finances were in a very embarrassed state before the commencement of this war, the expenses of this which commenced from August & September last & must continue much longer, & this will prove 5 times more expensive than the last - I have been writing since breakfast & the mail from Delhie has just arrived, alas! without any letter from you - tho' other's have recd Europe letters - so I shall finish & post my letter now - I shall have nothing more to tell you as no other posts will come before this must be despatched - Bertram has not written - I never saw such a set of bad correspondents, never! I shall have to write, please God,

4v

but a few more letters - some dozen or 15 before I see you. You tell me that you take your quiet daily walk along the road to Warwick & think of all your absent ones. I take my daily walk along, I'll be bound to say, an infinitely prettier, more sweet & peaceful road & think of you all daily - As soon as I get fairly out of the sight of men and houses I instantly commence my thoughts about my visit home - Of where I shall go - what I shall do. How you all will look - What we shall do together &c &c &c -

I begin to say that this next is my last hot weather - This time next year, God willing, I shall be preparing for my start - Did I tell you the Major's wife has a sister married to a Doctor, whom she greatly wishes to come and take my place, so I shall certainly be able to sell my house & furniture.

Indeed Major C. said he would give me my [c.o. Ice] own price for every thing - My company are talking about Ice, hence the insertion of that word quite inappropriately. Did you ever see such blunders, such omission of words, as in the former part of my letter &c &c &c

I have nothing but love - but such love! to send to all brothers & sisters & their offshoots - Its disgusting having to write without any news from home for 3 months & a half - so I can't mention each member individually. God bless you dearest dear mother, your [torn]tionate son Henry

[addressed:

Via Southampton - India & Steamer P. Paid

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

PAID 28 MR 28 1849

LEAMINGTON MR 29 184?]

1

Hansie 6th March 1849

My dearest dear mother It is a month and a day since I wrote last to you, for in the middle of last month I did not write having nothing to tell you but of the dismal aspect of affairs in the Punjab - Now however I have to tell you the most glorious & complete victory over the Sikhs and of the near, very near, completion of this long and anxious war. I'll get through all I have to say on this subject first - After that desperate & fruitless battle at Chillianwala, the enemy increased in boldness & numbers, whilst we were crippled & dispirited & we were obliged to entrench our position on all sides - The enemy in the mean time were roving all about the country & surrounded our position so that our communication with our rear was cut off - This looked bad indeed, but for the near approach of Genl Whish's army. Some 4 or 5 days before the latter could have reached the Comdr in Chief the enemy came out in order of battle and advanced towards the C in C's camp - There the enemy remained till the evening when they returned to their camp; but the next morning that camp had totally disappd. Whither the enemy had gone could not be ascertained for some days. Their object was to advance upon Lahore & some body of them did actually cross the Chunab, but were shortly driven back by a portion of Genl Whish's force which had most opportunely arrived as far as Hanenaggar. The movements of the enemy caused intense alarm - All troops that were on the march to & from the Army were ordered to the different forts that were nearest to give them shelter - the reinforcements were ordered to stand fast &c &c - our daks (mails) were stopped & nothing was known for some time of our

1v

movements and of those of the enemy, beyond this - that they were in the rear of the C in C's army - It appears that the enemy were obliged to leave their strong position at Russoot (where they had been since the 3rd December) in order to get supplies & money; besides the helpless state of our army gave them every encouragement to move upon Lahore. On the 19th February the whole of the

enemy's force was found at a place called Goojrat near the Chunab - Genl Whish's force joined the C. in C on that day & the following and the 21st we went to attack them - Our force amounted to 26,000 men & 10[torn] guns - many of them 18 or 24 lbs! The enemy were 60,000 strong & had about 60 guns. For the 1st time in his life the C in C. employed his Artillery & the consequence was the utter defeat of the en[torn] with a loss on our side of only about 250 or 300 killed & woun[torn] of the Officers only 4 killed & as many wounded - The enemy lo[torn] in the field 42 guns all their tents, treasure & magazines, as w[torn] as upwards of 3000 killed - They fled in 3 bodies throwing away their arms & even taking off their uniforms that they might appear like common peasants - They were pursued for about 12 miles & 12 more guns were captured & among them 2 of the 5 that they took from us - Only one small party has been heard of since the battle - they had about 9 guns with them & had made off to the Jhelum from the battle & having crossed the river they burnt their bridge of boats - By this our pursuing party were brought up sharp on the wrong side of the river! The force that marched after them is a very large one & is intended to be moved on to Attock & Peshawar to drive the Affghans back into their own country & occupy the above mentioned places. Cantonments are now being made at Wazeerabad & I dare say that by this time arrangements for passing the hot weather are being made every where. How sad it is to reflect upon the tens of thousands of lives we have lost in our wars with the Seikhs and merely because our Artillery have never been

2

employed. There cannot be a doubt but that all our former battles wd have been as successful & bloodless as this, had we used our Artillery - In this last battle our whole army advanced in line against the enemy, but almost at a snail's pace, the whole of the Artillery blazing away all the time - The enemy retreated into the City of Goojrat & into the gardens & villages that surrounded it. Had our C in C. acted as he has hitherto done in giving battle, he would have ordered the infantry to attack & wd thereby have lost thousands of men, & perhaps the enemy would have had the best of it; but most fortunately the guns were allowed to do their work & consequently the shot & shell soon told the poor Sings at their place of shelter only proved a hundred times more destructive to them than the open fields. I wonder who it was that persuaded the old Chief that our Artillery could really do mischief - he ought to get all the honors that await Lord Gough. You cannot tell the lightness of heart we all feel now - how many many hundreds of poor women must be rejoicing at the end of their long & agonising fears about their husbands - We three - the only inhabitants of Hansie, passed all our hours in longing for good news & lamenting the bad - Did I tell you that I went & superintended the firing of a loyal salute for the fall of Mooltan? about 8 days ago I fired another for the victory of Goojrat. But I am taking up the whole of my paper with matters that you will find in all the papers - I wish my dear mother you would ask the post office authorities why your letters to me are detained in England one month - Your letters are generally one month or 5 weeks older than any other person's - The mail that brought your last, of the 20th November, brought news of the 4th January! and our last news by the papers is the 24th January - Your next that is to come will be of the 20th December - I feel sure that my letters to N.F.L. or those from my brothers to me must miscarry, or why I have no letters from them? I have no news to give you - As I told you above the 3 Hurrianahs are the only gentlemen here & there are 2 ladies, wives of the Cavalry officers who left this - One of them, a daughter of the celebrated Sir Wm Nott³⁰¹, I have become acquainted with of late - for she has much sickness in her family which I am obliged to attend - My chief amusement is my garden, in which I have just made a vinery on a very grand scale - the leaves are just coming out and in a short time I shall have a beautiful shady place to sit or walk in -

2v

I shall be sorry indeed to leave my pretty garden the object of my care and attention for so many

years - All my fruit trees - (numbering 156!!) are in blossom now & the place looks very pretty indeed - the flower garden too is in full bloom & blossom - By a great oversight I have kept the 3 small packets of seeds you sent me, in my desk - I begin to think more than ever of my visiting you, for about this time next year I shall apply for leave to go to Calcutta, and I hope I shall have sold my house & property. You will be glad to hear that I have now got 400£ - but the

exchange is so ruinous that I cannot remit any to England. If I get Bills of 6 months' sight it would be a great advantage to me but do you think it would look well? I don't know what affects the exchange but I expect some improvement shortly - I am expecting a letter from you to-day as the overland mail has been in 2 or 3 days & shall keep this open until the dak from Delhie comes in - I expect great news - first of dear Netta - who by the bye seems to have cut me - she owes me a letter - but I suppose her apology is nursing, nursing, nursing

[torn]om Bombay for any body. Give my best love to all - In haste I must wish you good bye, dear mother - Yr very affectionate son Henry

[addressed:

Indian & Steamer postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

Via Southampton

stamped:

PAID 24 AP 24 1849

LEAMINGTON AP 24 1849]

1

Hansie March 22nd 1849

My dearest mother I had intended not to have written to you by this steamer, as I cannot pay my letter the whole way (as is invariably the case when the steamer leaves Bombay at the beginning of the month) but having 2 or 3 things to say to you I venture to make you incur the expense of one shilling for my worthless letter - it may be more, as it goes via Marseilles - The first thing I have to tell you is that I got a letter by the last mail from Colonel Moberly of the Genl Post Office saying that there was a ship letter of immense bulk lying in the P.O. for want of 2/10 ship postage due thereon - This letter must be Tom's & Berty's united. I was much grieved to hear of its detention, but I have since comforted myself with the assurance of some 4 or 5 months' pleasurable anticipation - besides it is balm to my wounded feelings to know that those brothers of mine have really written to me - I expect a piece of bride-cake & perhaps a kiss from my new sister - As soon as I got Coll Moberly's letter I wrote off to Messrs Grindly, East India Army Agents, to pay the 2/10d - & forward my letter at once - at the same time I begged to be enrolled as a subscriber to their agency - These liberal people charge 1 Rupee a month only & give one, into the bargain, a Newspaper which is written expressly for the country - the Home News it is entitled

1v

My being a subscriber will be of great service to me when I am at home in a hundred different ways - It is a thousand pities that my box of home valuables was not entrusted to their care. On the 8th instt I got 2 letters from you - one, as I expected, of the 20th December, but the other was of the proper date - the 19th January - Your fears about my approaching marriage amused me very much - Pray tell Mr Frank that though the 'cording ages'³⁰² mode of marrying may be eventually carried out, it will not be for some time to come - that I shall first go home to see a little of the world - before I am an old man - & having seen as much as I can & enjoyed every thing that I can, I shall take my passage to India again, perhaps with a partner in my sorrows - I want to go home, not for the purpose of marrying - you'll believe me when I say that I don't think I could get a wife - but that I may see you all, & in as many ways as possible recompense myself for my weary sojourn of 10 years in this country - Catch me marrying and preventing my only anticipated pleasure in this world - the seeing dear England again - Why I should have more exquisite pleasure in re-visiting any scene of my former life than in 10 years' of wedded bliss! in India at least. Dont for a moment think, mother dear, that I am anticipating all sorts of gayety & excitement - nothing can be further from my hopes or wishes - My past career has been any thing but one of improvement either in mind or body & a change of air is necessary for both - In my last I told you that the battle of Goojrat had finished the war - and I was quite right - Shere Sing & Chuttur Sing have surrendered themselves & all their guns - of which they had 36!! after we had taken 53 at Goojrat - I heard yesterday from the Chief's camp that the army

2

was being broken up & that already 20 Officers were ordered to return to their staff employments - I dare say H. Reynolds was among the number. We were not a little surprised to see that the Govt & the papers at home were talking of superceding Lord Gough for his proceedings at Rumnugger & Sadoolapore - The latter engagement was called a victory & salutes were fired throughout the length & breadth of India for it. If they are alarmed at those 1st mismanaged affairs, what will be said of Chillianwalla? I fancy it will have caused intense alarm & indignation - It will be very interesting to us to read their sentiments & fearful anticipations now that we are all safe & snug in cantonments again! We have as yet heard nothing about the intentions of Govt with regard to the Punjab. If the country is not annexed we shall [sic] the same fearful tragedy performed again in the course of 2 or 3 years - I had the curiosity to add up the whole of our losses during the war & I here give you the terrible amount - 192 Officers killed & wounded & 4,194 men killed & wounded. This is a pretty work for this country - I have no doubt that somebody is now on the way out to superceed Lord Gough - A very accurate knowledge of the strength of the Sikhs our people must have had when we have taken 31 guns above the number they were supposed to have. Of the number of men in the field against they must have had a still less accurate idea - An officer is here who has just arrived from their country & who says that in his travels he did not see one young or able-bodied man!! In their villages, there were only old men, women & children - & the statement applies not only to the places near the scene of war, but to those 2 & 300 miles away - down to our own out-post at Sirsa - where we have a detachment of the Hurrianahs - You know perhaps that the people about us - to the north, east & west are all Seikhs - A pretty gathering these rogues must have had!!

2v

I want very much to get Tom's letter to compare notes in the matter of our gardens - We had a splendid shower of rain last night & the present brightness & beauty of the garden about which I have been wandering for the last 2 hours, calls up the subject - This has been & is the most wonderful season for blossom ever know [sic] - every tree I have, great & small is covered with blossom & the air is loaded literally with sweet odours - The orange blossom is powerful that I can

smell it on the side of the house furthest from the fruit garden. I wish you could see my vine-yard - It is 50 feet long & 8 feet wide within the pillars, which are 2 feet thick - the frame work about the pillars is about 10 feet high - I have about 60 bunches of grapes - but the beautiful shade & appearance of the whole is the great attraction for me - Did I tell you that I have learnt to graft & bud trees? I can do both as well as any man & practice it nearly every day. I have about 60 trees budded & grafted within the last month - I knew nothing about such matters at home & so cannot tell whether one of my modes is a new or infrequent one - I take off a ring of bark about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch in length & slip it onto another young shoot the bark of which has been previously torn down on either side. The other mode of taking out a small piece about the size of a finger nail & slipping it under the bark of the tree to be acted upon is common I believe - The former mode is the best as it rarely fails - is done in a moment & requires no particular nicety & besides it takes ten times as soon & strongly as the other - In addition to my garden I have another interesting charge. In consequence of our sheep club being abolished I am under the necessity of keeping my own sheep - I am building - or rather enclosing a corner of my garden which contains 2 houses, under 2 large trees, for their reception - On either side I am making places for fowls, guinea-fowls & any other of the feathered race which I may be able to get - a place for rabbits too is in progress - So my farm yard will look rather decent & will be a great & even a profitable amusement for me - You know that we live almost upon fowls in the hot weather as joints of meat will not keep - Our servants give us some 4 or 5 fowls for a rupee whereas they buy them 12 or 16, for that sum - hence their [on side] profit and hence mine

3

What a wonderful thing it is for me to have gossiped through a whole sheet of paper - I think I ought to have bestowed of a little of this unwonted activity of my fingers on one or both of my dear sisters at home with you, but there I fear that the subjects I have to speak of wd not much interest them - besides the very formality of taking another sheet of paper & beginning with "My very dear Bella or Irene" wd fright me from the train of gossiping into which I have fallen, & I shd not be able to say a word. To jump at once to another subject which has just flitted across my mind & which I might forget if I did not at once mention - I wanted to ask - as perhaps I have done before - wd it look ill were I to get bills on England for Mr Stowey at 6 months sight? I wish you would give me yr opinion - My excuse for doing so wd of course be the present perfectly ruinous rate of exchange. I have lately written to the Agra Bank - where I have upwards of 2,800 Rs to ask them to what amount they will give me bills on England for that sum - saying that if they offered me favourable terms I wd accept them at once; but if not, that I wd wait for another day. My Governmt Paper I shall not draw till I reach Calcutta, as it must be considered as my passage money - locked up! It has suddenly become so dark, from the gathering clouds, that I can scarcely see - its only 9 a.m. I am afraid that much rain now will do infinite harm, as the crops are ready for the sickle - The country in some directions is one sheet of ripe crops which I hope in a few days will reduce the price of grain of all kinds - My horses cost me 6d a day each for grass alone - or a substitute for grass I mean - but till lately the whole feeding of one horse cost me but 3Rs a month - now they cost 30Rs each - 10 times as much!! tho I give many pounds of fresh lucerne grass out of my garden - Three quarters of the cattle of the country have died of starvation as you may imagine - Here's the rain down in torrents - alas! for [torn] crops. Major C had his oats cut or commenced yesterday [torn]t into the billiard room a sheaf measuring [torn] feet 6 in: in hei[torn]

3v

Is this very wonderful? I hear that the oats at Hissar are all on the same gigantic scale - You know that Hissar is the great Govt cattle farm & there are hundreds of acres of oats sown there - I shd think it was very bad as the stalks are as thick & tough as common cane; certainly useless for horses - The best oats - almost more grain than straw! sell 160 lbs for 1 R - I give a horse 16 lbs a day -

hence the whole cost is about 3Rs a month - a servant's wages 5Rs. - total keep of a horse on oats 8Rs or 16 shillings a month! This slight

[torn]munication must astonish you not a little dear mother - one would fancy that I was writing to some one wishing to emigrate!! I write folios about my own idle, useless self & 3 words about my dear mother brothers, sisters, nephews & nieces & Aunt Jim - How I shd like to see Frank's laughing offspring!! not only Miss Jones but the whole string of them - my god-son best - If I were to mention all whom I should wish to see the catalogue wd be long indeed - Well, dear mother may God grant me the happiness of seeing you all - well & happy -

When I go to Calcutta I'll make every enquiry for my box, but I dont expect much success - Fancy talking of going to Calcutta! I thought at one time of starting for that place in the early part of 1850 - but I fear that both for economy & comfort's sake I must stay out the hot weather here - God bless you dear mother - Henry -

[addressed:

Via Marseilles

Pd to Bombay

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

HANSI 22 March 49

2 MY 2 1849

LEAMINGTON MY 3 1849

]

1

Hansie April 6th 1849 -

My dear dear mother As I have nothing to tell you I have been amusing myself with making a sketch of my house, garden &c to send you. It is drawn as correctly as if done by a surveyor, but in neatness of execution it is somewhat inferior - You will now be able to understand the improvements I have often talked to you about - My servants' houses at least 4 of them, were when I first came here, in the middle of the garden - to the west - The farm yard is my late purchase - How it ever was cut off from my compound I cannot understand, unless the houses there existed before it was laid out - It was a sort of Police Office in which resided the chief authority in the Bazaar - in it were confined the breakers of the peace until they could gather funds sufficient to pay for their release, and on the funds being forthcoming (of course) the prisoners were declared innocent & set free.

natives underlings & what use they make of their power none but a native can believe. About a year ago a young civilian came here as Assistant to the Magistrate³⁰³, and on hearing of his arrival, the poor ryots³⁰⁴ way-laid him in the streets & roads about Hissar calling for justice, justice - exclaiming, "now we shall have justice". When I go out shooting in the district & talk to the poor fellows in the fields they speak of nothing but the tyranny they suffer under - heaping curses on the heads of the native authorities. Thank God there is to be an end to this in 2 or 3 days. You cannot conceive the gratification we all feel - even we Europeans at the approaching change - The poor Magistrate, tho' perfectly mad, is a most humane, charitable & pious man. He is in no way to blame, tho' fearful have been the consequences of his having been sent here -

1v

In my last I told you of the happy and successful termination of the war - but I did not tell you that between 16 and 20 thousand men laid down their arms to Genl Gilbert - Fancy the Seikh army - at least the remnants of it, consisting of the finest & staunchest of the Sikhs, surrendering at discretion - They gave up at the same time 43 Guns - when, as I told you, we thought they fled from the field with only 12 guns - They seem to have had guns in every village & every field - Genl. Gilbert's pursuit of the enemy was so energetic that they were compelled to submit - They were utterly without food and each man as he laid down his arms received one rupee to enable him to buy food. The scene was described one of intense interest - it must have been actually painful to have witnessed these brave & haughty fellows thus humbled - One Sikh in throwing down his sword said with deep feeling "the Raj (dynasty) of Runjeet Sing is now gone indeed." I heard rather a good story which I may tell you - You know how the natives of the East (barring Hindoos) prize their beards - In Runjeet's court there was a great strapping Sikh with a beard that was the admiration & envy of all the Sings - Sir H. Lawrence lets what he has on his face grow as well as it can, but the sad production consists of only few straggling brown & muddy looking hairs - it looks like a beard that the crows had pecked to pieces in the dirt. One day in the Durbar, the Sing addressing Sir Henry & at the same time stroking his own huge, jet-black & glossy beard said "Runjeet Sing allowed me a rupee a day for my beard - how much does the Company allow you?" To go back to the campaign - We heard 2 or 3 days ago that Genl Gilbert's had followed close upon the heels of Dost Mahomed & the Affghans till they got within the Khyber Pass - They could not catch the scoundrels tho' our force made exertions almost unequalled in this country - The army is dispersed in cantonments all over the Punjab & scores of regiments have returned to the Provinces - I have left till the last the announcement of the annexation of the Punjab - The Proclamation announcing this was recd by us 2 days ago - That the Govr Genl has had the firmness to carry out this great and important measure has filled the country with joy & made some feel that there

2

is some prospect of a cessation of war, in the Punjab at least - Another measure of the greatest anticipated benefit, is the disarming of the Sikh people - Immense numbers of troops have long been most energetically employed in collecting & destroying arms in all the cities, towns, villages & fields - You may remember that Sir Chas Napier made it unlawful to carry arms in Scindh & the happy consequences are inconceivable. In our provinces every living soul nearly - always on a journey - carries sword & shield or matchlock or spear. I think it is the first symptom of some degree of civilisation - to see the people without all the bloody-minded weapons that have ever been invented. We are about to have great changes in Hansie - Our Adjutant is made 2nd in Command & goes to Sirsa - some 70 miles westward - our outpost, and a new Adjutt has been appointed - only yesterday - All the ladies are gone or going to the Hills - Our new Magistrate I have already mentioned - I wish my time for moving had come - I am getting very tired of the monotony & smallness of this place. A Regmt of Irregular Cavalry has been ordered here - We were much afraid that such would not be the case, as we thought that all the Cavalry would be required in the Punjab -

By the bye if you go to London ever you may see the celebrated diamond - the Kohinoor - Though it is of enormous size it is said not to be very brilliant - cloudy rather. All the jewels of the Lahore sovereigns are to be sent home to England - The young King is to be pensioned with so [sic] 40 or 50 thousand pounds a year. In the proclamation it is announced that every fort in the Punjab is to be utterly destroyed - They are as thick as blackberries, so that the labor will be considerable - My dear mother here again I am leaving only the tails of my letter for chat about you and yours. It is getting hot & in the day time I am obliged to shut all the doors - Last night I had a punkah, but on account of the sand-flies & not of the heat -

2v

The Bank offered me bills for 254£ for 3000Rs at 6 months' sight - fancy losing 46 Rs - I'll keep the money in the bank & let their interest pay for the exchange.

I have been interrupted in my letter & have returned to it just at the moment of closing the Post - I can say no more than that I send my best & dearest love to every one & that I am your loving and very affectionate son Henry

[addressed:

Via Southampton Paid to Southampton

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

PAID 31 MY 31 1849

LEAMINGTON MY 31 1849]

1

Hansie May 8th 1849 -

My dear dear mother I was yesterday morning, after a long long silence on your part, delighted beyond measure by receivg your letter of the 3rd March - our last news is up to the 24th idem - and a nice, precious darling of a chit from Bella - Your letter is written under the depressing influence of the then fresh & disastrous news of Chillianwalla - All your doubts about your friends' losses have long ago been set at rest - Did Johnny Delamaine lose an arm? I dont remember hearing that such a sad accident happened to him. I thought that Trevor was the name of poor Catherine Hunter's³⁰⁵ husband & not Travers - and Mr Trevor is in the Civil Service. You have long long since heard of the happy termination of the war with the almost bloodless, but most complete victory at Guzrat³⁰⁶, so I will not any longer dwell upon the sad subjects treated of in your letter - We are so happy and so contented here now - Our new Adjutant - a McDougall³⁰⁷ is in every way a very nice fellow - he is quite a boy - about 20. Our poor old mad Magistrate is gone, and in his stead we have a nice, hospitable, cheerful, social person, who will be - is a great addition to our society - The Cavalry who are expected here about 18th are commanded by an old friend an old Scindh friend - In a letter to Major C he says "give my kindest regards to your good little Dr, Juxon H Jones". I have been suffering a great deal of anxiety & trouble about Major C's infant³⁰⁸ about a month old, who had

been very dangerously ill for the last 12 days with fever and inflamtn of the chest - I have been in attendance 20 times during the day & often at night - The poor little sufferer is better now & this afternoon I am going to send it off to Hissar for change of air. It will be a blessed relief - for in this hot weather the constant running about is dreadful & I am more unsettled than your English climate - [sic]

1v

Mrs C & her children were to have started for the Hills on the 3rd - on their return from Hissar I fancy they will not stay here a day - then, then I shall feel happy and free indeed - Those 2 children³⁰⁹ - till within the last month there was but one - these monkeys are more trouble and annoyance to me than any 30 others would be - I shall I fear positively go up like a balloon from the exceedingly rarefied state that will ensue on their departure - During their indisposition & that is always - I cannot read, or eat or sleep or ride or walk - nothing can I do but remain by the child - I have had a spell of it now for 15 days - 15 days of complete misery - for the elder child was ill for 6 days & more before the other commenced - Excuse this out-break for I cannot but help it - I feel relieved as sorrow is by tears - Every thing about me is the same as has been described about 147 times - at 8 o'clock I enter the house - like a rat into his hole - & there I remain - or wd remain if I could, till the sun sets - That is the way to conduct oneself in this weather - all the purdahs blinds Chicks³¹⁰ are down - punkahs going without interruptions - doors hermetically sealed &c &c - In short the hot weather has fairly commenced - The days will pass very quickly this season as I am again for the 50th time commencing reading the languages. Hitherto my house has been the resort of all the idlers of the station - not a moments time have I ever had to myself - but this year I shall endeavour to discourage the practice of making this a place of public resort. Fortunately our present Adjutt and our friends who are coming are not such wild scapegraces as our former ones - besides by the blessing of God we may have a period of peace during this year - From April /48 to the same month nearly in /49 it has been a period of great & exciting interest, and to this I may attribute the daily visits to the Post Office of every living soul in the Station - Speaking of my studying again, reminds me that it may be necessary to observe that I am by nature as idle as any one need be - and that I require 10 years to do what an industrious person wd do in one - I do not

2

wish to make it appear that I am at all studiously inclined - the first thing that led me to read Hindostani was the fact that I had not a book, pamphlet, page or letter to read during this coming confinement. I had been reading for a fortnight & I found the time fly by so fast that I determined to pursue the practise - besides I am getting ashamed at my ignorance of the language and being utterly unable to talk with any educated or decent sort of native. Of course I can talk as well as nine tenths of the Europeans in this country, but I now wish to do better than that - Besides if I fail now to learn the language well, I can never do it hereafter - This explanation was most urgently required, was it not? (!!!) I have not yet got my letters from Tom & Berty - I shall enjoy them more as it gets hotter - I hope to hear good accounts of dear Netta in your next letter - as for similar events at Uffculme I have given up registering them! Whether Frank has 14 or 19 children I have not the least idea - It is not for want of love towards him & them, but the effort is too great for my memory - and I have given up all idea of learning their names and numbers - barring of course a few of the elder ones until I can visit them in person. I suppose I am forbidden to express any partiality by my little god-son Frank - but I must promise him his silver mug - otherwise I am not fit for the honorable & responsible office - I hope Frank will discourage any other person's offering to perform that part of my duty for me - You talk of my marrying & settling straight at once, as if I could forgo the great pleasure I anticipate in seeing - you first of all, and then the old and new members of my much loved family. If I live I will do it - not the marrying, but the visiting - I talk and think of this every day - I want change, too, on account of my health - I dont mean that I am

sick, for no one enjoys better health than I do & I never was better in my life, but a change to a better climate may keep off the liver for some years - besides I am getting very tired of this quiet peaceful life - chiefly because I have none to enjoy it with - & we require partners sharers in our pleasures as much as anything else.

2v

I suppose I told you before - I like chatting about going home - that I fear that my leaving must be deferred until June or July next - I dread the thoughts of staying in Calcutta - they always have the Cholera there! besides during the monsoon the weather is frightfully tempestuous - You observe that during it only 1 steamer a month is trusted to the stormy seas - Would it not be heavenly sailing down the Mediterranean in the fine Autumn, with a

prospect of home - in sight all the way - By the time I want to leave this, there may be hosts of steamers on the Indus & if so I shall be happy to escape Calcutta & the tremendous journey to it, by going to Bombay - I must write a few lines to Bella and as I have nothing but gossip gossip to give you I may as well take leave at the corner. God bless you dearest mother - Give my love - the best - to all & each of our family. I am your affectionate son Henry

[addressed:

Paid to Southampton

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

Via Southampton

stamped:

PAID 29 JY 29 1849

LEAMINGTON JY 30 1849]

1

Hansie 14th June 1849

My very dear mother I have delayed writing till the last moment in the hopes of getting a letter from you, but I have been disappointed - That I am obliged now to write in a desperate hurry will not much matter as I have not a word of news to give beyond this, which is very good news - I yesterday received my long delayed & long expected letter from my dear brother Tom - but alas! not a syllable with it from that good-for-nothing brother Berty - Dear Tom's letter is dated 22nd Novbr it's rather old but, if possible the more treasured & beloved - I need not give you, as news, any of the contents of it - It is a letter just after my own heart - he tells me every thing about himself - his routine of duties & relaxations - what he eats & drinks & when &c &c. Were I not writing at the 11th hour and $\frac{3}{4}$ added to that I could not refrain from giving him an answer - The last letter of your's is dated the 20th March, which I recd a week ago - Our last letters &c from home are of the 7th May. I told you that I have no news for you & I told the truth

1v

I have nothing to talk about but the weather which is and has been most fearfully & extraordinarily hot. We have reached the 14th June without a drop of rain having fallen for the last 2 months, and the heat has been increasing from day to day till it has become frightful - This is exactly as it should be for we are almost sure of being recompensed by plentiful rains after they once begin - Certainly things appear to be coming to a crisis - There is every now & then an ominous grumbling in the air or earth - and every now & then, without any gusts of wind, the day light is almost totally obscured - After breakfast, an hour ago, it was so dark that I gave up all hopes of being able to write to you - but it cleared for a few minutes, so I commenced this chit. It is now as bad as ever it is like a second rate London fog - but as we can write but once a month until September I feel it is my duty to continue even if I have to call for candles - I have said that the heat is fearful, but I shd have added that I don't care much about it - We have our Ice & with doors closed & punkahs going I pass the day very quickly at least

2

For the 150th time I have commenced studying the language and I have never as yet stuck to it as I am now doing -- For 6 weeks I have been reading with the greatest perseverance - for why? I have now no interruption from visitors from one end of the month to the other - Our new friends - better than the last - are very quiet stay-at-home sort of fellows. This I shd regret rather were it not that I wish to read until the commencement of the cold weather - Our Major has been at Landour for the last month, hence the total neglect of billiards & all other amusements - He returns tomorrow so I suppose he will induce me to devote my afternoons to billiards. I shall be glad of it, for the state of utter inactivity of the body has been producing the most horrible effects - I am almost a little Falstaff - Every one here daily remarks upon my daily visible increase - Its quite disgusting - I was much disappointed in getting no letter from you by yesterdays mail as I had hoped to get some good news from Worcester - & of the increase of my nephews or nieces - However I hope to hear of it all in good time - Your last letter dear mother seems to have been written when you were suffering some depressing of spirits - as you do not allude to the happy termination of the war. I daresay that it was owing to the dreadful aspect of affairs here -

2v

if so, that is long since removed. I have nothing to tell you of the finances except that I shall be abundantly rich when I start for dear home - The thoughts of that visit & an occasional (daily) peep at you are really the only pleasures I have in this weather - I wish the rain wd

come & then I should rejoice in the sight of any and every green object in nature - When nature has washed her face she will look more beautiful than you can imagine - A sudden change from the gloomiest day in winter to the brightest day in spring, is but a poor comparison, for exemplifying the effect of the 1st rains - the punkah has blown my letter away -

God bless you ever my dear mother, and all to whom I send my love - tell Tom that I got his letter -
Yr affectionate son Henry
Aunt Jim's birth-day 2 days back

[addressed:

Via Marseilles

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place

Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

HANSI 14 June /49

30 JY 30 1849

LEAMINGTON JY31 1849]

1

Hansie 13th July 1849

My dearest mother Your two nice, dear darling letters of 5th & 18th of May reached me - the latter on 11th & the other yesterday - I was very much afraid that the one of the 5th had been 'burked'³¹¹ by your fair friend to whom you entrusted it, till I remembered that there was but one mail during the hot months & that it might come with the one of the later date - come with it as far as Bombay; and I was not disappointed. Your letters are a comfort & happiness to me such as you cannot conceive. Your accounts of every member of the family, excepting poor dear Bella perhaps, are so good, so comforting - For every sentence of your 2 letters I have so much to say, that from mere perplexity & botheration I shall not be able to say anything in a coherent manner. Your letters have been to me like a week of cold weather, & never was I more in want of such a resuscitating agent - I have never suffered such complete depression, exhaustion & utter listlessness from the almost unremitting heat. I could not stand another hot season without some intermediate change - In spite of all my efforts to keep myself thin I am getting most beastly fat & corpulent. I take, or rather, for the past week, have taken, no solid food - morning & evening I take a long exhausting walk - while in-doors I read Persian for 3 or 4 hours, so that my mind may have exercise too; but in spite of all this I feel at all times like a crammed turkey in my bodily condition; and all that is not bodily is in that elastic & exulting state known only to persons who have been sea sick for 3 or 4 days - I hate the approach of night and of day alike - for at each period I am equally weary, weary, weary. There's a grumbling story for you. But the prospect is cheering indeed beyond the end of September - I have determined to start for Calcutta either in March or April - The trip on the river will I trust prove as beneficial as any change of scene or air that I could contrive - I shall be about 6 weeks reaching Calcutta.

1v

At the most I shall have to spend 2 months in Calcutta, which will enable me to do with 4 months' instead of 6 months' leave - You may know that when on leave I lose just half my pay - so the fewer months' leave I take the better for my pocket - As I have before said, I cannot pass another hot season in the plains - at Hansie I mean - If I went to the Hills I should be going out of my way, and I think that a trip on the river is the, most delightful thing I ever experienced. My journey to Scindh was all that I could wish for. I remember but one drawback - barring the loss of money it was to me - and that was that I was travelling to the most deadly country in the world almost, and had I not returned, my debt to Stowey would have fallen on those who were utterly unable to bear it. One word about money - the exchange is getting very favourable, and in a month or two I shall send home 300£. Oh I was so happy at getting a letter from dear old Fanny Bent - I feared that I had fallen into utter disgrace - Wont I write her as long a yarn as I can spin! I shall do it tomorrow, which I hope will not be too late. The dear old soul, gives me a sad, almost sad account of the ravages time has effected in every thing but her good heart. Wont you be surprised to see me? Gray Whiskered, bald & fat to a degree - You talk of my marrying indeed! a very likely thing indeed, I

don't think. Talking of marrying, reminds me of wives & of dear Berty's in particular - What a sensitive, gentle, dear creature - love I mean - she must be - That worthless fellow her husband never wrote a syllable to me - not even when Tom wrote. I am very happy to hear that Tom has got rid of what I should think an almost intolerable nuisance - the necessity of dining in company - It seemed quite a fatality that he should always have to preside over a troop of boys at dinner - Now we go to Frank - dear hard worked fellow - How completely all intercourse between us has ceased - even from his dear wife I have not had a syllable for the last 6 or 7 years. This time next year, if it please God, I shall be tossing on the high seas on my way to abuse my dear brother & his wife & my little god-son. How supremely happy every step - every turn of the paddles of my way home will be - No more hot weathers at Hansie - Not even one more year in India!

2

I remember visiting Franklin³¹² with my dear brother Frank - It was only the second time I had seen it since I first left it - Even to me it appeared the most sacred spot on earth - except that where our poor father lies - I cant describe the feelings I experienced, but they were certainly such as I should wish to know again. May Frank and I some day repeat our visit together. When I go home I shall see scarcely anything of my brothers - even were I to go to NFL it would procure me but little more of their sweet society, because they are all so very busy - How willingly would I part with six hours of my leisure, a day to them - Sixteen long long hours have I to get through daily - such tough, hard days as my dear brothers never knew - I said before that I was tired as soon as I got out of bed - by 12 noon I am exhausted - only think of the 8 or 9 other hours!! The sun does not hide his hated face till 7 minutes to 7 o'clock, and I shd like to see a person go out, before he is snug in bed! Fancy my having till this moment, omitted all mention of the important matter of your letter - I was so glad to hear of the safe arrival of another member of our family.³¹³ What a number of new acquaintances I shall have to make, and not only of those come into the world since I left England, but of those I left behind; for I am become almost an utter stranger to each & every member of the family excepting you dear mother. However, if I live & am prosperous in my journey, we will soon become great & intimate friends again. I am so glad that you discovered that your letters were always posted the wrong day - it was so sad to get but old news about you. I take my daily peep at you and Irene and shall do so till I am blest with the sight of the dear originals - So Matilda is in England - What has become of Fanny Hodgson I wonder. I suppose she will never be married

2v

in this country - She must be any thing but pretty now I should think but I thought there was much to like & love too about her - but I must make no confessions! I sincerely hope that sister Bella is in better health than when you wrote last - Tell her with my love that she must not over exert herself till I come home for I shall want her attendance on all occasions for chaperone over half the country -

I must close my letter at once as the post is already closed. God bless you all - I am dear mother
your loving son Henry -
Tell Berty that I wish his garden good luck

[addressed:

Via Marseilles

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington

Warwicks
Pd to Bombay

stamped:

HANSI 13 July /49

30 AU 30 1849

LEAMINGTON AU 31 1849]

1

Hansie 20th August 1849.

My very dear mother I must for once write you a very hurried letter for I have this moment been surprised with a remark from my Baboo that owing to the flooded state of the roads, my letter if despatched tomorrow will not reach Bombay by the 1st prox - the day the steamer leaves - I had intended to write tomorrow - I have no news to give you, but I shall regret the loss of my accustomed chat for an hour or so. Your dear letter of the 19th June reached me 2 or 3 days ago - a very old letter as our last news is of the 7th July recd too 4 days before yr letter. I am forgetting that letters & papers come in the same ship - By Expresses we get the news 2 days before our letters - I have much to say of all you have mentioned in yr letters but have not time to speak of any but dear Netta & the sad state of weakness to which she dear soul, is reduced - I cannot conceive her reduced to such a state as to be obliged to take the air in a bath-chair - I heartily hope that her present state is owing to her duties to her two little charges - her little cherubs. As you speak only of weakness I feel sad but not alarmed.

1v

You speak in such praise of my garden that I blush at the thoughts of being supposed to have colored my descriptions too highly - It certainly is as nice as garden could be in so short a time & laid out in such a formal way. But if my description was too much then it was exactly fit now, for owing to the blessed, blessed rain we have had every thing has grown to such a size that I can now sit under the shade of at least 40 trees - Up to the 1st instant we had had but 3 storms, throughout the most insufferable hot season ever known almost, but since the first inst we had rain in every degree of intensity, almost day & night. I told you that a famine was threatening until my letter was written & that all the poor were leaving this part of the country & that hundreds & thousands of poor starving wretches were lying in every direction - This blessed rain - I cannot bless it too much - has changed our prospects to the brightest of the bright - Instead of famine there will be plenty & the poor will be able to pass their time lying on their backs without a fear - In seasons of plenty such is their wont - They know no wants or cares beyond that of their bellies - This is a truly Eastern expression & must therefore not appear inelligent [sic] -

2

You ask how can I leave my paradise & offer a very sound solution of the surprising fact - What is a paradise without an Eve? I can enjoy nothing in this unbroken lameness & solitude. If I am not sighing for an Eve I am certainly sighing for change - Our community is now so small & the occupations of each member so different from the others that there is no sociality. I sometimes pass a week without seeing a soul - My comdg officer [torn]re cuts - our new Adjutt is studying for his examination - The Comdr of the Cavalry is always writing like an author who has 15 different works on hand at a time - The Adjtt of the do is likewise cuts with my superior - so you can see there

is a wonderful want of sociality amongst us - My only amusement is my daily drive morning & evening when I always take my rifle with me & get an occasional stroll & shot - The country which for years has been little better than a desert is now one blaze of beauty - green beauty - I had escaped by 2 days sending home 300£ - I wrote the Bank to know what I shd have to pay for bills to that amount & recd their reply 3 days ago saying I shd have to pay 282 Rs above the 3000 Rs in the Bank's care - By the next mail I shall certainly send you the money - It will be at six months' sight as you said Mr S was not at all likely to object to this

2v

Did I tell you of my plans in my last? I find that I should subject to the greatest heat & the most unpleasant journey, by land & by water if I start for Calcutta before July or August next - I cannot stand another hot season here, so next May I shall take six months' leave to the Hills & shall endeavour to reach Calcutta

or Bombay in August or September - By this arrangemt I shall escape all exposure & unpleasantness - It is true that I may have to alter this plan shd I find it possible to get away sooner - I have filled my sheet after a fashion & can only add my best & dearest love to you & all the family - I am dear mother yr loving & affectionate son

Henry

Dr Edlin Jane Holberton's husband &c got him himself into a pretty pickle I cut out the information to save time³¹⁴

God bless you

[addressed:

Pd. to Bombay

Via Marseilles

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

HANSI 10 [sic] Augt /49

3 OC 3 1849

LEAMINGTON OC 4 1849

]

1

Hansie 5th September /49

My very dear mother your loving letter of the 19th of July reached me last evening - I read it three times after dinner & dreamt of it all night and all this day, up to this hour of 1 p.m. Seeing that I gave you a short, hasty & very deficient letter last time I shall now endeavour to make amends by writing more than you will be able to get through at one sitting; for I have 3 days before me for writing. I hope that this great comfort of getting our English letters some 2 or 3 days before we despatch ours to Bombay may be continued. The steamer is to leave Bombay on 17th instead of the 15th of each month & by this arrangement I have hopes of being always able to reply to your letters

almost immediately. It has hitherto been almost constantly the case, that the mail from England has reached us just 2 or 3 days after our last batch has been despatched homewards. The first subject treated of in your letter has filled me with great uneasiness - I mean dear Tom's determination to leave NFL. It is sad - very sad to think of his being a homeless wanderer at his time of life. I have no doubt that the miserable climate of NFL is the cause of his leaving it - It must be dreadful to him whose chief delight is in bright cheerful days & out o'door recreations - I shall be very uneasy until I hear that he is settled again. That he, so excellent worthy and good, should be condemned to such a lot makes me quite miserable when I think of it. Since yesterday the sad news has not left my thoughts for a minute. But I must not in my letter at least, dwell longer on this theme - I hope dear Berty will not become disgusted with NFL. He has a wife & home which I believe to be the chief comforts in this life - I don't think of the home so much as of the wife - I have a very fair sort of home, but from the solitude that reigns in it, it has no charms for me. You say in your letter that in the last of mine which you have received, I made no mention of going home. Don't for a moment conceive that my longings for home have lessened in the sm[torn]llest degree, or that my intentions are altered or plans delayed [torn] conceive the reverse in each case and you have the truth

1v

Yesterday morning I made an agreement which looks very much better like my being in earnest. I told you on some former occasion that the wife of my Commanding Officer has a sister married to a Doctor and that she was very anxious to have her sister here in my place - I since learnt that the Doctor did not wish to come here & concluded that I shd make no engagement with him - Before telling you of the renewal of the overtures I shd inform you of one great fact - viz that my Comdg Officer has 4 houses here & that these being in the market I am by no means certain of selling mine at all - besides there are other vacant houses in the Station & the prices of all have been so much lowered from the scarcity of purchasers that I run the chance of losing much money by my house - Now the overtures made & proposed to me by Major C. were these - if I would change appointments with Dr Bowhill³¹⁵ - his brother-in-law he would guarantee my receiving the price of my house. To avoid all objections & obstacles I agreed to sell my house for 110£. 1,100 Rs - I bought it for 800Rs but have laid out in improvements not repairs 800 Rs. more - exclusive of the garden which has cost me a mint of money. These terms were offered to the Major through the Adjutant - for I told you that we were on the coolest terms & don't speak except on duty - his answer I have not received, but I have no doubt that he will give me or rather ensure me my price, because I heard that one young gentleman had said he wd try to get the Post Office, to which Major C. replied that he would do his utmost to get Dr Bowhill appointed - Don't pray object - dear mother to my lengthening it out, for it is so pleasant to have a regular chit chit - and if I don't go in this manner how am I to give you the 4 sheets I have promised? The origin of the above shortly described (oh!) overtures was - that the Major had heard that I had changed my former plans (mentioned to you in some former letter) and intended leaving Hansie in January or February next at the latest - And this, with God's blessing, is my intention - and when I have started you must consider me in [torn]rogress

2

to join you at Clifton Villa - It is true that I shall not be blessed with a sight & kiss from you for nearly one whole year - but it will be so nice so cheering to know that I am travelling towards you. My plans are these - and they will be "putting into practise" by the time you get this. My first plan (?) is that I am heartily tired of Hansie - This may appear a strange plan; nevertheless I was compelled to make it as a foundation upon which to found my other plans! I should be but doing justice to poor Hansie were I to say that the near prospect of going home keeps me in such fidgets that I can't remain quietly here - About the end of January I hope to start for the 1st ghaut on the Ganges - hire a nice boat & occupy myself for 3 months on the river - The change of scene & air

will be a great relief & a great benefit to mind & body, which are fast going to decay. I have never been on the Ganges - The scenery is magnificent in many places & will afford me inexpressible delight, after the dreary plains [sic] - which by the bye are nearly as monotonous as the circle of waters which surround you at sea - The same always the same to an inch - I hope d.v. (you do not know how, sketching out a plan promising me such exquisite pleasure, in every step I pause to pray - God grant it) - I hope that towards the end of April I may reach Calcutta - I must scrape & screw there that I may live, out of debt, through the 2 months that I must remain, before embarking for dear old England. If I get no quarters from any friend - tho' I have already been offered them in Government House - I shall go & get free quarters where the new Doctors sometimes put up & that I may not be altogether idle, may attend the Hospital. So dear mother you see that my ardent longing to see you & all my dear family induces me to defy the heat in Calcutta - the rough voyage & the gentle temperature of Egypt - This great enterprise is to be commenced so soon, that I feel all the excitement & restlessness of former days when I went to bed with the expectation

2v

called in time for the morning coach - The 1st stage - or rather preparatory step will be the sale of everything but a bed, table, chair a few books, gun & rifle - I hope to realize about 300£ which with my pay in England will enable us to live with a little indifference to expenditure - Talking of 300£ reminds me that Mr Stowey's 300£ is here mentioned for the last time - Several days ago I sent for a Bill for 28£ to pay the Agra Bank for a set of Bills on their Agents for 300£ at six months sight - Unfortunately I did not get & have not yet got the Draft to send to Agra - However as I was very anxious to get the money sent off to England by this Mail I wrote 2 days ago to the Secty of the Agra Bank to send you direct the 1st of the set of Bills - This I have no doubt he has done. I requested him to make out the Bills in favor of Mr Stowey as he will have to keep the bill for six months. He cannot I suppose give you a receipt until he has cashed the Bills - But as soon as that happy event shall have taken place I hope you will get hold of & destroy that abominable document which poor Mr James drew up & hung round my neck - Do dear mother get a receipt for the money as soon as you can - and don't forget to tender my best thanks to Mr Stowey for his liberal kindness - To string all my money intelligence together I may here add a piece which is truly disastrous. In my last I sent a piece cut out of a newspaper mentioning poor Dr Edlin's suspension for 6 months - The offence he committed was at a meeting of the shareholders of the Benares Bank which had just broke and in which he had money to the amount of 4,000£, 40,000 Rs!! By his suspension he has lost thousands more - I fear that his wife's (poor Jane Holberton's) fortune must have been included in this enormous sum, as it is scarcely possible that he could have saved or made such a sum from his pay alone as 4000£. I pity him from the bottom of my heart - ruined and disgraced!!

3

6th September - Here begins letter the second my dear mother. Yesterday I got through a little of what I had to say & to-day I must manage some more. In referring to your last letter I see you express a hope that I did get my letter from Bertie from the Genl Post Office - I got Tom's but not a syllable from my naughty younger brother. Only think! I have not had a word from him since he left England - I am sure I must have sent him at least 4 letters. He ought to be ashamed of himself. Dear Frank I know is worked like a galley-slave and when his few moments of rest do come I wd not wish him to shorten them by sitting down to his desk to fill a sheet for me. Did I not hear regularly from you of all the relates to him, his good wife & bairns it would be different. I wish I could part with some of my too too abundant leisure to each of my dear brothers - It would do us all a great deal of good. My days are very wearisome - but chiefly because I can take no relaxation out of doors except during the 10 minutes morning & evening twilight - But the winter is close at hand when I shall be as happy as heart could desire - As I told you before I have been obliged to read the Hindostani languages for more than 4 mos, merely for the sake of occupation. I am, now that I have

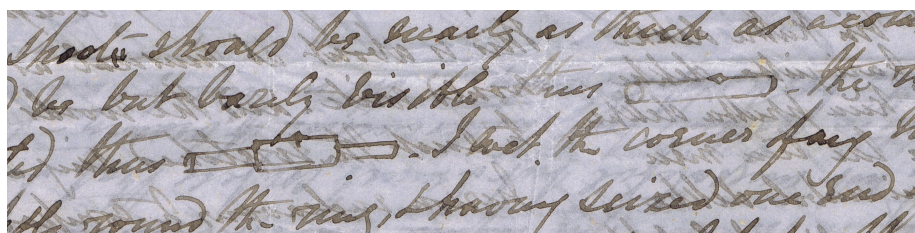
made some progress, much pleased that I have thus devoted some of my abundant spare hours - Talking of the languages I am reminded of an absurdity which I met with in an recent English paper - viz that some clever fellow at Sandhurst spouted a translation of a portion of Milton which he had made into Sanscrit verse! Oh dear Oh dear! It drew forth thunders of applause from the numerous audience, who must have understood it thoroughly! I'll copy 2 or 3 lines for you of Hindee verse which you may compare with Miltons language

Mik bin kutta dekhe
Sees bari jutta dekhe
Jogi kun phutta dekhe
Char lai tune men
Moni unbol dekhe
Sewura Sir chol dekhe
Kurt Kulol dekhe
Nun Kinde bun men.

This is about as musical as what a New Zealander would write and the words are shortened "fore and aft" to suit the wretched sing song - I should like to see a person endeavour to compose such stuff - But a still more strange thing I saw in the "London Daily News". It was there stated that the Ranee of Lahore had been shut up in an iron cage!!! with 2 European sentries at all times guarding it. It was added that "two Seikhs who were outside Effected their escape in the most mysterious manner along with the Ranee. Is it not utterly incredible that such worse than childish rubbish should

3v

be published in a London paper as sober serious truth? The voracious contributor of the above intelligence adds "I myself saw the cage"!!! This rogue must have been dreaming of Chinese customs, instead of narrating events at Benares in the 19th century during the rule of the Marquis of Dalhousie. I could fill 20 sheets with instances of the wildest romances published in the English periodicals, purporting to be simple & unadorned statements of facts. But we'll talk of these & many other interesting matters when we meet - How invariably in my subsequent - future letters I mean I shall talk in this style - "to be further explained when we meet" "we'll talk more upon this subject when you bring your knitting to the public gardens at Leamington" &c &c &c. Talking of home I am reminded of yr enquiries about my mode of budding - To bud a rose must be very difficult - I thought of attempting to graft a rose tree with a sweet briar last year - There is but one sweet briar in Hansie & innumerable cuttings have been taken of it in vain - & last cold weather the spirited proprietor of the aforesaid s.b. suggested my attempting to bud or graft with it - I will do so just for your satisfaction. I do not know whether the different rapidity with which all trees &c shoot up in this country may not account for the facility with which a ring of bark is slipped off from any scion or young shoot - for from such only can the bark be removed of sufficient size for the purpose of altering the nature & produce of a stock. If you tried to flay alive a tough old thorny, rusty-colored rose bush I am not surprised at the difficulty you experienced. The shoot should be



nearly as thick as a common pen - & the bud should be but barely visible, thus

- the ring of bark should be isolated thus]
- I wet the corner of my handkerchief & twist it tightly round the ring, & having seized one end of

the wood with my teeth & pull till the ring comes off. I take off at first 10 or 12 of these rings, put them in a basin of water & then carry them about to the beds of the different patients who are to be operated upon - Oh you shocking Doctor!! Tell my dear sister Irene that I will bud some of her plants for her - Talking of budding I shd tell you that I have budded only peach trees, plum & mulberry trees - & one apple tree - I fancy fruit

4

trees are the proper objects for such experiments, as the shoots are so large - I shd like very much to see the result of Irene's arduous labors in her garden - I know it to be sweet little garden - I am afraid that both she & dear sister Bella will be half inclined to cut me for my unbrotherly neglect in the matter of writing - moreover I have failed to reply to a little petition from Bella for a subscription towards the altar-cloth she is making for St John's church³¹⁶. Will you with my love, tell her that I could not devote any money, however small a sum, to any such purpose until I had paid Stowey; but now that after almost 10 years I have rid myself of that mill-stone, I will as soon as possible remember that she is as poor as a church mouse - Your mention of the state of the Taunton property reminds me that I must as soon as possible raise some rint³¹⁷ for poor old aunt Jim - I don't like to be talking of such things before their performance, but I say this much to show that I am mindful of some of the calls upon my comparatively full purse. I want you to tell dear Bella to keep herself in the best state of health that she can maintain, as I expect that she will have the arduous duty of chaperoning me to all places I shall wish to visit. I know that she likes little excursions - I know that I don't like them by myself - I will gladly accept of any volunteers - The expatria[torn] of 2 of my brothers will deprive me of half the pleasure I anticipated in going home - What a thing it is to have a 3 years' holiday! What a thing it will be to live with you more than a month at a time - unprecedented hitherto except at High Row - You speak of the marriage of a young lady who was once jilted the day before her promised wedding day & add "I wonder whether there will be a marriage in our house when you will come home." I can do nothing but wonder likewise - It would be very nice certainly, for this bachelor life is very tasteless - It is positively painful to be without a single I mean one friend or companion, particularly in a country like this, where half the year must be past indoors & where from the constant changes of our neighbours, we cannot keep up our friendships - I am afraid - very much afraid that after all my vows of celibacy that - if I have the power - I shall perpetuate matrimony - My personal appearance will be the great obstacle - but we shall see. Some benighted ignorant creature might by some witchcraft be made to consider me a marvellous proper man - All my friends tax me with the intention of going home for no other purpose than to marry - so they seem to think the thing possible, which I did not.

4v

I have talked an immense deal about myself & about all the family dear Netta and her little pets excepted but how this came about I know not - You made me very anxious about by talking of her going about in a bath chair - I am so happy to hear you say that she is much better & stronger than when you wrote last - The troubles of squalling children do not alarm me at all - at all - I know well enough that every pleasure in this world has its alloy of troubles - I may here remark that having no pleasures at Hansie I am not privileged to have any troubles - Thank you dearly for the copy of that funny rogue Frank's

Epic poem - He's as bad a punster as ever and when I go home I shall report him at the Punch Office - He Mr P. - says he has his eye upon some atrocious punster - that may be Frank - I am glad he has got up a curtain for my sake as well as his own, for when I sit in his pew I shall feel the blessing of the shade more than any of them who have not had 10 years' grilling in India - You enquire very affectionately after my lady nurse - I am not ungrateful but I must confess that I scarcely ever see her. She delights in nothing but the discussion of beauty - & studies no books but Heath's books

of Beauty - She is herself a beauty - She lives at Hissar

which place I never visit now - There is nobody there but one family that I don't at all like - I often mourn the loss of my friend Major Thomson - I shall have no more howdah shooting - I can't bother you with the 3rd & 4th of my promised sheet so I must here say God bless you - Yr loving [torn]
Henry

[addressed:

Paid to Southampton Via Southampton

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

5 NO 5 1849
LEAMINGTON NO 6 1849]

1

Hansie October 8th 1849

My dearest mother I have not had a letter from you since I wrote last - on the 5th September - One mail is over-due & by it I expected to have got a letter in time to write a reply by this 8th day of October - The cause of the delay in the arrival of the steamer is again I fear terribly tempestuous weather - The papers are full of disasters occasioned by rain & wind all along the western side of India. As I have had no letter from you, dear mother, I have nothing to talk to you about - for you know by this time the occupations, the people & the weather of Hansie which have been fully described each month for now nearly 5 years - Nothing has transpired during the last month excepting my birth-day & the appearance of the 1st bustard of the season - I thought of each & every member of my loving & beloved family & drunk their healths & prosperity - I thought too that happily my next birth-day might be passed amongst some of them. I say some, as I fear I shall be denied the long hoped for meeting with dear Tom & Berty - I have been sorrowing much for poor Tom - Does he intend never to visit home again? or is it the difficulty of getting employment at home that keeps him in those abominable colonies? In my ten years' anticipations of the joy of visiting home again, amongst the chief I reckoned a renewal of our old excursions - our fishing or shooting with one gun between us - our strolls & rides - But I fear I must think of these no more - Talking of going home I am sorry to say that I have not yet been able to secure the sale of my house - I think I told you that I had reduced the price

1v

of it down to the small sum of 110£. If I cannot ensure the sale of it I must remain at Hansie several months more than I had intended - I have no money whatever for my trip beyond the 1100Rs for the fare (nice word that!) to England by the Steamer. I find that I shall get only 120£ a year while on furlough - That would be reducing me to abject poverty! I must have an extra 100£ for each year. I have calculated that my house & property would fetch 300£ & that I should be able to save 100£ between this & my departure from Hansie - for afterwards I shall have barely sufficient pay for my

living & boat hire to Calcutta. I am very anxious to leave Hansie as soon as possible as I am not on good terms with my commandant & my efforts to avoid him keep me almost separate from my friends - the rest of the community. He has been absent the last month and I have been enjoying myself greatly with my old chum who came in from our outpost to take the other's place. The weather is beyond all description lovely - beautiful - I often think of my great ingratitude in grumbling at the hot weather - for when the cold weather commences I feel that one week of it is compensation ample for my past sufferings - and we have six months of this perfectly heavenly weather. I have been out shooting some 6 times & tomorrow I am going to the oft described country house some 3 miles from this for a day's shooting. Some months ago I bought (I don't mind mentioning it now that I have settled with Stowey) yes I bought a beautiful rifle - you'll scream if I mention the price - though it was only 520Rs. But this rifle has well repaid me for the exercise it has induced me to take - had I not had the rifle there is no saying how sick I might have been - But what I was going to say was that I am really astonishing my neighbours with my performances.

2

I have not been able to go deer shooting as yet - but I have killed hares & even sparrow-hawks at considerable distances with it. Did I ever mention to you my long & fruitless excursions after bustard last year? I fancy that this year with the aid of this rifle, I shall be able to supply you with bustard quills for writing for years & years. But you cannot sympathise with my sporting hopes & pleasures. With the exception of thinking of my going home, I have really scarcely a single pleasure - none of reading, none of talking - nor of music nor sight seeing - nor walks, nor rides, nor gardening now. I feel too unsettled for any domestic employment. I rejoice in nothing but the most complete idleness, which allows me frequent opportunities for forming my plans for the disposal of my time at home!! I have kept up my hopes of getting a letter from you until this day after the last safe day & consequently commenced my letter only one hour before the despatch of the mail - i.e. I have waited until I can wait no longer - even until the Baboo refuses to wait any longer - so here is my unfortunate letter brought to an untimely end - I do abhor these unfinished scrawls - When the sheet is well filled the barrenness is not apparent until the letter has been read; but in cases like the present the most casual observer must remark "La! what a shabby letter! from India too! I hope yr correspondent pays the postage!" &c &c The Agra Bank Secretary sent you No 1 of the set of Bills for 300£ - I told him to make them payable to Stowey as they cannot be cashed for many months - I do not send No 2 as the amount is considerable & should any accident happen I shd be half ruined - I shall therefore keep No 2 & 3 as mementos of my past misfortune in being a debtor - Feeling in such health &

2v

& spirits I fully intended to have written to some of my epistolary creditors - Fanny Bent, Aunt Jim & sisters - All others, that is brothers I shall pitch into with the penny post - I must put my letter into the post without one word more - Baboo says I may give my affectionate love to all - brothers & sisters, nephews & nieces & to my dear mother

God bless you dear mother
Your very affectionate
son Henry

[addressed:

Via Southampton - Paid to Southampton

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa

Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

PAID 25NO25 1849

LEAMINGTON NO26 1849

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1

Hansie November 8th 1849

My dearest mother here I am again writing under the disadvantage of having no letter from you for nearly an age - Your last is dated 18th August - Though I grumble slightly about that, I have - or rather had, about a month ago, great matter of congratulations - to myself I mean - in the receipt of a nicely filled letter from Bertram - I studied the hand writing of the address for half an hour, without being able to conceive whose it was. But in this I am contemplating, in an ungrateful spirit, the number of years that had elapsed between my beloved brother's 2 last letters. There is one advantage in writing about once in ten years, which I fancy my dear brothers have a constant eye to - viz that it makes a letter, when it is written, of almost inestimable value. No lover ever read & re-read communication from "the light of his eyes" more frequently than I have read dear Tom's and Berty's last letters - By the bye, Bertram, when he took my letter to St John's to post it, & found his brother absent, wrote on the outside of it "Tom goes to England in September" If this statement is true I shall hear something about it in your next - It was almost too good news to be readily believed - I am sure that Tom would be infinitely happier in England than in that hideous country of N.F.L. I wish he could experience any thing like the climate of Hansie, during the winter - I involuntarily exclaim each day - "This is beautiful" addressing the weather of course! As I have had no letter from you for so long a time I do not know

1v

how I am to fill this sheet - There is nothing new to speak of here. The only novelty perhaps is the great amount of sickness amongst the Sepoys - It is invariably in proportion to the quantity of rain that falls in the rainy season - I have 200 in hospital & so my duties there entirely prevent my amusing myself in the mornings - which I regret very much - The weather - i.e. the sun - is rather too hot for one to stay out in the middle of the day - The time of my departure is approaching fast - the days fly by like lightning. In every thing I do I make some reference to the number of times it is to be repeated at Hansie - last muster I remarked - only 3 more musters - only 3 more monthly reports - horrible abominations these latter. One thing I am much perplexed about & that is the sale of my house - If I do not sell it I shall be minus 110 or 120£ - no small proportion of what I calculated upon to enable me to trot about the country at home - I have not been able yet to add to my little fund in Govt paper - which I laid up for my passage - I shall have to live in the work-house

2

if I cant get at least 300£ - Talking of pounds - why dear mother, do you ask me to resign to poor dear aunt Jim my share of the 3 shillings' revenue from the Taunton estate? You may guess that I dont require it much! My good sister Bella says she sent me a sketch of your present abode - but I did not see it! Shall I waste one of the 3 minutes I had for writing this scrawl to say that I have half a mind not to send this - so very unsatisfactory must it be - But then I reflect that Bella's letter was

shorter than this & yet most acceptable. I will consider your opinion as to euphony of the conjoined names mentioned by you - I am at present entirely without any name to sigh to, so dont mind adopting so beautiful a one - Berty speaks most ungallantly of his better half - talking in the same breath of hippopotami & weather beaten lass - It might be that he was thinking of his sister-in-law - Wherever I turn I think or hear of matrimony - Every one here says - well Jones - or Mr Jones according

2v

to intimacy & dignity of the person addressing me - You had better get a wife, the size of Mrs----" you had better marry a woman that you will be proud of" meaning a very large one - Or may be - Jones take my advice - don't you go marrying a thundering great wife" just for all the world as if I ever entertained a thought of marrying

tall or short - thick or thin - With such horrible words as these flowing from your pen, my private opinion Mr Henry, is, that you possess not delicacy or refinement becoming one wanting to marry - You must put up with this nonsense dear mother or have no letter at all. If I had recd a

letter from you I should have commenced in good time & have filled the whole sheet as well as I am filling this little corner - But no news, no letter & vice versa. I'll make up for it next time - Give my affectionate love to each member of the family great & small. Tell Irene that her garden will soon surpass mine - which is terribly neglected - in the ornamental line - Ever dear mother yr affectionate son -

[addressed:

Via Southampton - inland & steamer Postage Pd.

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

PAID 26DE26 1849

LEAMINGTON DE26 1849]

1

Hansie 7th January 1850

My dearest mother I have been thinking of you and all my loved brothers & sisters ever since Xmas day, & have been drinking your health daily - a happy New Year have I, with all my heart, wished every one of you, and a happy meeting with you all & each & every one. You can scarcely believe how my thoughts by day & dreams by night are constantly of home - home - home. I wake each morning as if I had but just parted with you all - expecting to meet again at breakfast. In 8 days I shall send in my application for leave!!!! All day long I am bothered to sell this or that - to let one have the pictures and another the rifle &c &c - But in the midst of these pleasant preparations for a start for home I have a dreadful drag - a weight upon my heart about that confounded money which I sent home in the first week of September - exactly, I fancy four months ago to a day - A remark in your last letter, viz "that you always write by the Marseilles' Mail if you have anything of interest to tell me" - this remark of your's makes me more uneasy than I should have been without it, for I can

scarcely fancy that had you recd a sum of such vast amount you would have failed to tell me that it had arrived safe - Our last news from home is of the 27th November, so that the Agra Secretary's letter gone as it shd have gone, it would have reached you a month before that date - The Mail of the 4th December is expected daily & if I get a letter by it with glad tidings of the safe arrival of the money, all will be right - but suppose there is no letter - no receipt, what

1v

is to be done? I cannot leave Hansie until I hear of the receipt of the money - thats flat!! After that what can I add that can convey any deeper, more terrible impression of the "fix" that I am in? However, I have one hope left and I will not despond until that is gone. As I said before, I am going to apply on 15th instant for four & ½ months' leave from the 15th February. My former intention was to have left this on the 1st March; but for the advantage of one fortnight of cold weather I shall be but too glad to forfeit a fortnights' extra pay. In March the weather begins to get hot particularly down the country, so I want to get housed in Calcutta as soon as possible - I shall go by palankeen dak as far as Allahabad & thence to Calcutta by water - in a steamer of course. I hope to be at Allahabad by the 1st March & in Calcutta by the 15th idem - Such are my plans but where is your acknowledgement for the 300£? Where, and oh where? I got, just 10 days ago, a most brotherly letter from Peter Robertson offering to take any small parcel home - yes home for me!! He has just got his promotion & has applied for and obtained leave to go home. He intends to sail in February, about the end of the month - and will therefore, if all goes well, reach England before I leave Calcutta - He has 2 young children, which, he says, he is anxious to compare with his sisters chickens. I shall be delighted to make his acquaintance at home - We two old "Qui his" will astound you with our stories of alligators, the Ganges & Governors General. A sort of free masonry is established amongst Indians which I feel sure I shall find

2

very pleasant indeed - Besides, we shall have some leisure, and I dare say some tastes in common which, when I am at Frank's we may put into practice together. I shall certainly look upon Mr Peter as my Devonshire chum.³¹⁸ I have a double - nay, treble reason for anxiously looking for your next letter - I am longing to hear of dear Tom's destination, and whether Berty has got his rural Deanery - I hope I shall have good, very good news of both of my brothers. Talking of the rural Dean reminds me of a piece of news that will at least surprise you - Dr Thring³¹⁹, who has bought my house, when drinking with me a few days ago, remarked that he wished he was going home & that he longed to see, amongst other places - Torquay! I said that I knew the place well, and af[torn] a reciprocal examination, the fact was eliminated - I sh[torn] have said established, that he knew at Babycombe [above: or bi-] Mrs Patrick. He first asked me if I knew Dr Field & then stated that he had been taken by him to call upon Mrs P. He mentioned that there were a great many daughters! Mr Thring's father is a D.D. near Salisbury - My friend is such a handsome fellow. The Misses P. cannot have forgotten his face at least - I must write you a very shabby letter again for I have nothing to write about, & my fingers are so cold I can scarcely direct the pen. The weather is so cold. Every day I go wandering about the country with my rifle - it is during my long drives & lonely rambles that I have such opportunities of thinking of home, as above described - You would not be interested with

2v

an account of the game I have bagged - but I may mention that a few days ago I killed a black i.e buck antelope - My ambition now is to bag a bustard - I have seen some twice - on the 1st occasion 16 & the next 4 - You will be glad to hear that I have sold my rifle for 50£ losing only 20 Rs by my bargain - The healthy amusement I have had with it would reconcile me to the the loss of half of

what I pd

for it - I wrote a long & penitential letter to dear Fanny Bent last month - I hope it reached her - I have time only for messages of love to all the family - God bless you dear mother - I am yr loving son Henry - I shall not be here to receive more than 2 other letters from you, i.e. if your next assures me of the safe arrival of the Bills - or Bill

[addressed:

Indian & Steamer postage Pd. via Southampton

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

PAID 25FE25 1850
LEAMINGTON FE25...]

1

Hansie 24th January 1850

Though I have nothing to tell you in the shape of news my dearest mother, I must write, and by this expensive route too, just to tell you how great a load of anxiety was removed from my heart & shoulders by the arrival, last night, of your vagrant letter of the 19th November - By some mistake your letter was sent to Madras and its non-arrival with the mail of the middle of November put me, as you ladies say, in a great fright! First I thought that some ill tidings had reached you from N.F.L and my miserable fancies on this score I need not attempt to describe - Then I asked you, as well as myself, why you did not write just to acknowledge the receipt of Stowey's Bill - this, though altogether an inferior matter, gave me some additional anxiety, for I could not help thinking & saying too, that I could not leave Hansie until I heard of the safe arrival of the bill, and I was daily & hourly discussing, with bitterness of heart, the necessity of cancelling my leave!!!! My application for leave went off to the Commdr in Chief on the 15th instant and I am daily expecting the reply - After all my anxieties only think how happy I am to-day and what a pleasant night I passed - I see by your letter of glad tidings that I have told you of several schemes for proceeding to England - by land - by water - to the Hills - to Bombay &c - but this is the mode of travelling I have determined upon & which is already in progress. On the 15th February I go in a palankeen to Delhie and from that place to Allahabad I travel in the Dak Carriage - i.e. a light four-wheeled carriage with one horse, which is driven at a good pace (for India) I expect to reach Allahabad in 6 or 7 days from Delhie. I go on board a Steamer at Allahabad & down to Calcutta

1v

which latter place I hope to reach in 15 days more. Calcutta will be a delightful change for me in every respect. As I have before hinted the community here are at present on such terms with each other as to render the place very distasteful to me - I expect to find many old friends in Calcutta & amongst them Dr Edlin who has come off triumphant in the late troubles - As soon as he had given some explanation his suspension was cancelled - so that his punishment lasted only 3 months - he

has been reinstated in his former lucrative appointments in Calcutta & his late antagonists of whom he only spoke in too plain terms, are suspended & to be tried by court martial - So the tables have been completely turned - His losses too have not been nearly so great as was at first feared. Through his energetic exertions he not only saved much of his own money but that of hundreds of others & elicited so much gratitude from the shareholders of the Benares Bank, that they offered to make good his losses, in pay, during his suspension - i.e. to present him with 3000 Rs!! The Baboo has just come to tell me that I must despatch the Mail, so I must curtail my letter sadly I wanted to talk of many things & particularly to reply to dear Irene's love of a letter - Give my

2

warmest love to my little monitress & say that I will assuredly write by the Southampton Steamer - Your news about dear Tom is somewhat satisfactory but I am disappointed at hearing that he does not intend returning to England - I shd have been infinitely more gratified than I have already been, had you told me of the glad tiding of Bertram's change to Harbour Grace³²⁰. You and Irene both - ask what will be my future address - I must I think have frequently mentioned that after your December letter you shd address to the Genl Post Office Calcutta, to be kept and called for. My journey w[torn] be one of only 25 days or so, & I shall not stay an unnecessary hour at any place on the road A month is the usual interval between my letters so I shall not miss one during the 25 days - As you say I can receive but one more letter at Hansie, blessed fact. I shall write one more - on the 4th February from this place - I may have something to say, besides I must write to Irene - You speak of having recd but one bill as if you expected more - but one of course if recd in safety is all that is required - to send another wd be running a risk

2v

I must have told you in my last that the Robertons sail for England next month - I told you that I had at last written to dear old Fanny Bent - Your good accounts of the health of all the family is most gratifying - Frank's Bella's Netta's, Aunt's - of the rest thank God I have not often had occasion to be anxious - My dearest mother I must here say good bye & God bless - I never was in such haste. I have written this in 3 minutes by the watch!

Ever your loving and affecte son Henry

[addressed:

Via Marseilles - Overland Mail

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

HANSIE 24 Jany
BOMBAY FE 2 1850
8 MR 8 1850

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Hansie for the last time!!!

February 6th 1850

My dearest mother I yesterday evening received the last of your dear letters that I shall be at Hansie to receive; and here beginneth the last of my monthly papers that I shall have to despatch from this long loved peaceful retreat. I have not yet had my leave granted, but I have no doubt that it will appear in orders in time enough to enable me to start from this on the 15th. The Commdr in Chief is marching about the Punjab so that letters take an immense time finding him - It is nearly a month since my application for leave was despatched from this - My plans I have sufficiently explained in my latest letters, though in yours you speak of disappointment at my omission in this respect, & appear almost to doubt my intention of leaving Hansie at all - However your mind must have been long ago set at rest upon this subject - One matter in your letter has grieved me very much & I scarcely slept last night from the throng of painful ideas that were passing through my poor brain - How you could fail to tell me of your difficulties I cannot imagine - Dear Sibella did offer a suggestion that I should seize the 30£ I had to pay for my bills on London, by sending it home for use where it would be welcome; but I never for a moment dreamed that money was urgently required. Had her delicacy - which was quite unnecessary between brother & sister - allowed her to be at all explicit I would have supplied your necessities in one hour. As it was, I fancied that dear Bella regarded my paying Stowey immediately as a matter of no moment, and that I was throwing away nearly 30£ for nothing - and therefore she asked for it - just as she might suggest the saving of any insignificant thing that was about to be cast away. Had you gone away to Wales I dont know what I would have done - certainly I should started [sic] off home without pay & without leave - My dear mother - I beg & entreat that you will never let me live in ignorance

1v

of your wants. Why am I your son? Why have I been blest with an ample competency but to be your help in time of need. The sad thought has 50 times occurred to me, that you were suffering the distress you speak of so sadly, while I was paying 52£ for a mere toy!! My only consolation is my ignorance - I am also thankful for your speedy relief - I cannot express my esteem & admiration of Mr Stowey - Without him what would our family have done? His last gift is indeed munificent - I wish dear mother you would never think of the money I gave to Frank as a loan - not until he is a rich man & I a beggar - never until these 2 changes take place. My only use for money is to enable me to go home & see you & all my beloved family & friends - all that remains after that expense is paid ought to be devoted to you & other members if my poor poor family - You speak of my pay at home, and of my funds, as if I were to be very poor indeed - If I have not already told you I may here tell you, that I have sold every thing that belonged to me, excepting one horse & my buggy - I have realised 2,564 Rs by my sale - I had 1000 and odd rupees in Government Paper & 3 months' pay nearly in my box so that I have at this moment 5000 Rs - i.e. 500£. I expect to save a leetle more so as to pay my passage home without touching my 500£ - From the Government I shall get 120£ a year - so that I shall have 290£ a year - minus a few shillings - Did you not dear mother know that I had plenty of money & that if I could not lay my hands immediately on my own, I could borrow any sum at any moment in an emergency - I said that I had 500£ but I should except 150£ as my house is not yet paid for - nor are all my little bills paid - but I have 350£ bona fide in Government Paper saved, secured which cannot be touched until I reach Calcutta. As your immediate necessities are supplied by the generosity of Stowey you would not wish me to send you any money - though I would have done it had I not to borrow for the purpose - for I have left myself with only sufficient funds for my clearing out of

2

Hansie & for my journey from Calcutta - the latter will cost me 5 or 600Rs. To end this long story, and sad one too, to me, I shall just add that in future I shall understand the slightest hint upon

money matters, as you will not speak out - now that I have assured you that I am not poor & now that Stowey's debt is no longer impeding me. You speak of your sorrow that I am not on good terms with anyone one of my fellow creatures - You are right in thinking that it is not my fault - I have a malevolent slandering neighbour whom I have endeavoured to keep on terms with for years - I mean that for 5 years it has been an effort, and I have of late often grieved that I did not change my appointment to escape the evil & painful feelings excited by the contact of such a person - The last act of kindness I experienced at his hands was a most strenuous endeavour to prevent people from buying my house & property - He under-valued a large house of his by several hundred rupees on purpose to injure me - I sold my house to his own tenant for 1000 Rs when he immediately offered his for 900 though it was worth worth 2000!!! The very rifle that I bought off him for 520Rs cash he told every person in the [torn]lace to be worthless - useless! However in this effort he was again disappo[torn]d as I sold it immediately for 500Rs tho' he had one he himself much [torn]ed to sell - and there was only one person able to buy such an expensive thing [torn] Hansie. Enough of this nasty subject - It is such gratifying news you [torn] of dear Tom - of Berty too & his very nice wife - That Tom is in cheerful spirits & happy is the best news of all - because I fancy it is new - I should think that the gloomy climate & monotony of N-F.Ld was painful to him, who delights in a cheerful sky & cheerful society - He should like this climate, at least 6 mo's of the year - We have had and are still having the most delightful cold weather - this 6th day of February is so cold than I cannot keep my fingers warm. With all the blowing & rubbing I can give them - I keep a fire all day & half the night - & such thick garments I have on as wd surprise you - My nether ones so thick that I can scarcely bend my legs! I shall have delicious weather for my journey to Calcutta - What Charles Reynolds wants to get at Jeypore is the superintendence of the Missionary establishment to be formed there - not to be a Missionary - but to manage affairs - accounts &c &c. The Political authority of Jeypore was established with more servants

2v

than in any part of India, Schools for the children of the Thugs³²¹ - whose religion as well as livelihood was nothing but the shedding of human blood the school children produce sheeting, towels, carpets &c &c for half of India attempts to make them Xtians I fancy have never been made - but where have they been made with success? Nowhere that I have heard - except from Exeter Hall³²² - There is no native Christian in this country that is not altogether supported by the Govt. & the opinion is universal that this is the cause of their being Christians - Certainly a Xtian is an outcast among his own people

and could not earn his bread - We hear much [torn]om home of the progress of Xtianity, but never see it here - So our darling Frank does not keep a full school - it grieves me to hear it - It is not impossible tho' I am his younger brother, that when I leave the solitude of Hansie & mix more in the world I may be able to get him some pupils - Certainly as I rise in the service my recommendation will be of more weight & I heartily wish I may have opportunities of exercising it - I hope my dear brother never calls to mind my remissness in the matter of letter writing to him - by remaining silent I shall have the more to chat about by the Uffculme fire side - tell him this

I wonder where you will address your next letter - I expect to be in Calcutta by the time the next Southampton mail arrives - shd you address it to Hansie of course it will follow me to Calcutta - I want to write to both Bella & Irene so I must here conclude the series of my Hansie letters - God bless you dear mother & grant us [torn] meeting - Henry

[addressed:

Indian & Steamer postage Paid

Mrs John Jones

Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks
Via Southampton

stamped: PAID 28MR28 1850
LEAMINGTON MR29 1850]

1

Another letter from Hansie 6th March 1850

My dearest mother Here am I still at Hansie and I cannot tell you when I am likely to get away from it - You will have learnt by my former letters that I "sent in", as the phrase is, my application for leave on the 15th January - It has twice been returned for correction - the last time quite unnecessarily by the Genl at Umballa who is what in polite language is termed a martinet - but in Hansie idiom is a confounded brute. On account of the return of my application & the consequent delay of one month that would ensue before my leave could appear in Genl Orders, I wrote to the General to allow me to start at once in anticipation of its appearance therein. The result was a "wig" to my Commdg Officer and a tolerably clear statement that I might whistle for my leave - My 3rd application was despatched the 16th or 17th February and as it is not yet been returned to me I have every reason to believe that it is on its way to the Commdr in Chief who is fighting away with the Afreedees in the Kyber Pass - I am in daily expectation of the receipt of my own letter with the laconic remark "granted" written thereon - I am suffering no trouble or bother whatever about this delay as the heat will not be felt on my journey if I travel only at night - and by remaining here one month longer than I intended I save the 230Rs which I lose monthly after my departure. This is matter of some congratulation as I lost a great deal of money by the sale of my horses & buggy - I paid 80£ for them & sold them or rather gave them away for 20! The fact is that the market is glutted in these respects, everyone having lots of horses & not wanting buggies. The amount realised by my sale & by my savings does not come up to what I expected by a good deal, so that when I reach Calcutta I shall endeavour to get some employment to enable me to save another 100£ just to pay for my passage. My funds at present amount to

1v

something short of 600£ out of which are to be defrayed the enormous expences of my journey to Calcutta - which will reduce it to 500 - The English Mail arrived 2 days ago and I am in hopes of getting a letter from you before this leaves. It is strange that I still invariably get your letters a day after every other person in the place they always arrive with the newspapers & parcels!! By this I am continually losing the opportunity of replying instantly to your letters. Tomorrow morning the last batch of letters is despatched to Bombay - every one but unhappy me will get their letters this afternoon & so be able to reply by tomorrow's mail. Can it be that your letters go first into the box & so come out last? I think so as you always write on the 19th & the 24th is always the date of the Mail - i.e. of newspapers as well as letters. Yesterday I dined with a Major Shuldham³²³ who has just come out via Egypt & he said that the heat in that country & the Red Sea was something awful - Nice news for me!! But he was not on his way to see his mother brothers & sisters & therefore found it hotter than I shall! I think that by sailing as I intend on the 5th July i.e. during the monsoon I shall find the heat less distressing. I know that when I came out the weather was delicious - from its raining every day - Do you know my dear mother that I feel as if I were about to part with an old

& dear friend in leaving Hansie. Evering [sic] thing has now put on its brightest looks and I wander each day about my old haunts with more dreamy melancholy pleasure than I have ever done - I have passed such a great portion of my life here that I may well have lots to think of in looking over it - But I will keep my moralising to myself. So great is the change I anticipate in the career before me that I may well feel that I am about to commence life again. I cant expect the future to be quite so calm & peaceful as the past, but I may hope it to be a little more interesting & profitable. How fortunate I have been to have ridden quietly at anchor in this place during all the storms that have past over this troubled country. Had I been with a marching regimt

2

Heaven alone knows where I shd now have been - certainly I should not have had a bawbee³²⁴ in my pocket, & my trip home would necessarily have been deferred until there had been 5 years' peace. I have assuredly reason to be thankful for a life's freedom from trouble & sickness - By the bye, did I tell you of a providential escape I had a short time ago? I was out shooting at Dhanah and halting to have tiffin at 1 o'clock I cleaned my gun, which had been firing like the Sikhs all the morning - After tiffin I resumed my sport & very speedily, I fired off both barrels - I loaded both with powder, had put the wadding into each & rammed down the first when as soon as the ramrod reached the bottom of the barrel off it went - I was stunned with the explosion & my arm was thrown backwards with such force as nearly to send it out of the socket - my hand was dead to all feeling & for some seconds I was afraid to look at it - At last I hung it before my eyes - it was as black as night & was here and there colored red, but to my unexpected joy I counted the old five fingers and then I felt them with the other hand to learn how long they were likely to remain mine. All was right. It was a wonderful escape for had the powder exploded while I was pouring it in, that in the flask would have ignited & I should have blown off my hand & head too perhaps - I could not have escaped had not my hand been in contact with the ram rod - had there not been a little interval it would have carried away my poor fingers. My 2 buggy escapes were not so narrow as this one - I mean that the upset in a buggy is a mere joke to guns going off in one's face. You speak of dear old Fanny Bent's expecting to be gratified by a letter from me. I wrote to her on 23rd of December last - I made some suggestion to her about a Mr Mosgrove³²⁵ who has been writing about the cold water cure of Cholera, at Bombay being my old school fellow & playmate at York Buildings - A Bombay gentleman told me 3 days ago that it was my old friend - the gentleman, Mr Pollexfen³²⁶, had been in the same Regiment with him - Tell Fanny that it is her old friend. When I saw him last he had just entered into practice in London - He has since wandered all over the world & is quite a griff (i.e. under 3 years' service) in this country - Lots of griffs and Drs with Queen's Corps newly arrived are constantly starting specific remedies for Cholera - first soda, then cold water & back again from cold water to soda - but their remedies never prove of use until 50 have died - in other words not until the disease has died!!!

2v

As I am now compelled by the lateness of the season to travel by night I shall dawdle on the road & arrive very late in Calcutta - perhaps a month after 9 March - I shall stay at Rotuck for a few days & see my old chum Mr Ross - His mother wrote to me a few days ago and said "I thought you were going to England" as if I had given up all ideas of doing so - Possibly before I close this I may get my leave - but any how I dont expect to be in Calcutta before the 1st week in April - I suppose you will feel some disappointment

at the uncertainty of my movements - Did I tell you that I have had an offer of free lodging in Governmt House? I hope it will be repeated on my arrival in Calcutta - The saving of expence is nothing compared with the climate to be enjoyed in Govt House - Muskitoes are strictly forbidden to enter there - in all other places there are riotous mobs of them - in these provinces there are none

compared to the clouds of them in Calcutta - and don't they admire the up-country blood - My contemporaries in Calcutta are sneered at by mosquitoes taste - I like variety in spelling some words. In the eastern language the mode of spelling is delightful - in this way

m-s-k-t - there is nothing superfluous about it - besides these letters do for other words - direct economy - I hope this is positively the last time of my writing to you from Hansie - but if it is not I only - gain money by staying here - & avoid that horrible mosquito den Calcutta - God bless you dear mother & give us a happy meeting - Yr son Henry

[addressed:

Indian & Steamer Postage Paid Via Southampton

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

HANSI 8th March /50
PAID 23AP23 1850
LEAMINGTON AP 24 1850

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1

Rhotuk 5th April

My dearest mother My last letter of the 8th March must have been a most unsatisfactory one, as at the time I wrote it I had no idea when I should get my leave granted, and I have now some faint recollection of some feeling of desperation about the floundering proceedings of my noble Captain "& that crusty old Genl at Umballa - However perseverance will overcome most things & by dint of it my commander got his letter written correctly & the Genl at last forwarded it to Sir Chas Napier - My application for leave originally expressed a burning desire that I might be permitted to leave Hansie on the 15th February. My leave appeared in Genl. Orders on the 18th March and I left Hansie on the 20th idem³²⁷. From that time to the present I have had no opportunity of communicating to you the glad tidings of my having actually started on my journey homewards - You doubtless remember the name of Rotuck & that it is an enormous distance from Hansie - and you will be delighted to find that in 16 days by the most unexampled efforts I have come 42 miles! Do you remember, dear mother, that during my first year at Hansie I got a fortnights leave to visit my old chum Mr Ross at Rhotuk? When I arrived here in my plankeen [sic] I was so happy to see the face of a friend - and an old friend too - that I have not since been able to tear myself away. I am very likely to stay here another month, for my friends will not let me go - The heat that I so dreaded to face I dont care a fig for - whether it is the journey homewds that I an engaged in, or the delight at having left my old foes at Hansie for old friends, that keep me cool, I dont know; but I am sure that the month of May even I shall find my journey down the country a very dance of joy & delight. The first 10 days of my visit to my chum were passed in the district, nearly the whole of which we visited, & a most agreeable novelty it was to me - Our daily journeys were 12 & 14 miles - we had lots of shooting & other amusements, but what gratified me most was the feeling of freedom - I could not help exclaiming at all times & in all places "well this is better than going to Hospital!!" My friends have a constant source of fun in laughing at my infirmities

of which I am reminded by the fresh marks on my wrist of about 20 monkey's teeth - & I have been suffering from such a number & variety of ailments as I never before experienced - the seat or cane-work of my palanquin was in such a dilapidated state that I found rest, for the 12 hours of my journey here, solely upon a very sharp cornered bar which fitted neatly between 2 of my vertebrae - the next day I travelled some 8 miles on a camel & another 8 on a very fresh arab horse - both very apt to make a gentleman of my years very stiff and sore if he has not mounted either for a year - the next night I slept opposite the door-way of my tent & caught a fine cold & first rate rheumatism - I broke my arms with playing at quoits & with all these aches & pains I went, most foolishly, to cultivate the acquaintance of 2 enormous monkeys last evening from one of whom I got a most savage bite on the wrist - I think I could now get sick leave to go to England, I am so crippled - But these ailments & sufferings are delightful compared to the painful blank caused by my not hearing from you - I suppose you will have sent your last 2 letters to Calcutta, & there I may not arrive for the next 2 months - Your last dear letter I recd in the first week of February & in it you said that you hoped it would be the last I should receive at Hansie. The last 2 or 3 days I spent at Hansie were devoted to the re reading of all your old letters & many from my beloved brothers & sisters and, sad to tell you in destroying the same - There is so much risk of losing the little boxes in which Palanquin travellers are obliged to pack their little all of this world's goods, that I thought it necessary to destroy all letters and papers - It grieved me to the heart to burn a five years' history of my family, but as I am, please God, going to the fountain head I shall not long feel my loss. I was obliged by the same motive to destroy all your much loved letters when I went to Sindh. You will be surprised to hear that in the one 'hos shay by which I shall travel from Delhie to Calcutta I am allowed to take but 40 lbs weight of luggage - I think you call it - That's about the weight of my linen razors & the Delhie jewelry which I mean to get - If you or dear Irene strictly forbid my spending rupees in that & other trumpery - if I can obey you I will - I am already commencing to collect contributions from my friends of curiosities & valuables

2

which if you cannot convert to any useful domestic purposes, you can send to the Exhibition of the Arts - Prince Albert's I mean³²⁸ - I intended to have presented you with the skin, head & horns of the only black antelope that I have shot; but I left them at Hansie - Here I have picked up an Arracan dagger, which makes my accustomed blood to run cold - A day or two ago a friend offered me a letter from a Nawab with the seal attached to it of the shape & size of a newly drawn cork of Day & Martin's³²⁹ - It would be highly improper, my friends tell me, to go home without a collection, of some kind, of the curiosities of this country - My only fear is that when I reach Suez, the Porters - how much nicer than Coolies it sounds - will say that I must pay some 15£ for their carriage across the desert & that I shall chuck them all into the sea. Talking of the over-land route, I may tell you that if I can find a companion I shall go by Trieste or Marseilles. By these routes I shall save some days on Ship-board & reach Clifton Villa some days sooner - to say nothing of visiting several Continental Countries! In three short months & 4 days I shall be on board the Steamer - I am so constantly thinking of you & all at home that I really feel as if I had been at home some months - My companions & all whom I see talk of nothing but England, England, home, home - By intense reflection I have made myself familiar with Mrs Frank & all the nephews & nieces - Jones & Patrick - But I'll tell you the rest of this when I get home. Now I dream alternately that I am married and hung &c &c. I have perhaps told you before that on my leaving Hansie I lost more than half my pay. My living on my friends, you will therefore see is a desirable & praiseworthy act of economy, as well as being extremely pleasant - By staying one month with a friend my next month's pay is made what it used to be. I have no doubt that I shall be received as a guest in the house of some old friend in Calcutta, so you see I try to combine profit with pleasure. I

have for the last hour been trying, in spite of continual interruption, to get on with my letter in a connected way, but I can't. I did intend to have written to Bella as I am anxious to be on irreproachable terms with all at home. I made a great effort to clear scores with Frank & Irene - I think it was last month - What tittle tattle I am writing! I am anxious to get your letters just to know that you are getting on all well & to learn what Tom is doing & what the rural Dean is about. You do not give me the least encouragement to hope for Tom's return while I am in England. The next good thing to that will be hearing good news of him

2v

This letter is the first of a short & happy series that must remain unanswered - Sweet, delightful thought - and fact too! I very much feel the want of one of your late letters to set me scribbling with some zeal - but I have not got one - I ought to go & take a peep at you & Irene - but if I did before my friends they would say I was spooney on some ladies fair - which perhaps I am & perhaps I a'int. I dont think it would please or interest you were I to continue writing with being able to make myself - heard I was going to say on acct of the noise -

but intelligible I fancy is the proper word - You must give my love to all at home - all whom you see & write to. Tell Fanny Bent to have my old room - bed-room ready & my ship³³⁰ placed on a chair by the bed-side as in days of yore. Do you ever hear from the dear old Barattys I have not for ages heard a syllable about the dear old souls - I fear that when I go to Petersham I shall find them sadly changed - Look not now but in August next what 11 years have worked upon me - I am getting as grey as a badger - my only saving virtue is that I am

comfortably fat. I fancy my dear sisters & I will compare notes in that matter - I weighed myself two days ago & found I had melted - oh shame! down to 9 stone 4 from 9/10. God bless you dearest mother & give us a happy meeting shortly - Yr loving son Henry

[addressed:

Indian & Steamer Postage Pd. Via Southampton

Mrs John James
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

stamped:

ROTUCK 5 April /50
DELHIE 1850 APR 8 WEIGHT ... PAID
PAID 25MY25 1850
LEAMINGTON MY 26 1850]

1

Rhotuk again! May 7th 1850

My very dear Mother You see I am still at Rhotuk & in every respect am I happy, barring the want of some comforting letters from you. I have just re-read your last letter of the 19th January which is written in the most melancholy strain - it makes me quite down hearted to think of it - When you

even first mentioned your difficulties it was too late for me to offer you assistance, before you would get that money from Stowey & when yr last letter reached me you must have been in possession of it; yet your allusion to your thankfulness for shelter & comfort in the letter before me makes me quite miserable - I fancy that the different melancholy events related in your letter gave you a temporary lowness of spirits, which I hope was but of short - very short duration - Though I endeavour to comfort myself with this hope I must confess I am very much in want of a good cheerful, hearty letter giving good accounts of dear Tom & Sibella - I suppose you have sent your last 2 letters to Calcutta, so I must wait till I get them before I can get the comfort I so much require You must be thinking that I am going to take my furlough at Rhotuk, so long a halt have I made at this place - but I have no such intention - By staying here, as I before pointed out to you, I am consulting my own comfort & avoiding all expense - I do not know exactly when I shall leave this, but it will certainly be within 10 days - I am only awaiting the arrival of - what do you think? - a box of cheroots from Cawnpore. I have been so earnestly entreated to prolong my stay, that I have, at least 6 times postponed my departure, fixing it again by the arrival of the English mail - then of some billiard balls - then of some coming visitors & lastly by the receipt of my cheroots. My dear mother have you a smoking room in the Villa? and may I solace myself now & then with a baccy? I suppose if I do smoke I must submit to banishment to the lower

1v

regions of the house - or at least to the end of the room, next the door as was done in days of yore at Torquay - but in those days the Misses Agnes & Helen used to bring me my cup of tea from the table - Sweet was such banishment! To return to my plan of the campaign - At Delhie I have been ordered to pay a visit of some days to my old friends the Rosses. You know that I am now staying with my old Delhie chum, their eldest son. There is a young spin there. - a youngest daughter with whom I have already been flirting - by letter - From Delhie I fancy my journey will be tolerably uninterrupted, unless I fall in with some other very old friends, & so in the absence of the said old friends I hope to reach Calcutta by the end of this month, & on 10th if June I hope I may write my last letter from India - giving you a narrative of my prosperous journey thither. Talking of Calcutta reminds me of the sad death of poor Dr Edlin³³¹ - it will be dreadful news to poor Jane - The excitement & distress of mind & body caused by his pecuniary losses & the trouble they led him into, must undoubtedly have increased his sickness & hastened his death - There is one great comfort in knowing that he was a sincerely pious man. Another death has affected nearly as much as poor Edlin's - it was that of Dr Nightingale who with his nice wife, took me in & nursed me with such kindness when I first reached Hansie - Just before I left he he had paid me a visit of 3 or 4 days to take advice & change of air - at that time I reminded him of the change of circumstances in my arrival & departure from Hansie - He left me in improved health, but after a few weeks got very ill - went to the Hills & died in 10 days after his arrival there.³³² His death was quite unexpected & appeared doubly sudden to me, who had so recently seen him in tolerable health - To leave such sad tales which though they are good for me are not cheerful for you, I may continue my acct of my plans - Heaven grant they may be carried out. I have determined to go from Alexandria to Trieste & through Europe by the rail ways - Though my journey will be too rapid to enable me to see much of the countries

2

or people I shall be more entertained than by going by sea to England - I hope to find some person for a companion in my journey as my complete ignorance of all & each of the European languages will be found to be inconvenient - The journey from Trieste to the English coast will cost but 10 or 12£! about the same as a palankeen journey of 100 miles in this country - You may not know that we in the N. W. Provinces have reached such a pitch of civilisation as to have established a carriage to supplant the somewhat ancient palki - or as you call it, palankeen - The carriage has 2 seats and is

drawn by a pair of horses which go at the average rate of about 8 miles an hour - a palki averages 3 miles an hour!! I shall travel only at night & during the day stop at a staging Bungalow where tatties & punkahs to say nothing of beer & dinners, are not wanting - My first night's journey will take me to Allyghur, my 2nd to Cawnpore (whence I am expecting those nasty cheroots) my 3rd to Allahabad - At Allahabad I shall go with a thermometer on board the steamer to try the temperature & if I find it bearable I shall go by it - the steamer not the temperature - to Calcutta. If [torn] unbearable I shall go by the pill-box³³³ onto Calcutta - the journey being one of 6 days duration - or I should say 6 nights. When there - why I'll tell you what I intend to do & am doing - I wish this were the 7th July or even the 7th August - The days fly by at a rate that wd surprise an animal accustomed to hibernation, yet it seems to me that I have been absent from Hansie one whole year - Do you know that I really relish my holiday as much as ever did schoolboy - It is delightful to be free from all command & authority. If this is pleasant, what will it be at home? I am ashamed to say that I feel some qualms about my funds. I thought that I shd have 600£ or nearly that for my private funds, but I find that I have but that sum now & the whole of my expences from this to Clifton Villa are to be defrayed out of it!! i.e. 150£ if not more - What shall I do dear mother if I am obliged to cherish & be chary of shillings & pence? You will think me very purse proud (!!!) when I speak with contempt

2v

of 2 or 300 a year - besides I did repent me the other day, for fear you shd forget I was joking - of some disrespectful remarks towards cold mutton which I did not intend to be serious - for I would prefer & back the remnants of the poorest entertainment at home to the greatest feast prepared in this country - Do you know that our cooking places - I can't call them kitchens - are so filthily dirty - with smoke, flies, dirty dish cloths, fids³³⁴ of butter lying about so as to be handy - &c &c that were one starving he could scarcely eat after even the slightest inspection of it. The state of the cook rooms is by far the greatest evil in India - The heat is nothing if one has pleasant

company, books &c. The heat is now nearly as great as it can be, but it does not give me the slightest annoyance. I told you that during my last days at Hansie I used to be thinking of you all day long - Now I feel as if I were actually living at home - I daily visit you, brothers & sisters, Fanny Bent, the Misses Barotty, Ottery, Exeter, my old haunts and London, Hampton &c &c. I am very anxious to know what has become of Henry Square - we have corresponded until this year past, but my last letter has not been answered - I shall be scarcely able to find an old friend to gad about with - I shall endeavour to make the most of my time & shall visit Scotland & all parts of England - but I shall

scarcely enjoy it by myself. My best plan would be to ask to get me a nice wife ready cut & dried to whom I may be married in August next & then she & I can travel about delightfully - have a sort of honey moon of 2 or 3 years duration - There's a pretty scheme for you - or me rather. I hope it may not all be blighted I think as I have leisure & nothing to tell I may as well give my beloved sisters a line apiece. God bless you dearest mother - I am your loving and affectione son Hy

[addressed:

Via Southampton India & Steamer postage Paid

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington
Warwicks

To be forwarded by the next Overland Mail

stamped:

ROTUCK 6 May 185

CALCUTTA G.P.O.

PAID....

LEAMINGTON JY 2.. 1850

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1

Calcutta June 2nd 1850

My dearest dear mother I have at last reached this place - I arrived at 3 oclock a.m. that is 6 hours ago, and I am surprised to find that I have only 2 or 3 hours to spare for writing to you. Had I overslept myself & lost this last opportunity I should have occasioned you, I doubt not, some anxiety, as my last letter was from Rhotuk & told you nothing of my journey, beyond this - that my commencing it depended on the receipt of some cheroots!! After having told you this much - of my safe arrival here, I am much inclined to stop my letter until I get one from you. One hour ago I sent to the Post Office for any letters that may be lying there for me, but my messenger has not returned - indeed I fear that, as they are very busy closing the English bags, I may be kept another hour or 2 for what I have been for months longing to get - a letter - a good comfortable letter from you. I have had no cause for anxiety except about dear brother Tom, of whom I have not heard a word since he left N.F.L. I am anxious to know whether dear Berty has got his Venerable title & change of residence. I want to know if you all are in good health & spirits. This long breach in our correspondence I feel very much & is the only draw back to my perfect contentment & joy now that I have got over the most trying part of my journey - as least such I have hitherto fancied it to be. I may as well continue my letter & give you an account of my adventures up to this day - I left Rhotuk on the 16th of May - my cheroots having arrived on the 14th - & went to Delhie

1v

where I stayed four days with the Rosses - Their youngest daughter was away on a visit to Meerutt, so I had little fear of being detained a captive & married to Miss Maggie³³⁵ - At Delhie I could not resist the opportunity of getting nose-rings for you all - from you dear mother down to Frank's youngest. From Delhie I went to Cawnpore in 3 nights travelling in a very pleasant little carriage in which I had my bed prepared & cheroots, biscuits & beer under my pillow. My letters - 3 dear darlings - have come so I must stop to read them - My dear mother & you my dear little sisters Bella & Irene I have in reading your loving letters passed as happy an hour as ever fell to my lot - How I shall get on with my letter I know not, for my heart & head are confused with a thousand emotions & my eyes are too much dimmed to see. Your dear letters are of Feby March & April and happy supremely happy am I in seeing your loving anticipations grow warmer & thicker in each - I feel your kisses & embraces warmer than ever did lovers & that is saying much - There are so many things touched upon that I am quite bewildered. I am right glad to learn that dear brother Tom is well, contented & happy - Every day & night of my journey to this place I have thought with uneasiness what news I shd get of him on my arrival - I will write to him but I fear I must take my letter with me as far as Alexandria for this day month I start on my journey home - The steamer that I am to sail in is almost in sight from the window near which I am sitting and that is the next to leave Calcutta. I wish I had reached this a few days ago that I might have told you of my intended proceedings & particularly that I might have helped dear Bella in her grand preparations - I have recd yr letters all too late for this. You will make me very proud - as proud as happy by the gorgeous

preparations of person, of house & garden that you talk about, almost to the bursting of my heart. I am so supremely happy in the glad tidings you give of all the loved members of my family. I am so happy in the possession of the drawing of yr house - I shall serenade you each at your separate windows with good wishes & prayers every day of my sojourn here & of my voyage "to that haven where I would be -

2

I am afraid dear mother that my dilatoriness in prosecuting my journey hither may at times have occasioned you some fears of the slackness of my purpose - but in this delay I have been consulting my health pleasure and pecuniary advantage - I am afraid that I have gone to war without well calculating my means - or expenses I shd rather say. My journey down to this has cost me a mint of money - however I have still my 600£ for voyage & home. Shall I tell you of the rest of my journey? Well from Allahabad I went in one night to Benares at which place I staid 3 days with an old ship-mate - As far as Benares I travelled with as much comfort as rail-way carriage will afford³³⁶ & our pace was capital - 12 miles an hour. All the moon light nights I lay away & slept away the hot & solitary days - From Benares commenced my sufferings - The carriage dak³³⁷ from Benares to Calcutta has only a few weeks opened - hence the miserable way in which I travelled & which arose entirely from the wretched horses I had. Nearly the whole of each stage I was working like a slave in pushing forward the carriage. I commenced each daily journey as early as 4 o'clock p.m. in the hope of getting to the end of our miserably short stage - reduced from 90 miles to 50 or 40 each night - but all in vain, for 10 o'clock, with a blazing sun that made the carriage too hot to be touched, found me each day laboring till I was really exhausted. Sometimes after wasting hours in getting over little more than a mile of ground, I was obliged to send to some distant village for coolies to draw the vehicle - Thus night after night - and almost as many hours of the day as of the night - I moved on at a snail's pace - Sometimes I found no horse, sometimes no harness at the changing places - then a brute of a horse would kick all the harness to pieces &c &c &c. I think that will give a nice idea of my journey from Benares - besides this, I was starved - I have I am sure, fallen off 2 stone in weight - Having [sic] you of my troubles I may for a moment dwell upon some of my pleasant musings occasioned by the well remembered scenes on my road. You know that this is the route by which I marched up the country in /40. I walked across the sands of the Soane by moonlight - for 2 hours - thinking of the changes that had happened in the interior & of the sad fate of all but one or 2 of the 12 or 14 of my companions in my first journey. My old and most worthy chum Major Barton is the only survivor

2v

that I know of - Think how thankful I was for my escape from sickness & death in those bloody campaigns where six of my young friends perished! I am really astounded at the generosity of Stowey - I hope you will not refuse the most munificent of his gifts, though I once felt something like shame that you should have been in such a condition as to require it - But you are poor and I am not rich - though I thought myself so when I had no demands upon my purse. You suggest my enquiring about your old box of home remembrances - I will do so but I have little hope of success - I forgot to say that I had no picture worthy of presenting to Stowey - I had only prints & water-color drawings - but I would willingly present him with any other thing that I could find worthy of his acceptance - You so delight me with the kind and motherly expressions of fondness of dear dear Fanny Bent & Mrs Reynolds - Tell Bella that there is no fear of my disappointing you as Frank R. did his family & also add that there is not the slightest fear of my being crushed with hugs, as I am - or was till I got in the travelling carriage at Benares - as strong as a young pig - Oh mama I have got such a quantity of grey hair in my whiskers - that Benares trip increased them ten fold - Have you found a wife for me? I want to know as I mean to marry slick slam at once, before I get white as a polar bear - I have been writing as hard as I could lay pen to paper for I don't know how long but I

have not written a fiftieth part of what I wanted [sic] tell you. I have decided upon travelling the Trieste route as shorter & free from the annoyances of ship board - of which I shall have had eno' by the time I reach Alexandria. I can not write more now - by the time you get this I shall please God be on the other side of the peninsula of India - This is the last time & in the most yearning heart felt degree that I shall repeat - in writing - may God grant us a happy happy meeting - Kiss all of the family you may see in the mean time for your loving loving son Henry

[no envelope]

1

[upside down at top] My Bills on England will be for only 350£ & will be sent after I have sailed

Calcutta - 13th June 1850

My dear dear mother I may as well give you another letter as I have the opportunity of sending one & one that will reach you at least 20 days before you receive me. Though it is only 10 days since I wrote, I have a little to tell you of - besides my writing now will lessen in a slight degree the long interval of silence between my last letter & my next one from Southampton - & writing to you furnishes me with a little supply of delightful communication with you - The few days that I have passed here appear as so many ages & those that are to follow will, I fear, prove equally tedious - When it wanted months of the time of my departure they - the months even - flew by - but now the days and hours appear mountains - an Eastern figure. My chief pleasure has been to read daily your last 3 letters - all of your dear ones that I have - to look at your picture & your house, my sweet home - Now to tell you what I have been doing. I have been employed all day & every day in preparations for my departure - attending at about a dozen of the Governmt Offices till I am sick of the very mention of them & at a very snail's pace has my business proceeded - I have been daily employed in endeavouring to get hold of my money to get it exchanged for Bills on England - This I have not been able to do yet, though I have been making the most strenuous efforts to do so that I might send you, by this Mail, the duplicates of the bills, for safety's sake - As it is, I must leave them with my host Dr Macpherson³³⁸ to be forwarded by mail next after the 3rd July - for I must not run the

1v

[sic] of losing them on board the steamer - my boxes might be lost or I might lose them in any way - I cannot say what will be the amount of them as I do not know what money I have - but I am quite alarmed at the reduction in my funds - I shall scarcely have enough for clothes & running about in England - besides I am quite appalled at learning that I have been over estimating the pay that I am to get at home - Nobody can tell me definitely what it will be - but it is to be feared that instead of the miserable pittance of 120£ a year it will be the more miserable sum of 90£!! Oh dear oh dear - You will think me a very avaricious fellow in already deploring the prospect of little pay, but where one's payments are in hundreds & thousands I may well be anxious - Since I left Rhotuk I have spent very nearly 300£! and I have barely 400£ left - I very imperfectly understood the great expences I should be put to - In Calcutta a rupee is about the value of one half-penny - Had I not happily been received into the house of a friend I really think that I must have gone back to Hansie - At the Hotels one has to pay a pound a day for bed & board. I have of course had to fit myself anew with every article of dress - at ruinous expense - my passage has cost me 130£. But I must not make you uneasy with what has been to me of late, a matter of such unpleasant reflection - but I fell into the relation of it unwittingly - What I had to tell you was that for economy's sake I am compelled to give up my original intention of going via Trieste or Marseilles as it would cost me several more

shillings (!) than by going by sea straight to Southampton. Fancy being obliged to study economy at this stage of my adventures! But when this great undertaking has ended my safe delivery into your arms, how

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little shall I think of my poverty! My paper has just taken off across the room, and has suffered such a smudging as almost to render my last few lines illegible - Dear Mother, you never knew such a wet place as this is - It rains tremendously every day & every thing is wringing wet - my bed, my linen & oh my boots! they appear to have been kept full of water all night. I went last evening on board my vessel - the Haddington³³⁹ - it is a noble looking vessel but I hear, to my regret, as slow as a tub - the slowest of all the India steamers. I am very unlucky in the pace of travel over the seas - but if, by God's blessing, my second voyage ends as happily as my first, I shall not lament the time lost by a slow progress. Talking of the steamer could you conceive accomodation for 160 passengers on board of one? I am happy to say that there is no chance of a fourth of this number going home this time - I have just got an invitation to visit Barrackpore - 16 miles from this - I have [torn] a dozen old friends there & paying them a visit will lessen the tedium of my few remaining days here. I have one more day's business & shall, if no invitation here prevents me, on Saturday or Monday next pay my visit to Barrackpore. Talking of invitations - at breakfast - I went to breakfast 3 lines above! I heard of several & of two lady's parties to be given in this house. My old chum (of Dum Dum) is grown a staid & grave character & can receive ladies - even spins, without the imputation of an engagement. His having attained to such respectable dignity is perhaps in part owing to the presence of his brother³⁴⁰, a barrister of the Supreme Court - enjoying the small stipend of 3,000 a month. The grandeur in my host's house I have seen nowhere in the upper provinces - I was quite amused at breakfast as the difficulty the brothers had in coming to an understanding as to which carriage would be available for Dum Dum this evening - they have 3 not counting buggies! This is really a very grand place - the throng of splendid carriages on the course - the shipping in the river its banks more beautiful than anything the Thames can show - & the count-

2v

the countless magnificent houses almost encircling the grand plain - 2 miles in diameter - presents a scene of beauty & splendour not nearly equalled in any part of the world. I neither felt nor saw the magnificence of this place on my 1st arrival here - tho' I remember the fairy land & fairy waters I may say of Garden-reach. I never during my first visit drove on the course & had no idea of the throng - certainly equalling Hyde Park in equipages, tho' not in rank. All Calcutta - the plain - the city - the fort - the river - the shipping lie spread before me as I look out of the window - of a house by the bye that would be a palace in England. I hear people say that on one's arrival in England you are struck

with the large size of the horses & the smallness of the houses - I shall be more struck with the sweet looks of my mother & kisses of all whom I am longing to kiss - & the loving shakes of the hand of those whom I must thus salute. I expected & was disappointed in not getting a letter from dear Frank & Netta - but I suppose nursing is what occupies all their time & cares - I am quite alarmed at the labor dear Irene is bestowing on her beautiful garden & all for the love of unworthy me - I shall find you all so fine that I shall be afraid of injuring you and the beauties surrounding you - I may here tell you that I enquired for my box of treasures but I could learn nothing of it.

I was told that all goods unclaimed at the Custom house were after a year or 2 sold by Auction - Fancy all my pets being distributed among Baboos & Scikars! my own mothers picture too! This is now positively the last time that I shall by letter pray for every blessing upon you & for what seems the greatest to me our happy [torn]ting about 20th of August³⁴¹ - God bless you all - I am yr loving

son Henry

[addressed:

Via Bombay & Marseilles

Mrs John Jones
Clifton Villa
Portland Place
Leamington, Warwicks
England

stamped:

CALCUTTA STEAMER MAIL
LEAMINGTON JY 31 1850]

APPENDIX

Juxon's letters to his mother reveal that he was writing to an intelligent, well-informed woman, with opinions. Sadly, none of her letters written to him survive - he wrote in one of his last letters that he had destroyed them all before leaving Hansie in 1850. Thankfully she kept all of his and presumably those from the rest of her family. His letters were given back to Juxon by his brother, Frank, his mother's executor, when he finally left India with his family and had settled in Eastbourne in 1871. Frank also gave him the letters sent from their father, John, to his sister, Jennefee, from the time that he went to the Middle Temple in London, then to his wife, Harriet, whenever he was away from her, and to his son, Todd, when he was a scholar at Winchester. After his death there are letters from Todd to his mother. It was she who kept all the family letters until leaving them to Frank after her death.

There were three letters that have survived that were not family letters but sent to Harriet by J.H. Newman, later to become Cardinal Newman, which show that there had been dialogue on theology between them concerning what was to become known as the Oxford Movement, which was early linked to Oriel College where both Todd and Frank were students.

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Oriel College [Oxford] July 26. 1831

Madam,

I fear you have considered my silence a proof of inattention to your wishes as exprest in your letter of last month. When first I received it, the pressure of my engagements here obliged me to defer the consideration of it for a time; - afterwards, I was obliged to leave Oxford from indisposition, & am just returned. I mention this to account for an apparent negligence, of which I hope you will now acquit me.

You seem to accuse the Church party of a want of due activity & co-operation in these times of universal bustle - I consider this a painful subject - being unable both to deny it, and to refer it to its right causes. However, I will say what strikes me about it.

First of all, let me make a distinction which escapes many persons. To be active, to come forward & be decided in religious matters is not identical with adopting new plans; whereas a large religious body of the day considers zeal and spirituality incompatible with old institutions & practices. Now in my last letter, I did not speak against religious exertions altogether (which I almost fancy you consider me inclined to do) but agst novel exertions - and, tho' I now many new

things are better than old, I doubted whether these were

1v

in the number - and, with respect to your particular proposition, tho' I do not at all confuse your views with those of the religious partly just alluded to, yet I doubted whether your plan was expedient any more than theirs: - and that on two grounds; - first, on the general ground that what we wanted was rather to fulfil & act up to the scheme of religious institutions already bequeathed to us, than to draw it out into new shapes - and secondly on my particular impression that harm was done instead of good by forming plans of education on a large scale; so that I am almost an enemy to Dr Bell's system, as far as I dare speak with little experience of its detail & effects. But, as I spoke of this latter subject (the evil of extended plans of education) in my last letter, I will pass it over now, & will only explain (briefly) what I mean by acting up to the ecclesiastical system transmitted to us. I consider then, that were children habituated from the first to the ordinances of the Church, were they (e.g) in the practice of Keeping the Church's holidays & fasts, and in other respects conformed themselves to her ritual, so as to see the character of religion stamped upon the face of the world & society, they would be more likely to have their imagination impressed & their "Soul's retexā" durably marked with the great Xtian images, than by any other supportable system - tho' I think so ill of human nature, that I believe that, even then, very little visible fruit would result, as far as out power of ascertaining it

But you will say, " After all, is not the Church-party, as a matter of fact, inactive? is the Church system acted up to?" - then again, in answer, I would lay down as a maxim, that we must not call it want of activity to be unwilling to go out of one's own sphere. E.G. to speak of a case of any private clergyman, let him do the duties which come before him; - it is not for him to originate plans or to make a noise in the world. Were such an one however to be raised to some prominent station in the Church, his duties would change. I wd. have him then display as much energy & make as much noise as he could judiciously; & collect about him his brother-ministers & assign them their respective places round him, rousing the Church from its slumbering posture into one of extreme activity - & perhaps in this day an impetuosity even approaching to rashness (so that it were coupled with the fear of God & with high disinterested views) would be an extreme preferable to that of timidity. If it be still urged, that this is not the actual posture which our Governors assume, I reply that it is not for me to judge my superiors, nor do I feel disposed to do so. I lament deeply the fact that the Church is unable to grapple with the times, & I seem to see what I should myself do, had I the onus of directing - but I feel neither call nor inclination to go out of my own station in the body, nor do I blame others who are in higher stations, for I cannot get at the bottom of the difficulty. Sometimes I incline to think that an Establishment itself is incompatible with an atheistical age such as this - & that, grievous as its overthrow might be, it would be the best thing for the true interests of the Church.

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in saying all this, I do not conceive I am advancing any thing, with the principle of which you will disagree, tho' perhaps you will not follow me to the extent of my application of it. Were there any probability of my being soon in Town, I shd certainly avail myself of our permission to call upon you.

Pray convey my best regards to your Sons, whom I am acquainted with, if with you
and believe me

With much respective
Your faithful Servt
J H Newman

addressed: Mrs Jones
12 High Row
Knightsbridge
London
stamped: B 27 JY 1831

1

Oriel College, November 2 1838

My dear Madam,

I was from home when your letter came, which must be my apology for not having replied to it sooner. It is with pleasure I say, what before this I hope you have heard, that we have taken your son's case into consideration at our late Audit - & have done what we can to make his situation at Moreton³⁴² more satisfactory to him. I sincerely sympathize in the uneasiness you have felt on account of it.

It is not in my way to hear of pupils - but should I have it in my power, I will gladly recommend any to him - as I am quite sure that he is able to do them justice.

In a day like this, when there are so many bad principles afloat, of course it is pleasant to hear that persons

1v

like yourself, who are well-qualified to offer them, are exerting themselves with that object. It is very lamentable to think that so much talent, of female writers especially, is on the wrong side.

As I was away from Oxford the greater part of a month, I suppose your son passed through in the interval.

I am, My dear Madam,
with much respect,
Your faithful servant
John H Newman

envelope:

Mrs John Jones
Ottery St Mary
Devon
stamped: OXFORD NO 2 1838

My dear Madam,

I thank you for your kind and feeling letter. But I think you must feel, on reflection, that, natural as your question may be, it is inconsiderate and even cruel. It may be impossible to answer it

Your faithful Servant
John H Newman³⁴³

Littlemore,
June 17. 1845

[note: To Mrs Jones (grand mother³⁴⁴) For Annie M.H. J.J]³⁴⁵

[The footnotes have been gathered from numerous sources, some named, but many were constructed from gleanings from free sources available on the Internet - Wikipedia, FIBIS, Family Search.org, Google Books, Internet Archive - also from Ancestry.co.uk and Findmypast.co.uk, both subscription services]

- 1 Within the Borough of Hackney, London.
- 2 12 High Row, Knightsbridge, London, where Harriet lived with her brother, William Todd, after the death of her husband and removal from Exeter.
- 3 Charles John. Heathcote - Adm. pens. (age 17) at TRINITY, June 13, 1812. S. of [the Rev.] Charles Thomas. B. [June 16, 1796], at Brampton, Northants. School, Hackney, London (Dr Heathcote). Matric. Michs. 1813; Scholar, 1815; B.A. 1817; Members' prize, 1818 (2nd) and 1819; M.A. 1820. Chaplain, 1823-6. Ord. deacon (Chester) 1823; priest (Oxford) 1825. P.C. of St Thomas's, Stamford Hill, Middlesex, 1827-61. Married Anna Maria, dau. of the Rev. Moses Dodd, R. of Fordham, Essex. Resided at Upper Clapton, London, N.E., 1861-74. Died May 4, 1874. [*Cambridge University Alumni*]
- 4 Sophia, ship of 537 tons, built in Calcutta in 1819, belonging to the Port of London, Master and part owner, M.W. McNair [Lloyds Register 1840]
- 5 Charles George Henry Saint Patrick (1818-1867) who later married Juxon's sister Henrietta. At this time he was Articled Clerk to Francis George Coleridge of Ottery Saint Mary, Attorney at Law, and possibly lodging with Mrs Jones. He was always known as George.
- 6 Mrs. Hume & 2 children - Remarks "wife of James Hume" Ship's manifest. James Hume (1808-1862), Barrister, (later Senior Magistrate at Calcutta), married Martha Weatherhead in St Brides, Fleet St, London 4th Feb 1836. There was a double baptism of a daughter, Emily, (born 21st Feb 1837) and a son, Hamilton, (born 7th Apr 1838), at Plymouth, Devon, 24th Oct 1838.
- 7 Manifest Cadet. Julius Bentall Dennys . ['Some reminiscences of my life': typescript copy of memoir, dated 1891, of General Julius Bentall Dennys (1822-1907) British Library]
- 8 Not in manifest. Richard John Blunt son of Richard Charles Blunt and Eliza Forbes Mercer. He died on 13 May 1874 at age 51. He reached the rank of Captain in the service of the Madras Native Infantry.
- 9 1841 census Thomas Henry Holberton, 35, surgeon, London Street, Hampton, Middx; 1851 same address, general practitioner. Born Newton Ferrers, Devon, 28th February 1802. His father was Robert Holberton. Married Elizabeth Vaughan Nelson in 1830. After her death he married Fanny Hughes Twining, daughter of Richard Twining, Banker and Tea Merchant in 1838. He died 15th June 1855 at Alverstoke, Hants. and was buried 21st June 1855 at St Mary's Church, Hampton. He was a notable surgeon, appointed "one of Her Majesty's Surgeons Extraordinary" in 1834. Juxon appears to have been working in a form of apprenticeship to Holberton in 1837, and often mentions Hampton in his letters.
- 10 Probably wife of John Colborne, 1st Baron Seaton
- 11 Manifest Cadet. Charles Thomas Edward Hinde. The second son of Captain Jacob William Hinde of the 15th Hussars and Harriet , daughter of the Rev. Thomas Youde. In 1840 he entered the service of the East India Company. From 1853 to 1857 he served as a lieutenant colonel under Omar Pasha who was in command of the Turkish army in the war between Russia and Turkey . He received several decorations. On returning to India in 1857 he was appointed to a command in the state of Rewah and distinguished himself in the great mutiny of 1858 . He died at Brussels, 15 May 1870, and was buried in the cemetery of Ixelle . [<http://wbo.llgc.org.uk>]
- 12 Elizabeth Brooke of Walmer, Kent, his mother's first cousin.
- 13 Also known as Anjouan, part of the Comoros Islands in the Mozambique Channel, was one of a network of islands and ports used by the East India Company for servicing its ships.
- 14 Small cabin.
- 15 Play based on Molière's *Le Médecin malgré Lui* by Henry Fielding, first performed in 1732.
- 16 Comedy of manners by Sheridan, first performed in 1775
- 17 Farce in two acts written by James Townley, first performed in 1759
- 18 Cross-hatching of the the first page of the letter
- 19 Debtors' prison in London.
- 20 Manifest Asst. Surgeon. May be Joseph Hammond Freeman noted in the Gentleman's Magazine, Sept. 1846 as dying 23 Apr 1846 "Aged 29, Joseph Hammond Freeman, in medical charge of the 25th Native Inf., Khyouk Phyou, Arracan, Bengal, eldest son of Joseph Freeman, esq. of Spring Gardens."
- 21 Hadley Green, near Barnet, where Fanny Trollope lived from 1836-1838 in a house called "Grandon"
- 22 Manifest Cadet. Richard Nicholas, Cadet season 1839-40. War Services of Officers of the Bengal Army 1863. R. Nicholas, late 64th Native Infantry. Commissions - Ensign, 3 Jan. 40—Lieut., 24 April 42—Bt.-Captain, 3 Jan. 55—Captain, 23 Nov. 56. Service -Captain Nicholas served on the Peshawur Frontier in '41, '42. Present at the occupation, defence, and subsequent evacuation of the Fort of Ali Mujid in the Khyber Pass, '41. Present at the forcing of the Khyber Pass, and subsequent operations leading to the occupation of Cabul, '42. Served under Sir Charles Napier against the Hill Tribes, '44, '45.
- 23 Benjamin Severs lived at Walcot, Bath 1841 (see census), with his nieces (daughters of his brother Thomas) , aged 75. He died 1847. His nieces -Elizabeth & Jane - were his main beneficiaries but he also left £200 to Harriet Jones, widow of John Jones which indicates that Benjamin Severs was in some way connected to her mother, Letitia née Severs. The nieces continued living No. 8 Gay Street, Walcot (1851 & 1861 census)- both born York, independent gentlewomen - Elizabeth died 1870 [effects under £14,000], Jane in 1866 see probate. Jane's brother Thomas (of

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- Clapham, Surrey) & John Pearson of York, nephew two execs. [See John Jones letters]
- 24 Sir Charles Richard Blunt, 4th Bt. died 29 February 1840
- 25 The First Opium War began in 1839 when the Chinese Government confiscated and destroyed opium warehoused in Canton by British merchants. The British Government decided to send an expeditionary force in early 1840 and it arrived at Hong Kong in June. The fleet proceeded up the Pearl River estuary to Canton and after a month of negotiations attacked and occupied the city in 1841. The war finally ended with the British taking Nanking in August 1842.
- 26 Edward Edlin was a fellow medical student. Born 19 December 1814, son of Edward Colsill Edlin. Died in Calcutta 6th April 1850. He married Jane Holberton, daughter of Robert (thus sister of Thomas Henry) at Plymouth 3rd January 1839, then sailed for India with her almost immediately, arriving at Calcutta in May. His younger brother, Sir Peter Edlin, married Amy Alice, a daughter of Thomas Bruce Swinhoe, in Calcutta in 1848.
- 27 Fanny Bent was daughter of Rev. George Bent and Mary Milton. She was christened at Sandford, Crediton, Devon 14th December 1779. Her sister Mary was christened at the same place 21st November 1776, brother George, 6th March 1781 and brother John, 13th August 1882. Her mother's brother, William Milton, was the father of Fanny Trollope, mother of Anthony Trollope. In the edition of Anthony Trollope's letters edited by John N. Hall, a note about John Bent suggests that his sister Fanny was the "original for Aunt Stanbury in 'He Knew he was Right'". Probate at her death on 5 May 1860, gives her address as 8 York Building, St Sidwell, Exeter.
- 28 John Coleridge (1718-81) vicar of the parish and headmaster of Henry VIII's Free Grammar School at Ottery. By his 2nd wife, Anne Bowden (1726-1806) whom he married at Exeter in 1753, he had a number of children. They included James (1759-1836) who married Frances Duke Taylor. He was the father of Francis George Coleridge (1794-1854) who was bound as attorney's clerk to Pitman Jones (cousin of John Jones) of Exeter in 1811. Francis George Coleridge was living at Manor House in Ottery in 1841. Another son of John Coleridge, Edward (1770-1843), a cleric, also living there in Paternoster Row. Next door to him was Sarah Elizabeth Coleridge, née Rennalls, the widow of William Hart Coleridge, son of Luke Herman Coleridge (1765-90). He was also a son of John Coleridge whose youngest and most famous son was Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834).
- 29 For entry to the Hooghly River.
- 30 Mr Dampier is probably the superintendent of police in the Lower Provinces referred to in 'Asiatic Intelligence - Calcutta' p. 189 (1841) as this would explain his tours. The only likely person in Calcutta around this time was William Dampier, husband of Emma Johnson, whom he married in Dacca, Bengal in 1824, father of Henry Lucius (born there in 1828) who also became a civil servant in India after Haileybury. William Dampier, a retired officer in the Bengal Civil Service, died in England in 1861. His probate described Henry Lucius as his only child. His widow died a few months later in London.
- 31 Edward Holberton Edlin was born 2 Nov 1839 and christened at Malda, Bengal 27 Mar 1840
- 32 Sir Jasper Nicolls, (1778-1849) commander-in-chief of the E.I.C.'s forces in India in 1839. Retired to England 1843.
- 33 John Anthony Hodgson, eldest son of George Hodgson, Esq., was born at Bishop Auckland, in the county of Durham, July 2, 1777. In 1799 he embarked for India, where he resided nearly all his life, and one of his most important & difficult duties was the survey in 1817 of the rivers Ganges & Jumna & the determination of the heights and positions of the Himalaya mountains etc. Married Matilda Emily Anne Harriott, widow of George Frederick Harriott, 6 Feb 1822 in Calcutta by whom she had had a daughter, Matilda. She died at Calcutta 28 Nov 1828. He was buried at Umballa, Bengal 28 Mar 1848 aged 70 Maj General H.E.I.C.S.
- 34 Noted in 'Bengal Catholic Expositor: Summary of Intelligence' Saturday July 4 [1840] "The passengers by the *Sophia*, have presented Capt. William McNair Commander, with a piece of plate as a slight acknowledgement of his gentlemanly and liberal conduct to them during a Voyage unusually protracted owing to the severe weather experienced in the channel for several weeks after embarkation."
- 35 In April 1840 soldiers from Nepal appeared at Ramnagar, 8 miles within India, and told inhabitants that the land, about 200 sq. miles in size, belonged to Nepal. In June there was an attempt by soldiers to detain the British Resident in Kathmandu. Their demand was for the British to return Kumaon and Sikkim to Nepal among other grievances. Lord Auckland threatened to use force but was unable to spare troops as they were engaged in Afghanistan. The Resident, Brian Hodgson, managed to defuse the situation by peaceful means.
- 36 Jennefee Jones (1770-1854) was Juxon's Father's only sibling. John Jones kept up a long correspondence with her during the time he was studying for the Bar at the Middle Temple in London, and she remained an important figure in the lives of his wife and children throughout her life.
- 37 Probably Theodocia, widow of Henry Tilman Raban who died in Agra in 1838. In the 1841 census she was living at Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset, with her brother and sisters in law, and her little son Henry.
- 38 Mr Crozier, Asst. Surgeon, arrived at Calcutta on the 'Robarts' 27 Jun 1840
- 39 Dr Butler, Asst. Surgeon, arrived on the 'Sophia' with Juxon.
- 40 Frederick Baratty Lardner was son of James by his second wife, Harriet Baratty. Born 1802. His father's first wife was Elizabeth Stowey, daughter of Philip, brother of Juxon's grandmother, Mary Jones.
- 41 Elizabeth Beardsmore, widow of William Senior, married Lardner in 1829 in Bengal. She was died at sea in 1844
- 42 Note of deaths in 1852: At Howrah on the 8th July Richard Frederick Lardner aged 60 years and 5 months much respected by all who knew him
- 43 Lt. General Sir Jasper Nicolls married Anne, daughter of Thomas Stanhope Badcock in 1809. The Nicolls had eight

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- daughters and one son.
- 44 South of the Hooghly, it was a Dutch settlement until 1825 when it was ceded to the British for British possessions in Sumatra.
- 45 Henry Square born c1821 at Kingsbridge, Devon, son of John Square (1781-1845) and Mary Brooking, born Dartmouth (1782-1847). 1841 census Henry B Square, St Pancras, Marylebone, Middlesex, aged 22, 1851 census Henry Boothingham Square unnn living with sister Eliz. 39 in Doncaster. He, aged 30, a surgeon, born Kings Bridge Devon. Died 1852 at St George's Southwark
- 46 Probably Sophia Baratty, spinster friend of the family, living with her younger sister, Louisa, in Petersham, Surrey.
- 47 Augustus Stowey (1800-1870) son of Philip Stowey and his fourth wife, Martha Hickman. Mary Stowey, Philip Stowey's sister, married Thomas Jones, Juxon's grandfather. Philip Stowey and Thomas Jones were partners in a building venture in Exeter. When the partnership was dissolved, Stowey went to Madras as an architect, and became rich enough to build himself a large country house, Kenbury, at Exminster, Exeter, whereas Thomas Jones was declared bankrupt in 1802. Augustus, heir to Kenbury, never married, and loaned money to all the Jones family and later converted some loans into gifts, but not the loan of £300 to Juxon which he took ten years to repay.
- 48 Ancient city in Bihar
- 49 Possibly a humorous reference to Bradshaw's Guide started in 1839?
- 50 Thomas Skinner (1800?-1843) soldier and author, born about 1800, was son of Lieutenant-general John Skinner. He entered the army on 25 Jan. 1816 as an ensign in the 16th foot; he became lieutenant on 6 Aug. 1819, captain on 9 Oct. 1823, and exchanged into the 31st foot on 25 March 1824. He proceeded with his regiment to India shortly before 1826, and was stationed at Hardwar, in the North-West provinces, near the foot of the Himalayas. Thence he made expeditions into the little-known mountainous districts of the neighbourhood, and embodied the results of his explorations in a book called 'Excursions in India' (London, 1832). After returning home on leave, he went back to India in 1833 by the overland route through Egypt, Syria, and Palestine. Thence he proceeded down the Euphrates, and embarked on the Persian Gulf. He published an account of this journey in 'Adventures during a Journey Overland to India' (London, 1836). On 24 Nov. 1835 he attained the rank of major, and in 1842 he joined the force assembled at Jalalabad under Sir George Pollock [q. v.] for the relief of Cabul. He commanded the 31st foot in the ensuing campaign, and on 26 July 1842 was present at the conflict of Mazeena, near Jalalabad. He accompanied Pollock's advance, and was entrusted with the task of clearing the hills on the left of the valley of Tezin in the engagement there on 13 Sept. He received for his services the cross of the Bath and the Cabul medal, and was gazetted on 23 Dec. to the brevet rank of lieutenant-colonel. He died at Landaur on 6 May 1843 from the results of privations endured during the campaign. DNB
- 51 Tombs of Sher Shar Suri and his father Hasan Khan Suri dating from the sixteenth century.
- 52 Now Son or Sone - one of the largest of the southern tributaries of the Ganges.
- 53 Captain Robert Salusbury Trevor of 3rd Bengal Cavalry was a younger brother of Edward Taylor Trevor. He died at Kabul 23 December 1841.
- 54 Catherine Hunter was the daughter of John Hunter and Lousia Marie née Norris who was probably the sister of Matilda Emily Ann Norris who married George Frederick Harriott. Their daughter, Matilda, was living with Col. Hodgson. Catherine Elizabeth Hunter married Edward Taylor Trevor in Calcutta on 8th May 1838.
- 55 Cadet
- 56 In Uttar Pradesh, 43 miles northeast of Delhi, and 281 miles northwest of Lucknow.
- 57 Magh Mela
- 58 In the province of Allahabad.
- 59 Character in '*The Pickwick Papers*' by Charles Dickens.
- 60 George Harriott was the son of Major George Frederick Harriott, born 15 June 1816 in Bengal. Thus he was the brother of Matilda and stepson of Colonel Hodgson. GH Esq., H.M. 16th Lancers, married Emily Jane Ford at Meerut in 1837. Two sons were born in India in 1840 and 1843, another son, born c. 1846 in Exeter as was a daughter c. 1847. Another daughter was born in Ireland c.1848. A son, born in Bristol, was baptized by Lewin's Mead Society of Protestant Dissenters there in February 1850. A daughter was born in 1851 at Reading, and they were living there at 116 Castle St. St Mary, in the 1851 census. He was noted as a retired Army officer, born in Bengal. His wife Emily, 33, born in France, British subject.
- 61 James Rutherford Lumley. Gentleman's Magazine described him on his death in 1846: Major General James R. Lumley. The senior officer of the Bengal Army in actual employ. Adjutant General. Of the 9th NI. Had completed 50 years in India, the "last of the old school". Was absent from duty for under 2 years. Was in the Nepaul campaigns, 1814-16
- 62 Fear of chaos in the Punjab after the death of Ranjut Singh was the probable reason for send troops to Lahore.
- 63 Bertram matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxford 17th December 1840 at the age of 28.
- 64 Presumably refers to Todd's wife. At the time of this letter the 1841 census shows them living in Lower Clapton, Hackney with six boarding students and two servants.
- 65 Charles Sheppard Reynolds joined the E.I.C. as a cadet in the season 1837-38. He married Jessie Blanche Hudson, daughter of William Hudson in Assam 6 June 1846. His death was recorded in the Gentleman's Magazine - "16 January 1853 at Tezpore, Assam, aged 36, Capt. Charles S. Reynolds, 49th Bengal N.I. principal assistant to the Commissioner of Assam, son of the late Wm. Reynolds, esq. formerly of Lympstone, Devon and Malpas,

-
- Monmouth. Henry Coffin Reynolds was his elder brother."
- 66 Henry Coffin Reynolds was christened 15 Apr 1808 at Lymptstone, Devon. Joined the E.I.C. as a cadet in the season 1825-26. His death was recorded in the Gentleman's Magazine - "12 September 1844 Of dysentery, at Mussoorie, Bengal, aged 36, Brevet Capt. Henry Coffin Reynolds, Adj. 40th Regt. B.N.I. fourth son of the late Wm. Reynolds, esq. of Malpass-house, Monmouthshire".
- 67 Temporary higher rank awarded for merit or gallantry.
- 68 Part-repayment of the loan of £300
- 69 Arthur Borton was the youngest son of the late Rev. John Drew Borton, rector of Blofield, Norfolk, by Louisa, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Carthew, of Woodbridge, Suffolk. He was born at Blofield in 1814, and educated at Eton and at the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. He entered the army in 1832, became captain in 1841, and served with the 9th Regiment in the Afghanistan campaign of 1842 and the Sutlej campaign of 1845-6. He became lieutenant-colonel in 1853, was promoted to colonel in 1854, and served in the Crimea in command of the above regiment. His subsequent promotions were:—major-general 1868, lieutenant-general 1875, colonel of the 1st West Indian Regiment 1876, and general 1878. He was nominated a Companion of the Order of the Bath (Military Division) in 1854, and was promoted to a Knight Commandership of the same Order in 1877. He was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the island of Malta in 1878.
- 70 An estate in Norfolk near King's Lynn that Harriet clearly had an interest in through her mother. [See John Jones Letters]
- 71 The house that was bought by William Todd where they lived after leaving Exeter.
- 72 Babbacombe, Torquay, Devon.
- 73 Teacher
- 74 Georgiana-Grueber, widow of William Reynolds, esq. formerly of Lymptstone, Devon and of Malpas, Monmouthshire, daughter of the late William Larkins, esq. Accountant-Gen. of Bengal. Her husband died in Bristol in 1838. She died in 1853.
- 75 Henry Coffin, 4th son of William Reynolds, died of dysentery in Bengal 12 Sep 1844, Brevet Captain, Adj. 40th Regt. B.N.I. [Gent. Mag]; Lt. Charles Sheppard Reynolds 49th N.I. doing duty with Assam Lt. Inf. batt. in the office of adj. [Indian Mail Dec 1843]
- 76 George Schuyler Cardew, born 1815, Salcombe Regis, Devon, son of John Haydon & Ann. He was appointed an assistant surgeon in August 1837 and a Surgeon Major in 1860. Married Mary Anne Sophia Longmore at St Andrews, Hertford 3rd November 1852. A number of children born to him in India. He retired to Bath where he died in September 1894. He was a rich man as his effects at probate were £22585 19s 3d.
- 77 Eastern Haryana.
- 78 Dr Matthew Nisbet and his wife arrived at Calcutta on the 'Windsor' in November 1835. Indian baptisms give him as husband of Mary - a daughter, Mary Jane born 1836 'At Seetapore, Oude, the lady of Dr. Nisbet, surgeon, 48th N. I., of a daughter' and another, Margaret Agnes born 1843 at Agra. A possible marriage was 9 July 1835 at New Monkland, Lanark, Scotland, when Matthew Nisbet married Mary Begg. Mary died 29 Dec 1845 at Ghazeeapore, Bengal.
- 79 Possibly Capt. John McDonald of 61st Bengal N.I. and wife Catherine.
- 80 Possibly Capt. Christopher Codrington, killed in Afghanistan 5th November 1841 [Memorial in Christ Church, Cheltenham] but might also be Capt. Robert Codrington. Both were 49 Bengal N.I.
- 81 Staying in Company rest house.
- 82 Stagnant sheet of inundation; a mere or lagoon [Hobson-Jobson]
- 83 21st September
- 84 The Rabans must be the Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset connections. At this time in India, there are two sons of William Raban who died at Hatch Beauchamp 1st May 1843. The elder was William George Raban, born 1817. His death on 6th November 1841 was noted in the Gentleman's Magazine - "At the storming of Fort Mahomed Khan, Cabool, aged 24, Wm. George Raban, Lieut. H.M. 44th regt. eldest son of Lieut.-Col. Raban, of Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset." His brother, Herbert, was born 26th May 1820 at Hatch Beauchamp. He joined the East India Army as a cadet in 1840. Prior to that he was at Exeter College, Oxford where he matriculated in 1836 aged 16. He was noted as B.A. & M.A. 1857. He married Lydia King Baker at Sylhet, Bengal, 15th November 1843 and had numerous children. He had retired to Devon by 1881, a Major General. He died in Somerset 1887
- 85 The name Bowring was common in Exeter and no specific link to any one family has been found in the family letters.
- 86 Harriet Jones lived in Paternoster Row in Ottery St Mary and a neighbour was the Rev. Edward Coleridge, a brother of Samuel Taylor Coleridge who died in 1843 aged 83. His youngest daughter, Elizabeth, born 1807 at Ottery was living with him according to the 1841 census.
- 87 Thomas Holberton's father-in-law, Richard Twining, Banker & Tea Merchant, living at 13 Bedford Place, Bloomsbury in 1841 census, aged 65, was the senior partner in Twinings Tea Company in the Strand. The company started a bank in 1824 which was sold to Lloyds in 1892.
- 88 Mary Bent died in Exeter between January & March 1841
- 89 Noted again in a letter 14th January 1842. Possibly White - Lieutenant Henry Wallis - 3rd King's Own Light Dragoons - Died 22nd September 1848. Son of Lieutenant-General Sir Michael White, KCB (3rd Light Dragoons).

- Served Sutlej 1845 (medal and 2 bars, wounded). Grave at Ambala cemetery - "Sacred to the memory of Lieut. H.W. White H.M. 3rd or Kings Own Light Dragoons, who departed this life September 22nd 1848. Aged 28 years. Deeply and sincerely regretted by his relatives and friends."
- 90 Hart's Annual Army List 1843
 3rd (King's Own) Regt. of Light Dragoons.
 Full Pay 38 yrs. Michael White, CB.Lt-Col 13 Dec 39.
 Full pay 8 yrs. James White Cornet 22 May 35 Lt. 17 Apr 39
 3rd Lt. Dragoons - Cornet Jas White for 11th Lt. Dragoons to be Cornet vice Seton who exchanges. 21 Apr 1837
 3rd Light Dragoons—Cornet James White to be Lieut. without purch. vice Lucas, deceased; 17th April 1839
- 91 Major John Lucas Earle, son of Solomon, born Ashburton, Devon in 1791. Married Mary Jane Lempriere at St. Botolph Aldgate, London in 1817. Their three youngest daughters, born in India were - Harriett Christina, born 1828, Emily Jane, born 1833, and Marianne Lucy, born 1837, as well as a son, James Lumley, born in 1840. Earlier children, also born in India, were John March, Susanna Mary and William Louis who were all christened in 1825. His orphans in 1845 were Edward L. born 1830, Emily Jane, Marianne Lucy and James Lumley. He died 12 October 1845 'At Hussingabad on the 12th October Lieut Colonel John Lucas Earle Comdg 3d Regt NI much regretted by his officers'
- 92 The Battle of Ghuznee was fought in central Afghanistan 23rd July 1839 by British and Indian troops and the army of Shah Shujah against the Afghans of Dost Mohammed. [www.britishbattles.com]
- 93 A small cantonment town contiguous with Mussoorie, about 22 miles from Dehradun
- 94 Sir William Hay Macnaghten, 1st Baronet (24 August 1793 – 23 December 1841) was a British civil servant in India, who played a major part in the First Anglo-Afghan War. He was the second son of Sir Francis Macnaghten, Bart., judge of the supreme courts of Madras and Calcutta, and was educated at Charterhouse. He went to Madras as a cadet in 1809, but in 1816 joined the Bengal Civil Service. He displayed a talent for languages, and published several treatises on Hindu and Islamic law. His political career began in 1830 as secretary to Lord William Bentinck; and in 1837 he became one of the most trusted advisers of the governor-general, Lord Auckland, with whose policy of supporting Shah Shuja against Dost Mahommed Khan, the reigning amir of Kabul, Macnaghten became closely identified. He was created a baronet in 1840, and four months before his death was nominated to the governorship of Bombay. As a political agent at Kabul he came into conflict with the military authorities and subsequently with his subordinate Sir Alexander Burnes. Macnaghten attempted to placate the Afghan chiefs with heavy subsidies, but when the drain on the Indian exchequer became too great, and the allowances were reduced, this policy led to an outbreak. Burnes was murdered on 2 November 1841; and under the elderly General William Elphinstone, the British army in Kabul degenerated into a leaderless mob. Macnaghten tried to save the situation by negotiating with the Afghan chiefs and, independently of them, with Dost Mohammad's son, Akbar Khan, by whom he was captured and, on 23 December 1841, assassinated by Khan placing a pistol in Macnaghten's mouth. This very soon became an inspirational story among the Afghans, with the disastrous retreat from Kabul and the Massacre of Elphinstone's army in the Kurd Kabul Pass following. These events threw doubt on Macnaghten's capacity for dealing with the problems of Indian diplomacy, though his fearlessness and integrity were unquestioned.
- 95 Rev. Francis Jones married Mary Anne Georgina Robertson on 13th January 1842 at Tiverton, Devon
- 96 James Duffield Harding (1798–1863) was an English landscape painter, lithographer and author of drawing manuals.
- 97 Donald Butter arrived as an Assistant Surgeon in 1821. Married 27 Dec 1825 at Calcutta, Eliza Thomson Morrison. His daughter, Charlotte Macnabb Butter married George Whittle Mackenzie Hall in Benares in 1847. Another daughter, Isabella, married Patrick Carnegie at Allahabad in 1854. His wife died "At Hastings, aged 47, Eliza, wife of Donald Butter, esq. M.D. of the H.E.I. Co's Medical Service" in March 1849 and he returned to England in August.
- 98 Not known
- 99 Lt John Sherbrook Robertson - born about 1816, died about 1846 in the Cape, South Africa.
- 100 Lt. Cunningham 54th N.I. killed at Gundamuk 13 Jan 1842. From *Gentleman's Magazine* "Killed in the retreat from Cabool, aged 23, Lieut. George W. Cuninghame, 54th Bengal N. Inf. only son of the late Major George Cuninghame, Bengal Art. and grandson of Gen. Sir Joseph O'Halloran, G.C.B"
- 101 William Brydon CB was an assistant surgeon in the British East India Company Army during the First Anglo-Afghan War, famous for reportedly being the only member of an army of 4,500 men, plus 12,000 accompanying civilians, to reach safety in Jalalabad at the end of the long retreat from Kabul.
- 102 George Eden, 1st Earl of Auckland, was Governor-General of India between 1836 and 1842.
- 103 Lt. Gen. Sir Jasper Nicolls (1778-1849) was appointed Commander in Chief in 1839. He returned to England in 1843.
- 104 Dost Muhammad Khan was exiled to Mussoorie in November 1839, but was restored to his former position after the murder of Shah Shuja' in April 1842.
- 105 Capt. Lord Henry Gordon, 2nd European Regt. was the subject of Court Martial at Merrut on 21st December 1840, charged with embezzlement when acting as deputy pay-master at Meerut. He was acquitted. He was born in 1802, a younger son of 8th Marquess of Huntley. He married Louisa Payne in 1827. He died in 1865 having reached the rank of Major.

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- 106 Noted in the Asiatic Journal "Ens. Champion Halhed, with Brig. Wilde's force, wounded." Champion Nathaniel Halhed born Meerut 1823, son of Nathaniel John H. who died in Calcutta in 1838, and Caroline Jerraneau, born 1797 in India. Died 1886 Farnham, Surrey.
- 107 Colonel George Everest was Surveyor General of India from 1830 to 1843. Mount Everest was named in his honour.
- 108 Assistant-Surgeon Edward Rotheram Cardew - 27th Native Infantry - Born 23rd May 1817. Killed near Tezin during retreat from Kabul.
- 109 Fort south of Kabul
- 110 Henrietta was probably engaged to marry Charles George Henry Saint Patrick who signed Articles of Clerkship with Francis George Coleridge of Ottery Saint Mary in the County of Devon Attorney at Law on 21st May 1836 for five years. Their marriage did not take place for another four years, on 14th July 1846
- 111 Spinster
- 112 General George Pollock Commander of the Force sent to relieve the British garrison at Jalalabad
- 113 Francis Cocks Pouget Reynolds (1815-1859), married Louisa Jean Babington 3rd February 1842. His wife gave birth to a daughter 8th May 1843, at Singurh where he was Assistant Chaplain. Francis C.P. Reynolds, BA, Archdeacon of Bombay and Chaplain of Kirkee, died 28 July 1859, aged 46 years. 1891 census, his widow was living in Bath, Somerset, with three daughters. Her will proved at Bath, 6th July 1891 (death date 28th May 1891).
- 114 Capt. Robert Beavan, Bengal Army, married Cecilia, daughter of the Rev. Henry Drury, of Harrow, 26th March 1840.
- 115 John Herman Merivale (1779-1844) was an English barrister and man of letters. He was the only son of John Merivale of Barton Place, Exeter. An edition of Merivale's Poems, Original and Translated, appeared in 1838, London, 2 vols. Merivale married, on 10 July 1805, Louisa Heath, daughter of Joseph Drury, headmaster of Harrow, by whom he had six sons and six daughters.
- 116 Frederick Wale, 6th son of Gen. Sir Charles Wale K.C.B., killed before Lucknow March 1858 aged 35. His remains are laid in the Moosah Hagh of that City. He served as Adjutant of the 48th Bengal Native Infantry throughout the Sutledge Campaign of 1846 where he was severely wounded. He next served as Brigade Major at Peshawar and during the Mutiny in India he was appointed to raise and command the 1st Sikh Irregular Cavalry with which he proceeded to Lucknow and there fell at the head of his regiment whilst in pursuit of the enemy.
- 117 Sir Henry Dryden (1818-1899) of Canons Ashby House which was a mile from Moreton Pinkney, Northants, where Frank was Perpetual Curate.
- 118 Lt. Archibald MacDonald of 40th N.I. buried 11th July 1842 at Landour
- 119 Frank's wife
- 120 William Henry Cullen, born 1813, married Sarah Henrietta Edlin in London in 1838
- 121 William Lamb ran what was described as a high-status boarding school at Fair Mile House, Henley on Thames.[A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 16.] Bertram Jones was living there according to the 1841 census when there were 21 boys aged from 7-12 boarding there.
- 122 Benjamin Chaundy (1786-1856) of 'Willmott and Chaundy', a famous nursery in Lewisham founded c1760 and finally closing in 1860.
- 123 Deodar Cedar, Himalayan Cedar, or Deodar
- 124 Hannah More (1745-1833) was one of the most influential women of her day. A successful poet, playwright and campaigner, she was a champion of social reform, female education and the abolition of slavery.
- 125 Mary Elizabeth Kelly nee Wright married Andrew Ross 8 Nov 1819. From 12 August 1828 he was the Surgeon in the Civil Station, Delhi.
- 126 Possibly Musherabad, Hyderabad
- 127 Delhi College, founded 1825, had both English and Oriental departments.
- 128 Lord Ellenborough.
- 129 Bundelkhand, Madhya Pradesh. The Bundelkhand Agency (created 1811) was a political agency of the British Raj, managing the relations of the British government with the protected Maratha princely states .
- 130 Presumably Mary nee Stowey, wife of Thomas Jones who died in 1807.
- 131 Capt. Troup, Brigade-Major Shah's Force - wounded at Khoord Cabul Pass 8th January 1842. Taken hostage the following day with a number of women and children, including Lady Sale. He was released 16th September together with Capt. and Mrs Anderson and children.
- 132 Presumably refers to the house where his uncle, William Todd, had lived in London.
- 133 Peter Archibald Robertson, brother of Frank's wife, Mary Anne
- 134 She had given birth to a daughter, Marion Harriet, on 27th October 1842
- 135 John George Ross, eldest son of Andrew and Mary Elizabeth Kelly, christened at Dinapore 9 Feb 1821.
- 136 Bempde Henry Baugh, son of Capt. Henry Baugh R.N. Probate 18 Oct 1882 formerly of Barnstaple late of Ilfracombe, Colonel of Her Majesty's Bengal Army, retired list died 21 Sep 1882. 1881 census note born 1825 in Barnstaple. He married at Holsworthy, Devon, in 1855 when he was described as Lt. 34th Regiment, Bengal Native Infantry.
- 137 Folliott Walker Baugh was brother of Bempde.
- 138 Military garrison was established at Sakkur in 1839.

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- 139 In 1843 Sir William Nott returned to Britain, where the directors of the East India Company voted him a pension of £1,000 per annum. He died at Carmarthen in January 1845. [His first wife was Letitia Swinhoe, daughter of Henry Swinhoe and Jane Maull. She was the mother of all his children. He married Rose Wilson Dore in Lucknow 26th June 1843]
- 140 In Sindh,
- 141 General Sir Charles Napier was appointed to the command of the Indian army within the Bombay Presidency, which included Sind Province, in 1842.
- 142 Frank's second daughter, Frances Henrietta, was born on 1st January 1844 so this may be what Juxon is alluding to.
- 143 Edward Coleridge cl. (brother of Samuel Taylor Coleridge) aged 80 also lived in Paternoster Row; Sarah Coleridge lived in another house in the same street, Francis Coleridge, aged 45, attorney lived in College Manor House. Nothing known about who was Juxon's Godfather.
- 144 On the banks of the Sutlej about 250 miles from Delhi.
- 145 Flat-bottomed boat or punt.
- 146 That sheet not sent (see end of letter)
- 147 Fort on the east bank of the Chenab river near to Multan
- 148 To No. 4 Ranelagh Terrace
- 149 Battle of Meeanee, 17th February 1843 and Battle of Hyderabad, 24th March 1843
- 150 Battle of Marengo was fought on 14 June 1800 between French forces under Napoleon Bonaparte and Austrian forces in Piedmont, driving Austrian forces out of Italy.
- 151 Charles Waddington CB (1796-1858) was a major-general in the Bombay engineers. Took part in the Battle of Miani on 17 Feb. 1843, where he acted as aide-de-camp to Napier and was mentioned in dispatches. He was also at the Battle of Hyderabad, or Dubba, on 24 March, when Napier again mentioned him as having 'rendered the most important aid in examining the enemy's position with that cool courage which he possesses in so eminent degree'. On 4 July he received the medal for Miani and Hyderabad and was appointed a Commander of the military division of the Order of the Bath and also promoted to lieutenant-colonel. Waddington married, in 1822, Anne Rebecca, daughter of John Pinchard of Taunton, Somerset, and by her he left a family of six sons and two daughters. His eldest son, William (b. 1823), colonel Bombay staff corps, served in Persia (medal and clasp) 1856-1857, and became J.P. for Wiltshire. Another son, Thomas (b. 1827), was major-general of the Bombay staff corps.
- 152 Frances Henrietta, Frank's daughter, was born 1st January 1844
- 153 Popular teaching books for music students published in London by J. Alexander.
- 154 Maria Anne, daughter of Dr Andrew Ross and Mary Elizabeth Kelly married Alfred George Goodwyn at Simla, 11th April 1844. She was aged 18.
- 155 In another hand. Suggests that Bertie might be living in the house too.
- 156 Letter referred to is missing.
- 157 John Keble (1792-1866), churchman and poet, one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement. 'The Christian Year' was a book of poems for Sundays which was first published in 1827. He collaborated with Pusey and Newman and regarded the latter's decision to leave the Church of England for Catholicism as the great sorrow of his life.
- 158 North-west Sindh province on the Indus River.
- 159 Louisa Baratty and her sister Sophia lived at Petersham, Surrey.
- 160 Dead by February 1840 when her will was proved. Her estate was divided between her two younger sisters.
- 161 William Todd held a right to land in Terrington St Clement with his maternal cousin, Henry William Brooke, according to a Poll Book for Norfolk in 1837. On his death in December 1838 his estate went to his sister, Harriet, Juxon's mother.
- 162 A popular skin cream
- 163 Bertram had been appointed as superintendent of Church of England schools in Newfoundland.
- 164 He appears to have sailed with Edward Feild, the second Bishop of Newfoundland who was consecrated in the chapel of Lambeth Palace, on April 28th 1844, and on June 4th sailed from Liverpool in the "Acadia." [See 'Missionary Life in Newfoundland' by Mary M. Price]
- 165 Slang term for money.
- 166 A special allowance made to officers, soldiers, or other public servants in the field.
- 167 In June 1844
- 168 Sun stroke
- 169 James (1818-1854) and Thomas Rattray (1820-1880). Their brother, Charles, Lt. 20th N.I. was assassinated at Lughmani, near Charikar, Afghanistan 3rd November 1841. James was the author of *Scenery, Inhabitants & Costumes, of Afghaunistaun from drawings made on the spot by James Rattray*. Published in 1847, with a second edition published in London the following year.
- 170 The Veysies lived at Plymtree, a village in the district of Ottery St Mary. Two unmarried sisters, Mary and Gertrude were living at Beech Cottage with their mother according to the 1841 census. Their brother, Rev. Daniel Veysie, was perpetual curate, living at the parsonage in Daventry at the same time.
- 171 No date or place but see letter of 17th January 1845 for a possible place of writing.. "I wrote to you a short and sorry epistle from Sirsa 5 marches from this..." Also the death of Reynolds fits with an approximate date of

November 1844

- 172 J.G. Ross deputy collector of Rohtuck, Disposition of the Civil List, Uncovenanted Service, 1845
- 173 Reynolds, Henry Coffin died "Of dysentery, at Mussoorie, Bengal, aged 36, Brevet Capt. Henry Coffin Reynolds, Adj. 40th Regt. B.N.I. fourth son of the late Wm. Reynolds, esq. of Malpass-house, Monmouthshire." Gentleman's Magazine, Dec 1844 p. 670.
- 174 Manby Nightingale (1813-1850) "At Hansi by special license by the Rev James Becher Manby Nightingale Esq Assistant Surgeon 8th Regiment of Irregular Cavalry fourth son of the late Sir Charles Ethelstone Nightingale Bart of Kneesworth Hall Cambridgeshire to Frederica Ellen only daughter of GP Hurst Esq, 25th May 1844". He died at Mussoorie, 10th April 1850.
- 175 Capt. Robert Campbell 43d N.I. app. 22 Feb 1838 Commandant
- 176 Capt. Thomas Elliot Colebrooke, 13th N.I. appointed adjutant in 1836, married Eliza Harriette Wall in 1839. Colebrooke, [Lieut. Col. Thomas E., late of the Bengal Army, and Commandant of the Ferozepore regt. of Seikh, prior to the mutiny of 1857, died at Beechwood, Painswick, Gloucestershire, aged 53, Dec. 9. 1864]
- 177 Charles Grant Becher (1811-1859) of 5th Regt. of Light Cavalry, joined the 8th Regt. of Irregular Cavalry which was raised in 1842 and based in Hansi. He was promoted to Commandant from 27th June 1845 and left for Kurnaul taking Asst. Surgeon M. Nightingale with him. He married Henrietta MacDonald, daughter of Robert Adrian Stedman and Anne Hennessy. Their daughter, Elizabeth Trower Becher, was born c. Nov 1845. They had a son in 1849.
- 178 Robert Campbell married Matilda Mary Susanna Oliver in Delhi, 29th July 1841. She was the daughter of John Oliver and Eliza Fouchy, born in Ghazee-pore, and christened 18th November 1826. Lieut. Col. John Oliver, 55th N.I., died at Mussoorie 18th September 1844, buried at Landour aged 57.
- 179 Frank had left Moreton Pinkney to start a school at Uffculme in Devon.
- 180 Living in Petersham, Surrey with her elder sister, Sophia.
- 181 Gulab Singh Jamwal (1792-1857) was the founder of royal Dogra dynasty and first Maharaja of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir which was created after the defeat of the Sikh Empire in the First Anglo-Sikh War. The Treaty of Amritsar (1846) formalised the sale by the British
- 182 Frank's daughter Helen was not born until 24th March 1845 and she died 6th July.
- 183 His son aged 8 months died in December 1845 in Hansie
- 184 Catherine Margaret born 19 Apr 1823 and Frances Ann born 30 May 1824. Both were living in Southernhay, Exeter, in the house of Thomas Norris, Surgeon, according to the 1841 census.
- 185 Helen Jones daughter of Frank.
- 186 Lady Charlotte Bury (1775-1861) a romantic novelist.
- 187 Colonel Thomas Rattray entered the Army in 1839 : served under General Pollock in the Khyber in 1842, and was severely wounded: under Sir C. Napier in Sind against the hill tribes : in 1856 he raised and organized a body of Sikhs, included in the Army as the 45th Bengal N.I., and known as Rattray's Sikhs : commanded them through the mutiny : Brevet-Major : Assistant-Adjutant General, 1878 : died Oct. 21, 1880 at Sherborne, Dorset: C.B. : C.S.I.[Dictionary of Indian Biography]
- 188 Rev. Francis Cocks Pouget Reynolds, Archdeacon of Bombay from 1855, died in Bombay 29th July 1859
- 189 Deputy Assistant Commissaries-General, Capt. G. Thomson, 40th N.I., appointed 8 Jan 1844, at Hissar. He was in charge of the Hissar camel and cattle farm. 26th July 1852, died at Fort William, Calcutta, Lieut.-Col. George Thomson, commanding 40th Regt. Bengal N.I. He was a cadet of 1818, Capt. 1830, Major in the army in 1846; an assistant commissary-gen. in the Punjab in 1848. Promoted to Lt-Col. June 1849.
- 190 Probably wife of Thomas George Norris, a surgeon living in Southernhay, Exeter. He was son of Thomas and Catherine Norris who were family friends of Juxon's mother. His father, John Jones, referred to a visit to the family in Greenwich in a letter he sent to his wife 18th September 1816 in which he mentioned Tom as "a very fine Boy, quite a Gentleman-Boy...". He was aged seven at the time.
- 191 Mary, wife of Bartholomew Chaundy, a nurseryman of Greenaway Place, Lewisham, and of the firm 'Willmott & Chaundy'. She was born in Granada, West Indies 1787.
- 192 High-row, Knightsbridge, the home of Juxon's uncle, William Todd and where his mother lived for some time after the death of his father. She was certainly living there in 1831 when a letter from John H. Newman from Oriel College, Oxford, was sent to her there.
- 193 Christ's Hospital, Newgate St., City of London.
- 194 Province in Burma
- 195 In 1845, when Queen Victoria invited Agha Hassan Jan Kashmiri alias Mirza Quli Kashmiri to a royal ball in London that he declared that his birth name was Pandit Mohan Lal Kashmiri. He had become a British agent in Afghanistan and for his work he was awarded the Order of the Empire and made a Knight of the Persian Lion. In 1843 he had retired on a pension of Rs. 1,000 per annum, and embarked on a long journey to Egypt, England, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium and Germany.
- 196 At St James' Church Delhi on the 21st August 1845 by the Rev H Boys MA Charles Burslem Saunders Esq Bengal Civil Service to Matilda daughter of the late Major G T Harriott of the Bengal Army and step-daughter of Major General J A Hodgson Commanding at Delhi
- 197 Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset.

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- 198 Lt. Herbert Raban. 36th Regiment of Native Infantry, born in Somerset 1820, cadet 1840, rose to the rank of Major General, died 1887 at Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset.
- 199 Lt. William Joseph Fitzmaurice Stafford 36th Regiment of Native Infantry, born in Somerset in 1819 son of Col John Stafford and his wife and his wife Frances Maria. Cadet 1840. Married Emily Mary Young at Simla 23 Sep 1852. Son born in Hansie Jun 1853, died the following month. Present at the siege and capture of Delhi 1857 etc. Stafford retired as a Major-General on 10 Mar 1878 and died on 29 Aug 1887, at Guildford, Surrey
- 200 Married 7th August 1845 at Nusseerabad, Bengal to Harriot Margaret Vanrennon.
- 201 Lt. Henry Duncan Twysden 33d Regiment of Native Infantry., cadet 1840
- 202 Catherine Margaret, the eldest daughter of Maj. Gen. John Anthony Hodgson, E.I.C.S., married William Ford of the Bengal Civil Service, 27th October 1845 in Delhi.
- 203 Bihar
- 204 Their daughter Helen died 6th July 1845.
- 205 Bt. Capt A.N. McGregor, 66th N.I. [Alexander Nugent Murray Macgregor, born 18 Feb 1811 died 13 Nov 1845 at Ghazipur, buried Jansi Cantonment cemetery]
- 206 Capt. C.G. Becher did not die until 1859. He was at Nakodah, still Commandant of the 8th Regt. of Irregular Cavalry on 25th March 1846.
- 207 At Kussowlee, 8th November 1845, Lieut.-Col. Gough, C.B. 3rd Dragoons, military secretary to his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, married Margaret, fifth daughter of Major-Gen. Sir John M'Caskill, K.C.B. It appears that her husband was not killed as she died 23rd July 1849 leaving a child aged 17 months and a husband who was by then Quartermaster General HM Forces in India. Her father, however, was killed 18th December 1845.[
- 208 Not so - Capt. Frederick Wale was killed at Lucknow, 21st March 1858. Wale, Frederick, 48th Bengal N. I. to Adelaide, d. of the late Edward Prest, at Teignmouth, South Devon, Sept. 30 1851
- 209 Officers slain in India. In the Battle of Aliwal, Jan. 28 1846, Lieut. and Adjutant Francis James Smallpage, of the 55th Native Regiment Bengal Infantry, and Adjutant of the Fourth Bengal Irregular Cavalry
- 210 Bridgehead.
- 211 Sir Harry (Henry George Wakelyn) Smith, 1st Baronet (1787-1860) on 28 January 1846 he inflicted a crushing defeat on the Sikhs at Aliwal on the Sutlej.
- 212 Frances Ann Hodgson born 7th August 1824 at Agra.
- 213 Hugh Norris Hodgson born 16th October 1827 at Chowringhee, Bengal. Cadet 1843-44.
- 214 As Prime Minister
- 215 Battle of Sobraon. ("...the waves of the Sutlej carried down to the ford of Hurreekkee, the tête de pont in front of the bridge, and encampment of the Sikh army, the bodies of those men who were drowned in their attempt to escape from the slaughter with which they were threatened." Hansard 2 Apr 1846).
- 216 Assume that this does not mean an early form of photograph but a painted portrait.
- 217 Thomas Dealtry, D.D. (Archdeacon) Senior Chaplain, Old or Mission Church, Calcutta.
- 218 Born in Baroda 1825 to Capt. Charles Waddington, Executive Engineer. 5th Native Inf. Death of Ensign Charles Waddington 5th January 1846.
- 219 Peter Archibald Robertson, elder brother of Mary Ann, Frank's wife. Married Helen Gordon, 7th November 1844 at Chunar, Bengal. War Services of Officers of the Bengal Army 1863 P.A Robertson, late 68th Native Infantry Major Robertson served with the Army of the Sutlej in '46: present at the battle of Sobraon. {Wounded severely.} Medal. Served during the War in Burmah, '52, '53. Medal. Aided in defence of Nynee Tal, during the Mutiny, '57, '58, and in attacks on the rebels' camp at the Fort of the Kumaon Hills. Present at the retaking of Bareilly, in May '58. Commanded the 34th Native Infantry in Bundelcund, against the rebels, '59, '60. Favorably mentioned in Colonel Turner's Despatch of a night attack made on the rebels' camp, November '59. Medal .
- 220 United States had annexed Texas in 1845 and officially installed a Texas state government in February 1846. Juxon's remark probably relates to the resulting conflict with Mexico which resulted in the Mexican-American War.
- 221 Maharani Jindan Kaur, Ranjit Singh's youngest widow, became Regent for her infant son Duleep Singh between 1843 and 1846 when she was replaced by a Council of Regency under the control of the Resident.
- 222 At Chelsea, Frederick William Place, esq. of Delhi, in the East Indies, to Eliza, eldest daughter of S.F. Stallard, esq. of Upper Clapton. Married 7th February 1846.
- 223 Col. James Skinner (1778-1841) was an Anglo-Indian mercenary in India, who became known as Sikandar Sahib later in life, and is most known for two cavalry regiments he raised for the British, later known as 1st Skinner's Horse and 3rd Skinner's Horse (formerly 2nd Skinner's Horse) at Hansi in 1803, which still are a part of the Indian Army. He died at Hansi where he lived for several years.
- 224 Wazir of the Sikh Empire and commander of Sikh Army forces during the First Anglo-Sikh War.
- 225 Maharani Jind Kaur was regent of the Sikh Empire.
- 226 The group of initiated Sikhs to which devout orthodox Sikhs are ritually admitted at puberty
- 227 Nothing has been found to explain what the misfortune was. However he seems to have left the country, and his wife, as Juxon asked for his address in Jamaica in September. He went on to Newfoundland and performed the marriage of his brother Bertram and Emma Sweetland at the Ministry of Bonavista, Trinity on 9th October 1848. He died 25th April 1854 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. His widow, Susan, married William Brooks Gates at St Martin in the

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- Fields, Westminster, 21st August 1855. She died at St Margaret, next Rochester, Kent 20th December 1864.
- 228 Possibly John Francis Stafford who was listed as a cadet 1844-45. Retired 1875 as Lt-Col.
- 229 John Robertson, first son of Frank and Mary Anne, born 17th April 1846.
- 230 Henrietta Jones married Charles George Henry Saint Patrick at All Saints, Leamington 14th July 1846. By then she was aged 36 and her husband, known as George, was eight years younger.
- 231 Charles's sisters.
- 232 Possibly Harriet Coleridge, wife of Francis, an attorney, living at The College, Ottery St Mary in 1841. Harriet was about 46. They were living in Sidmouth in 1851
- 233 Possibly died in Exeter between April and June 1846. In the 1841 census she was aged 50, living in the house of Alexander Wedderburn in Longbrook St, St Sidwells.
- 234 Newfoundland - The fire broke out on 9th June 1846 and destroyed almost all of the buildings on Water and Duckworth Streets as well as Kings Road, about 2000 buildings in total. Included in the destroyed buildings was the Anglican Church, the largest private home in the city (belonging to Robert Prowse) and all but one mercantile warehouse in the Riverhead area. A total of 12,000 people (57% of the city's population) were left homeless. The damage was estimated at £888,356 of which £195,000 was covered by insurance.
- 235 Todd was at Trinity Bay, Newfoundland where he performed the first of five weddings on 29th December 1846 to 17th May 1847. (The previous wedding had been on 6th June 1846). Bertram officiated at weddings after 17th May until his own wedding which Todd performed on 9th October 1848.
- 236 Jack Rattenbury, nicknamed Rob Roy of the West (1778, Beer, Devon - 1844) was an English smuggler. In 1837 after thirty years at sea as a fisherman, pilot, seaman and smuggler he wrote about his life in a book called *Memoirs of a Smuggler* with the help of a local Unitarian clergyman.
- 237 Most likely George Patrick who had just married Henrietta.
- 238 Hugh Gough (1779-1869) After serving as commander-in-chief of the British forces in China during the First Opium War, he became Commander-in-Chief, India and led the British forces in action against the Marathas defeating them decisively at the conclusion of the Gwalior Campaign and then commanded the troops that defeated the Sikhs during both the First Anglo-Sikh War and the Second Anglo-Sikh War.
- 239 Edward Feild, the second Bishop of Newfoundland
- 240 The Saharanpur Botanical Gardens, known as the Company Garden and once the preserve of the British East India Company, is one of the oldest existing gardens in India, dating to before 1750. Then named Farahat-Bakhsh, it was originally a pleasure ground set out by a local chief, Intazam ud-ullah. In 1817, it was acquired by the British East India Company and placed under the authority of the District Surgeon. Joseph Dalton Hooker says of this Botanical Garden that "Amongst its greatest triumphs may be considered the introduction of the tea-plant from China, a fact I allude to, as many of my English readers may not be aware that the establishment of the tea-trade in the Himalaya and Assam is almost entirely the work of the superintendents of the gardens of Calcutta and Seharunpore" (*Himalayan Journals* 1854).
- 241 Deo volente (God willing)
- 242 Reference to Furlough Memorial in Allen's Indian Mail, 6th January 1846. Further reference the following year: Parliamentary Proceedings, House of Commons, Sir John Cam Hobhouse stated that a system of furlough regulations, both with respect to the army and the civil service in India was now under consideration.
- 243 Capt. Frederick C. Minching P.S. & A.D.C. to the Lt. Gov., N.W. Provinces. 67th Reg. of N.I. Arrived Delhi 31st January 1846. {Bengal & Agra Directory for 1847}
- 244 Popular name for the great antelope [Hobson Jobson]
- 245 Hunting wild boar with a spear, carried out on horseback
- 246 John Martin (1789-1854)
- 247 Hugh Blair *Sermons* The first of five volumes published in 1777
- 248 Ezekiel Barton (1781-1855) served in the Bengal Native Infantry from 1800 to 1845 and was made Lieutenant-General in 1851, though by this stage he had returned to England. He was also known for his drawings and watercolours of India.
- 249 At the foot of the Tosham hill range
- 250 Probably 1st Lt. Thomas Walter Pulman (1822-1897) who arrived as a cadet 1836-7 and was on the Artillery Regimental staff.
- 251 Henry Lascelles Dennys born 16 Feb 1847 and baptised 19 February at Nusseerabad, Bengal.
- 252 Punch; or, The London Charivari was a British weekly magazine of humour and satire established in 1841 by Henry Mayhew and wood-engraver Ebenezer Landells.
- 253 John Sherbrook Robertson died at Cape Province, South Africa, 3 Nov 1846. This officer entered the Navy 24 Apr 1830; passed his examination 17 Oct. 1836; and from 1840 until promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, 1 Nov. 1843, was employed in the Mediterranean, in attendance on the Queen off Walmer, and at the Cape of Good Hope, as Mate, in the Thunderer, Capts. Maurice Fred. Fitzhardinge Berkeley and Dan. Pring. He was nominated, 26 Jan. 1844, Additional of the Cornwallis, flag-ship of Sir Wm. Parker in the East Indies; and from 30 July following until the close of 1846 he served on that station in the Samarang surveying-vessel, Capt. Sir Edw. Belcher [A Naval Biographical Dictionary by William Richard O'Byrne]
- 254 Benjamin Severs of Gay Street, Bath left Harriet Jones of Leamington the sum of £200 by his will proved 26th

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- March 1847. He was a relative of her mother.
- 255 From July 1845, potato blight in Belgium and Holland moved to France, England and then to Ireland where it destroyed the whole crop resulting in serious famine and calamitous loss of life and mass emigration.
- 256 York Buildings, Sidwell Street, Exeter. The Misses Bent noted as living at 8 York Buildings in *Exeter Itinerary and General Directory* June 1828
- 257 Leamington.
- 258 Ensign John Richardson Auldjo (1825-1879). Born Montreal, Canada, son of George Auldjo (1790-1846) and Helen Richardson. George Auldjo was a nephew of Alexander Auldjo (1758-1821) who went as a merchant to Montreal c1778 and became a prominent businessman and politician in Lower Canada. George Auldjo was educated, at least in part, at the Aberdeen Grammar School before he immigrated to Montreal to join his uncle Alexander Auldjo, a partner with William Maitland in the firm Auldjo, Maitland and Company.
- 259 Rt. Rev. William Hart Coleridge, formerly Bishop of Barbados, (1789-1849).
- 260 Copper coin of low value [Hobson-Jobson]
- 261 Frank Jones was born 29 Apr 1847
- 262 Marion Harriett, born 27 Oct 1842
- 263 Madhya Pradesh
- 264 Haryana
- 265 Hannah Mary Norris, daughter of Thomas and Catherine, born in 1805, married Lieut. Col. John Delamain 12th Sept 1826 at Agra. At Heavitree, Col. John Delamain, C.B. late Commandant at Agra, died 30 May 1836. According to the 1851 census she was still living in Heavitree, at 2 Richmond Grove. Their son, John Western Delamain, was born 9 Jul 1827 in Bengal. He was a cadet 1842-43, and as Capt. of 56th Bengal N.I. was killed in the Mutiny, at Delhi, 8 June 1857.
- 266 Reference to a character Dr Blimber in Dicken's *Dombey and Son*. Serialized in monthly parts from 1st October 1846.
- 267 Campbell, the lady of Major Robert, comg. Hurrianah L.I. s. at Hansi, Sept.1.1847
- 268 He was born 8th July 1847 in Worcester.
- 269 Edward Taylor Trevor, a civil servant in the Cuttack division. His first wife was Catherine Hunter, daughter of John Hunter and Louisa Maria Norris.
- 270 2nd November 1830, at Mhow, Capt. George Thomson, 40th Regiment Bengal Native Infantry, to Elinor Crawford, daughter of Alexander Graham, Esq., Milton Place, Glasgow.
- 271 Cole, Asst. surg. George, 13th irr. cav. to Eliza, d. of the late J.B. Robinson, at Mussoorie, Sept.27. 1847
- 272 Newfoundland
- 273 Retired Major John Jopp (Engrs. HEICS) living in Paternoster Row, Ottery St Mary, 1851 census.
- 274 Introduced to England from France in the early 1840's.
- 275 Asst. Surgeon Cole. In medl charge of the remount Dept., Kurnaul - And jail at Paneeput [1849 Bengal and Agra Directory]
- 276 Philip Roe, son of William Burd Hockin. Bombay Times recorded marriage - "At St John's Church Meerut on the 24th November 1846 by the Revd Edw Maddock Lieut PR Hockin 2nd in command 16th Irregular Cavalry to Julia Josephine Hamilton 2nd daughter of Captain William Henry Knight RN of Parkstone Poole Dorset". Now 17th Irregular Cavalry, raised at Cawnpore, 24th January 1846, Lieut. P.R. Hockin; 48th N.I. 2nd in command.
- 277 Walter Raleigh Gilbert. Son of Rev. Edmund Gilbert : born 1785 : joined the 15th Bengal N.I. in 1801 : present at the actions at Alighar, Delhi, Agra, Laswari in 1803, at Deeg and Lake's unsuccessful attacks on Bhartpur : Commandant of the Calcutta native militia, 1815 : Superintendent of the Mysore Princes, 1816, and on Lord Hastings' Staff: A.G.G. on the S.W. frontier, 1822 : Colonel of the 1st European Fusiliers, 1832 : Maj-General, 1841 : Lt-General, 1851 : commanded a Division in the first Sikh war at Mudki, Ferozshahr, and Sobraon : K.C.B., 1846 : and in the Panjab campaign : at Chilianwala and Gujarat : after the last-named battle he commanded in the pursuit of the Sikhs, who surrendered to him at Hoormuck and Rawul Pindi, the Afghans flying to the Khyber : G.C.B. : Baronet in 1851 : Military Member of the Supreme Council, Dec. 1852, to Feb. 1853 : he was a famous sportsman, and paid much attention to horse-racing : died May 12, 1853.
- 278 Possibly refers to the Civil Service Bonus Fund
- 279 Saddle on an elephant
- 280 Novel published in 1834 by Frederick Marryat.
- 281 On 19 April 1848 Patrick Vans Agnew of the civil service and Lieutenant William Anderson of the Bombay European regiment, having been sent to take charge of Mooltan from Diwan Mulraj, were murdered there, and within a short time the Sikh troops joined in open rebellion.
- 282 Son born 1 Sept 1847
- 283 Failure of the Chartist movement to garner enough support to force Parliament to expand the suffrage and to make the political system more democratic.
- 284 Following the overthrow of King Louis Philippe in February 1848, the elected government of the Second Republic ruled France. In the months that followed, this government steered a course that became more conservative. On 23 June 1848, the people of Paris rose in insurrection, which became known as June Days uprising

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- a bloody but unsuccessful rebellion by the Paris workers against a conservative turn in the Republic's course. On 2 December 1848, Louis Napoléon Bonaparte was elected president of the Second Republic, largely on peasant support.
- 285 The Hockins who were the link to Juxon's future wife.
- 286 The Young Irelander Rebellion was a failed Irish nationalist uprising led by the Young Ireland movement, part of the wider Revolutions of 1848 that affected most of Europe. It took place on 29 July 1848 at Farranrory, a small settlement about 4.3 km north-northeast of the village of Ballingarry, South Tipperary. After being chased by a force of Young Irelanders and their supporters, an Irish Constabulary unit took refuge in a house and held those inside as hostages. A several-hour gunfight followed, but the rebels fled after a large group of police reinforcements arrived.
- 287 Neither photograph appears to have survived.
- 288 Charles Sheppard Reynolds, son of William and brother of Henry Coffin Reynolds. Born 1818, married Jessie Blanch Hudson, daughter of William, in Assam 6th June 1846. His death on 16th January 1853 was announced in *Gentleman's Magazine* - "At Tezapore, Assam, aged 36, Capt. Charles S. Reynolds, 49th Bengal N.I. principal assistant to the Commissioner of Assam, son of the late Wm. Reynolds, esq. formerly of Lympstone, Devon and Malpas, Monmouth."
- 289 Major Herbert Benjamin Edwardes (1819–1868)
- 290 Sir Hugh Gough became Commander-in-Chief, India, and in December 1843 he led the British forces in action against the Mahrattas defeating them decisively at the conclusion of the Gwalior Campaign. He also commanded the troops at the Battle of Mudki in December 1845, at the Battle of Ferozeshah also in December 1845 and at the Battle of Sobraon in February 1846 during the First Anglo-Sikh War. Gough was loyally supported by Lord Hardinge, the governor-general, who served under him during these actions. Gough was elevated to the peerage on 7 April 1846. The Second Anglo-Sikh War started in 1848, and again Gough took to the field commanding in person at the Battle of Ramnagar in November 1848 and at the Battle of Chillianwala in January 1849. He was criticised for relying on frontal assault by infantry rather than using artillery and was replaced as commander-in-chief by Sir Charles Napier but, before news of his replacement had arrived, Gough achieved a decisive victory over the Sikhs in the Battle of Gujarat in February 1849.
- 291 William Sampson Whish (1787-1853) Bengal Artillery, East India company; commander of British forces at the Siege of Multan, Sep 1848-Jan 1849; created KCB 1849; Promoted to Lieut-General November 1851
- 292 Charles Robert Cureton, born in 1789, started out as a private soldier and rose to the rank of brigadier-general.
- 293 Sir Samuel Benjamin Auchmuty (1780-1868)
- 294 Henry Charles Van Cortlandt was the natural son of Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Clinton Van Cortlandt and 'an Indian woman'. The date of Henry Charles' birth is variously given as 1811, 1813 or 1814. The Biographical Index in the India Office however states that he was baptised at Meerut on 2 February 1813. 'Inheriting at once the best characteristics of East and West', he was educated in England and returned to India to seek his fortune in the military service of Ranjit Singh - the fabled 'Lion of the Punjab'. Following the defeat of the Sikhs and the readjustment of the administration of the Punjab under Henry Lawrence in the spring of 1846, Van Cortlandt was admitted to the service of Sikh Durbar at Lahore with the rank of General and appointed to the charge of the Dera Ismail Khan district. At about the same time Lawrence sanctioned Lieutenant Herbert Edwardes' plan for the subjugation of the vassal province of Bannu, and in the following cold weather season two columns, one from Peshawar under Lieutenant George Reynell Taylor, of the 11th Bengal Light Cavalry, the other from Lahore under Van Cortlandt, set out into that wild territory and destroyed some 400 forts. On 15 June 1848, Van Cortlandt and Edwardes crossed the Indus and marched to the Chenab. On 2 July, a day of intense heat, Mulraj's troops were encountered at the village of Suddoosam. Lieutenant Edwardes, in overall command, deployed General Van Cortlandt's two regular regiments at the centre of his line. After the victory at Suddoosam. on the arrival of regular forces under Major-General Whish, Van Cortlandt went on to serve in both sieges of Mooltan.
- 295 Bertram was married to Emma Sweetland at Trinity Bay, Newfoundland on 9th October 1848. The ceremony was conducted by his brother, Revd. Todd Thos. Jones.
- 296 Agnes Jones was born 25th August 1848
- 297 Noted in Hobson-Jobson as Putwa
- 298 John Grant Gerrard (1808-1857) was promoted Major in March of 1850, and from October of that year until May of 1854, was doing duty in charge of the Hissar camel and cattle farm.
- 299 Charles Vincent Bowie (1824-1898) At Addiscombe 1841 census. A.D.C. to Gov. Gen. of India (Marquis of Dalhousie, K.T.) 1849-56. A.D.C. and Mil. Sec. to Viceroy of India 1856-62, Earl Canning, K.G. Throughout Sutlej and Punjab campaigns 1845-6-8, at Moodkee, Ferozeshah and Sobraon. In Punjab campaign 1848, at Peshawur. Prisoner of war to Afghans and Sikhs, 1848-9. Retired as Major-General, living in Bath with his sister in 1891 census.
- 300 The rumour of a threatened invasion by the Nepalese was in reality a vast royal hunting-party, including the king, Surendra Bikram Shar and his minister, Jung Bahadur, accompanied by the British Resident, Major Thoresby and his staff, with ten or twelve regiments, to the great forest at foot of the Nepal hills. [Allen's Indian Mail, 5 March 1849]
- 301 Maria Nott (1818-1899) married Charles Henry Nicholetts (1815-1890) in 1843. Their paternal grandmothers were sisters, daughters of Henry Swinhoe and Jane Maull. Henry was the first of a long line of Swinhoes to practice

- law in Calcutta. Juxon's daughter, Annie, married Henry's great-grandson, Rodway Charles John Swinhoe, who was reputedly the first lawyer in Upper Burma. Nicholetts was in the 1st Regt, of Light Cavalry, but at this time with the 17th Irregular Cavalry.
- 302 This may be a reference to Brahmin marriage. A boy is given his sacred thread or cord about seven or eight and cannot marry until this has been done. However, he may, and many do, marry immediately after this ceremony.
- 303 Arthur Galloway (1822-1857), son of Major Gen. Sir Archibald Galloway who died in London in Apr 1850. Noted in as Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Hissar to have 5 months medical leave of absence prior to obtaining leave to go to Europe (Allen's Indian Mail, Aug 31 1849). He was recorded in the 1851 census and married in London 14 Sep 1854. He returned to India where his wife gave birth to a daughter in Delhi in June 1855. He was again an Assistant Magistrate and died there in 1857 during the Mutiny. His wife gave birth to a daughter in Simla on 3 Sept 1857 when she was noted as "widowed". She herself died on 24 Sept.
- 304 Peasant cultivator
- 305 She died at Pooree 15 November 1842 aged 23. Her widower, Edward Taylor Trevor, remarried in December 1846.
- 306 21st February 1849.
- 307 72 N.I. - Ensign W.C. (William Campbell) MacDougall appointed adj. t o Hurrianah light inf. batt (Cadet Records. 1846-47). Also Hurrianah Light Inf. - Lieut. W.J.F. Stafford to be 2nd in command, v. Capt. Colebrooke on staff employ. [*The Indian News and Chronicle of Eastern Affairs*: 1849]
- 308 Mary Eliza Campbell, born 22nd March 1849 to Robert and Matilda. Christened at Mussoorie, Bengal 9th June 1849.
- 309 The other child was a son born at Hansi, 1st September 1847
- 310 Screen-blind made of finely split bamboo laced with twine, often painted white on the outside, and hung in doorways or windows [Hobson-Jobson]
- 311 Got rid of.
- 312 His father's house in Exeter in the parish of St Thomas the Apostle, which was sold almost immediately after his death .He was buried at the parish church 15 Nov 1821.
- 313 Edward Howland Patrick was born 24th April 1849 at Worcester.
- 314 Nothing appended to the letter. Would appear to be a matter concerning the Benares Bank, a joint-stock bank in which Dr Edlin was a shareholder, (said to have invested 40,000 rupees in the bank). He had written a letter complaining about four of the directors, all members of the Company's service, who had been ordered to appear before a court-martial to answer the charges. This was deemed an unsuitable judicature and that the proper resort should have been to the Supreme Court at Calcutta. At a subsequent meeting of the shareholders the statements of Dr. Edlin respecting the misconduct of the directors appeared to be confirmed. This was followed by a counter-action. July 18 1849 - "The *Hurkaru* affirms that Dr Edlin has been placed under arrest to be tried by court-martial for accusing his superior officers of cheating. This has of course reference to the exposure of the affairs of the Benares Bank, in which Dr Edlin has taken, on the whole, so creditable a share." Despite the matter reaching the ears of Sir Charles Napier, who recommended redress in the civil court after the military trial, Edlin's intervention resulted in his suspension "Assist.-surg. E. Edlin, M.D., deputy apothecary E.I.C., suspended from rank, pay, and allowances for six calendar months." The final entry on the affair dated Sept. 5. "The result of Dr. Edlin's court martial has been published. The doctor has been sentenced to suspension from rank, pay, and allowances for six months, for having accused Major Fagan of lying and cheating. Major Fagan was one of the appropriating directors of the Benares Bank, and as the court refused to go into the truth of Dr. Edlin's allegations, he stands by no means in the position of one who has cleared his character from injurious imputations. The poor doctor is certainly much to be pitied." [*The Indian News and Chronicle*]
- 315 Asst. surg. John Bowhill of Meywar Bheel corps, married Elizabeth Mary, daughter of the late Lieut. Col. Oliver, at Mussoorie, Nov. 14 1848. She was born 19th November 1828 in Bengal. Bowhill did not come to Hansie but was at Erinpoorah in Rajasthan in 1851.
- 316 Probably the church in Newfoundland as there was no St John's at Leamington at this time.
- 317 Rent?
- 318 In the 1851 census Captain Peter Robertson is living with his family in his father's house at Tiverton, Devon.
- 319 Richard Southby Otto Thring (1817-1875), son of William Davison Thring D.D., Rector of Sutton Veney and Vicar of Fisherton Dealamare, Wiltshire. - M.D. Edinburgh 1840, M.R.C.S. 1841; Assistant Surgeon 20th April 1845; in medical charge of 11th Irregular Cavalry from Feb 1849. Dr Thring, 11th irreg-cav. to receive med. charge of Hurrianah light inf. batt. from Assist.-Surg. J.H. Jones, proceeding on leave. [*Indian News and Chronicle of Eastern Affairs*, London 4th June 1850.]
- 320 Bertram was at Trinity from 1848 to 1850. In 1851 he became rector of St. Paul's Church at Harbour Grace, a position he held for 25 years.
- 321 Thugs or Thuggees, a murderous cult in India that preyed upon wealthy travelers from the 13th to the 19th century.
- 322 A meeting place in London for Christian evangelicals.
- 323 Thomas Henry Shuldham (1801-1875) 1849 Bengal Est. Maj. Thomas H. Shuldham, 52nd N.I. Granted extension of leave for 3 months. It would appear that his first wife, whom he married in 1834, and by whom he had

- two sons, had died as he then married again in Ferozepore 3rd July 1850. This wife, who was an American, died in Meerut in 1856. He married yet again in Cheltenham in 1862. Thomas H. Shuldham, Lieut. gen. Bengal staff corps, died at The Park, Cheltenham, Feb. 5th 1875 aged 73.
- 324 A bawbee was a Scottish halfpenny.
- 325 Mosgrove, Frederick J. M.R.C.S., Eng. Publication: *Practical remarks on the predisposing causes and treatment of the Asiatic cholera* Bombay, American Mission Press, 1849. Born in Honiton, Devon in 1818 to William Mosgrove and Elizabeth Johnson who were married in Exeter 17th Jan 1801. Apothecaries Hall, list of gentlemen who have received certificates Thurs. Jan 11 1838 - Frederick Johnson Moore Mosgrove, Exeter. Published *Treatment of the Constipation in Lead Colic* in the Lancet, 1st Aug 1840. Adm. to Royal College of Surgeons, London Aug. 15 1842. Married: Foley (now Mosgrove) Helen, youngest d. of he Late Maj. Gen. Foley, to Frederick Mosgrove Esq., at Prittlewell Essex Dec. 20. 1838. First child born in Finsbury, Middx. 1839 but died soon after. He and family, son and two daughters, landed at Bombay 24th Nov 1845. One daughter was born on the boat as she was christened within a fortnight of them landing. The last reference found was his death at sea, on board the Scindian, from Bombay, July 29th 1858. Helen, relict of the late F. J. M. Mosgrove, Medical Staff, Bombay Army, died at South Hampstead, June 5th 1874.
- 326 Lieut. John James Pollexfen (1825-1860) bn. Bombay, dep. assist. quarter master - Bombay Column Mooltan Field Force, Jan 1849
- 327 Assist.-surg. J.H. Jones, Hurrianah, has leave to Calcutta, from 1st March to 30th June, preparatory to applying for furl. to Europe on priv. affs. [*Indian News and Chronicle of Eastern Affairs*, London 4th May 1850.]
- 328 To be held in London in 1851
- 329 Wine merchant.
- 330 A toy ship given him as a child by Fanny Bent. He refers to it as his memorial of her in a letter to his mother 25th June 1852.
- 331 "Edwin Edlin, MD, Assistant Surgeon EIC Service, died 6 April 1850, aged 36 years". Inscription on his grave at The Old Church, Mission Row, Calcutta. He left three children and a pension was paid for each of them to his widow, Mrs Jane Anne Edlin.
- 332 Civil Assist.-Surg. M. Nightingale, Hissar establishment, died at Mussoorie, 10th April 1850.
- 333 Nothing found to say what this was but possibly what was called an Ekka, a simple one-horse carriage without proper springs or seats.
- 334 Pieces
- 335 Margaret Anna, daughter of Andrew Ross and Mary Elizabeth Kelly, born 10th September 1832 at Meerut.
- 336 This journey by railway in India was only recently possible to do. Prospectus issued, July 1847. EAST INDIAN JUNCTION RAILWAY COMPANY from Alahabad and Benares, via Jaunpore and Azimgurh, to Ghazepoor and Goruckpoor.— Provisionally Registered — Capital 3,400,000/., in Shares of 50/. Deposit 5s. . "The object of the promoters of this undertaking is to connect the large and populous cities of Jaunpore, Azimgurh, Ghazepoor, and Goruckpoor by a line of railway passing through some of the most exuberantly rich and fertile provinces of North-Western India and of the valley of the Ganges, forming a junction with the great trunk line of the East India Railway at the large and flourishing cities of Alahabad and Benares; thus opening a direct communication between those provinces and Calcutta, and by the proposed line of the Great India Peninsula Company with the Presidency of Bombay." [www.gracesguide.co.uk/East_Indian_Railway]
- 337 Mail and passenger horse-drawn carriage, a service pioneered by Lalla Tantimul, a contractor who had previously built boat bridges, in 1849. [David Arnold *Science, Technology and Medicine in Colonial India* 2000]
- 338 1st Calcutta Native Militia (Civil) Allypore (Detachment at Dum Dum). Assist. Surgeon J. Macpherson, M.D. 2nd Asst. Presy. Genl. Hospital, With Medl charge of the Calcutta Jail. (three above Juxon in order of appointment). At St Paul's Cathedral on the 23rd April 1851 John Macpherson MD 1st Assist Genl Hospital was married to Charlotte Mellosina daughter of the Revd John Molesworth Staples of Moville Ireland.
- 339 The steamer Haddington left Calcutta on the 2nd July 1850 with Dr J.H. Jones listed among the passengers going from Calcutta to Southampton. The Haddington was a P&O passenger liner, later sailing store ship (1846-1870 when it was sold by P&O).
- 340 William Macpherson (Barrister - at Law), author of *The procedure of the civil courts of the East India Company in the Presidency of Fort William in regular suits*. 1850
- 341 East India House. Arrivals reported in England incl. Assist.-Surg. J.H. Jones Bengal Med. Est. [*Indian News and Chronicle of Eastern Affairs*, London 3rd Sept 1850.]
- 342 Francis Jones. Oriel College, M.A. 1 June 1837. Presented by the College to the Vicarage of Moreton Pinkney, Northants, 1837. [The letter was in daughter Minnie's scrapbook]
- 343 Received into the Roman Catholic Church 9th October 1845
- 344 Harriet
- 345 Indicates that sometime after 1887 when Juxon's widow, Maria, changed the family surname by deed-poll to Juxon-Jones, she gave these letters to her daughter Annie, later Swinhoe.