

To Rosalie Longmore from various correspondents (arranged alphabetically)

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
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Civil Engineering College
Calcutta
June 4th

My dear Rosie

I must write to you although I am so ashamed of myself for not having done so before that I am almost afraid to now. We were all so very very sorry to hear the sad news, at first we thought there might be a mistake and that your Mother and poor Mr. Sturge had not both gone. Oh what doubt we owe to them. I look back to that last summer at Rochester as the happiest part of my life. Oh those jolly picnics and little dances. I can remember almost every day and all we did. Don't I wish I could come and chat it all over and over again. Do you remember sitting on the

seat in your garden looking
over the river. it used to
be the great place for talking every
thing over my dear Rose. how I
hope we shall all meet again
I expect we shall have quite a
little Rochester party here next
cold weather. Pickford and Scott
are coming down to meet us
I miss Pickford and Lucy Brandick
I am afraid wont come. Steel
says he shall and I intend to
try for 2 months leave to go up
to Rochester with them. Brandick
says that the cold weather there
is splendid although now Calcutta
is as cool as any place in India
excepting the Hills. There have
been great goings on the East
fortnight. The Governor General &
Commanders in Chief all being

here two Levers and a great ball
and I believe a review tomorrow
for the new Commander in Chief
Bobbie's old chief who one day
wanted to know who creped
up his little boy and brought
him to parade on a pony. You
must not tell him that I said
so I was so glad to have him
here it was a great shame
his not staying till the next
mail he would have had time
to have gone home with and
then I should have had time
to have gone about with him
as my holidays were just beginning
they are over again now and
I am now sitting in a great
room with some 30 men at
work and coming up asking me
all sorts of questions some

But I cant very well answer,
can you fancy me having to
lecture 3 or 4 times a week
I dont much like it- and
intend to give it up soon
I want to stay in Calcutta
though till Lucy comes out
and then I do not- care where
they send me to, Calcutta is
a tremendous gay place
there is a regular Rotten Row
every evening when
I go with all the rest of the
Calcutta people to ride about
and talk. I know a good many
people whom I like, particularly
Roberts relations, & the very great
people and are excessively kind
to me we have been trying to
get-up a cruise to row on the

river here but people say
it is so dangerous on account
of the tide being so strong. I
don't believe it can be as much
as under the old Rochester
Bridge what work it used
to be getting through sometimes
and how we used to shoot
through when the tide was
with us. I was so astonished
at finding a card in my room
one day Mr Simskill do you
remember him he used to go
to Mr - what was the name of
the school nearly opposite the
Nicholson's. They gave me of
the best dances. Fanny went
with the Sturges and it was
her first. Oh what was the name
they had a hut in the garden.

Amiskile is in the Indian Navy
and came and dined with
me at the Club one night
and talked of old times I
hear of Rochester very often
from Miss Thomas who used
to live with the Nicholsons and
is now out here. The best
part of Calcutta is that all
sorts of people are continually
turning up. I went down to
meet Steel on one of the steamers
and found Miss Martin as was
who said how kind it was of
me to go to meet her I could
not say that I did not know
that they were coming out then
so let it pass and took them
to an Hotel and did what I could
I am almost a afraid this will
be late, must stop. Ever yours very much
Thomas Gordon

W. J. F. H.

(2pp)

L 52/2

Purton Barracks,
Brighton Nov-20th

My Dear Rosalie.

In the first place
let me thank you for all
your kind hospitality - for it
struck me just after I had
left you that I never said
a word of thanks for your
kind welcome.

I am very glad I went
to Rochester - it has done me
good - we are apt - too apt

to think there is no sorrow
like our own - no wound
so deep - no blow so heavy
and no hearth so desolate -
but this selfish grief is
dissipated when we find
our neighbours and our
friend lying under affliction
as penetrating and absorbing
as that which we think
unequalled. My Dear Friend.
I could not say to you all
I wished - for my heart was
full - but indeed Rosy there

are few of your friends that feel
more deeply for you and your
dear Father than I do. and when
I think of you at your lonely
fortitude I feel that God has
indeed for His own little
purposes and in His own
incomprehensible wisdom made you
pass through the very
deepest waters. Still I am
greatly cheered about you in
one thing - I see you are
teaching yourself to rely on
the Arm that never fails -

Remember - Tribulation works
patience and patience experiences -
blessed experiences! if it bring
us poor rebellious lost sinners
as we are to the feet of Jesus
Make Jesus your friend dear
Rosalie - take every care and
trouble and wish of your heart
Obtain - lean on Him - trust
Him - he will never desert you -

I have no other consolation to
offer you than this - the
kindness of friends is valuable
and very pleasant and we love
those instinctively who are
sympathizing and gentle and

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tender with us in the
hour of our "desperate sorrow"
but oh after all there
is none like Jesus - none
so tender or forbearing -

My visit to you full
as it was of pain was
very pleasant to me - You'll
forgive me I am sure
as I am a kind of
big brother of yours when
I say that it gave me
great pleasure to observe the

very minute views you
hold on most of the matters
which our conversation
turned upon and which older
heads might not be ashamed
of. There! - I had better stop
this kind of strain or I'll
end in twaddle - what
I mean today is that I
think with an occasional
lection from me that you
are likely upon the whole
to turn out a tolerably
respectable young female!

You did not forget I am
sure to tell Mr. W. Hayward how
it was I did not call - I feel
so angry with myself about
it - make sure you tell
Mr. Parry that I was awfully
disappointed that I did not see
him - with regard to that
there paper box of white Laffs
which looked so very like
putty but which was food
for Olympus I feel convinced
that had there been a second
box and had I W. F. I. Stamps

another day at Latis House that I
should have eaten it all and been
now in bed with a bad Bilious
attack! - Dr Longmore ought to be
warned against introducing such
food into the diet of ordinary mortals
with the usual description of
(excuse me!) - stomachs! -

Pardon all my nonsense - take
up your pen and drop me
a note when you have time
and inclination - I send you the
little hymn Book - as you perceive
its value is two pence. but it
contains some precious little words.

Farewell - may you be comforted with
the consolation which abounds in Christ Jesus
is the ~~same~~ prayer of your sincere friend
kindest regards to y Papa.
W. J. L. H.

(2pp.)

L. 52/3
Luna -
Sep. 15/61 -

My dear Rosalie

I must not let
another mail go without writing
to you, for if you heard from us
or any one our last news, you
will be anxious to hear more. &
if you didn't hear I must tell
you now. You will be surprised
to see that I am writing from this
paradise of burnt up Indians.
Sorry to hear what things are here -
Just as we were preparing to start
from Kumal to Roubidoux, Henry who
had stood all the hot weather
trains wonderfully well suddenly
caught fever, one Sunday morning.
& in three days time it had brought
her so low that the Dr. said an
immediate rush up here was
indispensable for her recovery. The

was terribly reduced. to weak to
turn round, or to raise herself. &
I, as you ^{may} suppose, was very anxious.
for travelling is always fatiguing
in this country, but in her state
it is a terrible resource I have to
take to. She was so happy &
peaceful, almost immotually so.
that I think it made me more
anxious, & I found what a hard
thing it really is to feel perfect trust
in a Heavenly Father when the
time of trial comes. It is easy enough
to talk of it & to get myself to
believe we feel it when all is
going smooth, but it is a very
different thing when the future looks
dark & dreary - & her on whom all
our hopes now centred seems to
sink just on the edge of life -
But God mercifully heard my prayer. the
fever left her on the 6th morning &
the evening we lifted her into a carriage
& carried her off here, & arrived in
5 days. for of course we had to go
quickly - whenever she breathed

the hill air she picked up. &
is now almost quite well again
this by no means strong - she is
able to ride this & to enjoy the
full the beauties of these hills.
I need not attempt to describe them
for I saw they are drawn by a
far better pen than mine in your
brother's journal. But you
may fancy after living for four months
with a thermometer well getting down
to 80° what a luxury it is to
have it here never above 65° &
to sit round a cozy fire & tuck
in the blankets round us at night.
The whole ground is covered with
ferns & wild flowers, another beauty
in itself worth a long pilgrimage -
I have been transferred from the Canal
to Romber College. & have to go &
join my appointment there by the
21st of this month. I shall leave
Levy with the wife of a brother officer
who I get back for her about
the beginning of Oct. & to stay up
here the greater part of that month -
It is vacation at Romber till Nov. 1st

So I have only to set, look
over Examination papers & then
Pedagogue's work which may as well
be done here as there. By the end
of Oct. when we settle down at
Rome it will likely be full
cool weather.
We were very glad to get a letter from
you from Radford a few days ago.
Giving a satisfactory account of yourself.
I am glad to hear that you had paid
for your leaving Rochester. These
things are always most trying while
in prospect. I hope too you may have
made out your journey to Scotland & seen
all my belongings. They must be
getting sad now at Joanna's approaching
departure. But I am glad to say my
brother B. who has been out there since
1849. hopes to get home in Feb. & he will
cheer them up. especially my sister Mary
You know I hear not very satisfactory
accounts - you is so terribly cut up
at Joanna's going - I was delighted
with your account of Ballard being
like Elkford peak - poor lime works.
if he is as good a fellow as old Mr
Elkford he will do - & I hope he
will for my father & those of my
family who know him seem all to

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L 52/3

of a family man -

I have not heard of your brother
Lewis for a long time or how he
is getting on. Does he think of
looking for work abroad at all?
I don't know much of the Railway
Engineers out here, as I have never
been employed near any of the
new lines, but I fancy they have
a tolerably pleasant life & fit - for
India - & get very good pay -
When you next write to Charlie give
him "Jacob Mocruffs" love & all good
wishes - I should so like to have seen his
jolly face when Lewis is at home. He
is in luck I fancy going to Canada -
it must be a grand station - all
army matters out here are upside
down - & I hardly know whether or not
I am a "Royal Engineer" yet. all will
be settled I trust in about two months -
& I who look forward to home service some
day. do not regret the amalgamation
as most of the Indian army most
naturally do - Love joins me in love
to you all yours. Yours very affly & ever
A. C. Scott Munro

like him - including Soama; but
then perhaps she is not an impartial
judge. My opinion is I suspect
that he must be a very good fellow
who is good enough for her - & I
am convinced enough I think you
perhaps agree with me -
Mary is writing a tremendous epistle
to your sister, so I will send no
more pages to her by you - I am very
anxious to hear the result of this
Ceylon business - I hardly know what
to think regarding it - that is, as far
as you are concerned. For if you
do go out with your father you will
enjoy a good deal & suffer not a few
tropical annoyances probably - On the
other hand it would be a great
trial for you being left at home -
I suppose it would be a piece of
work your father would like, &
what is not a small consideration
sometimes a well paid work - You
see I speak with all the prudence

L 52/4

Rooke
Nov 3rd

S. M. M. M. M.

Dear Rose

I must not let this
last day of the mail go without
writing you in answer to
yours announcing your Engage-
ments. We were both much
surprised at it. But as I
knew you have referred the
matter to a higher hand than
ours, I have no fears that
God's blessing will be with you
I trust you will be very happy.
I accept my most heartiest
wishes, for I have felt for
the last four years as if you were
my sister than anything else.
I feel a most
genuine interest in all that
befalls you - Heigho! the years
are passing on fast, & I suppose we
are older than we were in those

Bright Summer evenings in the
Sweet & melting hay fields, or on
the top of the old garden wall looking
over the quiet peaceful river, till
dark came on & we used to hear
"It is time to come in children"
We weren't much more than children
then - & now too we are in the
full swing of life. Sweet as is
the memory of that summer of joy
it is mingled with some shame to
my mind, that I should have been
dreaming away at Chalkham when
our countrymen here were fighting
But I am digressing -
I wish I had seen more of you
before when I was at home -
I recollect seeing him one Sunday
afternoon, & his telling me he
had been in India, which was
a topic of conversation for us -
For your sake I trust he may
never have returned. for I don't
think you would like this
country - But now you have
enlisted, & so there is no saying

where you may yet have to go -
Will he stick to the service long,
or does he mean to retire? Henry
tells me she has asked you some
50 important questions, so I should
not ask this -

Now that the amalgamation is
passed I have some idea of getting
home service - but Sir Charles Wood
& the House Guards between them have
so utterly ruined the promotion
for officers that I may yet be
a 2nd Captain for ten years to come
& I can't go home as a sub:
I shouldn't like to tell your Father
our opinions of the House Guards,
but we are all with at the way
we have been cheated out of
the rights we were promised should
be maintained -

Do you recollect this day last
year when we were married.
How we are getting quite an
old couple, & may give much
valuable advice to your "young
things" - Good we ask to far

Off I think we should go in
for the Dunmow patch of
beacon, the reward of respectable
Couples -

Isabella ought to sail from Marseille
today, & my thoughts lie half
with her & half with my dear
father & sister feeling very solitary
at home - You have been at Daltick
too lately - I hope you said my
dear home under favourable
circumstances - For it is a sweet
pretty place - If you see or write
that dear good sister Isabel of
Yours please tell her how we
are obliged to her for her last
long letter - but implore her not to
make any apologies again for not
writing - I think it quite wonderful
she can find time to write to us
so often - & I value her letters & read
2 high - Lucy & I are exceedingly
jolly - I've lots of work, but am
quite fagged for any amount now,
& really enjoy it - nothing like honest work
I say - Love to your Father & thank him
much for his kind note - & please

L. 52/5-

Edward Hoslee

Thank you very
much for the snuff

I was just out of it when
I shall take a pinch with
pleasure I am sorry
you could not come back

very truly

Since seems better I hope
your dear Mother's too
is better the Downtons
are here and the young
men thank you again
and believe me your
affectionate Grandmother
J. Wilson

L. 52/6

My dear Mr. Perry
I have been thinking of you
very much lately and
wondering how you are
getting on. I hope you
are well and happy.
I will now take the
trouble to make out and
read the scroll that I have
been three days in trying
to write to dear Henry and
not give him the trouble to
do it. I am very anxious to
know he is and if Dr. Perry
makes him live generously
that is take wine and brandy
I think it would be good for
his soul. It seems an age since
I heard from any of you.

you will wonder what I
can find to do but the days are
short and in the late evening
we have been working hard
for your Aunt Maynard
sent a box from Madan Pater
with Aunt Sarah, Jennifer is
to receive them Lucy and I have
just been feeding on a Partridge
which was sent with some other
game. This eating takes up much
of the time that I was trying to
account for - Lucy has just said
with my love to Bradley don't
send the parcel till your Mother
(has 8 or 9 more now) comes