

Srinagar Kashmir.

Sept 20, 1938

Dear Nannie -

If you can get to Boston in 2½ hr in a purple plane with yellow cushions it certainly is better than going in a green plane with red trim but the question is how long would it take to come to Karachi & fetch me home in a plane guaranteed not to be shot down in transit? Plane or no plane I leave in a couple of weeks (no definite bookings yet) via Karachi to Basra on the Hansa German Line overland by Bagdad to Beyruth, then maybe Messageries Maritimes via Greece to Marseilles, overland to Paris, then New York. This route may be changed without notice, according to the political situation. It would be safest, no doubt to get on an American ship at Bombay, and stay on till I reached New York.

You have had few letters from me this summer perhaps none, because I gave up writing when we discovered that the pony boys who took ~~our~~ letters to the nearest post office were stealing the stamps & using the stationary for God knows what. All this time I have been camping in a tent in a pine forest - at an altitude of about 8000 ft. I went up June 3rd and, except for a 3 day visit in Srinagar at the end of that month I have not been away from the wilds until Sept 12th. "We" consisted of Mrs. Prothero-Thomas, wife of the Police Inspector of the Punjab and her ten year old son, a young lady journalist from South Africa, & for one month a schoolmaster to Rajai sons and for another month a nice old Scotch lady. We had practically no neighbors on our mountain or circled meadow, except primitive herdsmen and their gnome-like wives and children. We were the first campers to arrive at Bai Saram and the last to leave. In June

we could reach the glaciers in an hours walk. But the heat of mid summer dissolved them. My yellow tent covered a narrow point of land which divided a babbling brook as it rushed down from the glaciers. About the edges of the brook I constructed a moss garden in the Japanese manner, but full of Hindu symbolism. But alas! now the garden is left to wilt or be ravaged by the cows. On our meadow we also had buffaloes and ponies and ~~around them~~ also an occasional panther and around them I have constructed a story. (We also had bands of monkeys who came sometimes into my tent at night). My story (for children is quite absurd, but its pictorial sequence is so good that I think it should be animated for the movies, and I am going to try to get it there. There is still a good deal of work to be done on it - 'finishing touches' which I hope may be done in Wilmington if you will invite me to stay there for a while. With your adoption of Beatrice however you may not have room for me. I hope it can be arranged because I do not feel that I want to stay continuously in New York as I did three winters ago.

I am sorry about all the trouble you had over my trunk. I expected the transport charges but not the duty. I sent your instructions concerning shipping, at once to Peking, as I had ordered more of my possessions to be sent. If they were already on the way you will have the same trouble again. Perhaps they could be left in storage until my return if the expense is not too great. I am a bit worried about the locks of the trunk having been broken. Did you find a list on contents on top inside? And did you find a baked clay head? (Han grave figure and valuable!)

The news I get from Peking is saddening: more

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and more friends leaving - it will not be a pleasure to go back to for some time, but I expect we'll have some grand reunions in the U.S.A. as many of them will be in New York, Philadelphia and Washington.

It will be nice having a little sister - or is she a big one now. I hope Beatrice has not forgotten how to dance the jota and farrahi. If she has she better jolly well brush up her memory of them before I get back. And I hope too that Gertrude will still be with you as I want very much to see her.

My Chinese book (now called just "Mei Li") is not only a junior Literary Guild selection but Colonel Theodore Roosevelt is so enthusiastic about it that he is going to use it some how as propaganda in a national campaign for relief of Chinese children, this winter, of which he is chairman. It should be out early Oct. Please see that it gets advertised in Wilmington.

At present I am staying with a Dutch artist and his sculptress wife in a small house with immense grounds and gardens, - a small park. I like it much better than the usual houseboat life of which I had three weeks at the beginning of the season. There is an industrial fair in progress, only a short distance from us, where one can get a good idea of the many hand crafts of Kashmir. I shall regret not having seen numerous other places in India, but then one can't do everything.

Thanks so much for sending on bank receipts etc. but please do not send anything more now until further notice. The iron pictures were

slightly muted when I packed them. But I preferred them to the new ones which are pure black. They are an old set and somewhat better in design than most on the market. If you like the blue and cream gauze Table set by all means use it. It was intended for you in the first place.

Enclosed are a few odds and ends of snags - I have quantities of better ones all of which you will see soon

With love as ever

Scho.