May 28. 1847.
Mirzapore.

Dear Mother

Another fortnight has come and gone and the only change has been one in the weather which today is very pleasant for we have all the doors open and no Punkas. I suppose the rains will begin soon now for they are expected early this year by the knowing in those matters. I go to the Bath twice a day. It is a magnificent place 8 feet deep and as I cannot swim I have two hollow copper vessels which keep me up beautifully.

One of our officers (Wood) has just gone on a rather unpleasant duty ~~taking~~ as to the season. He has gone to Rewah to bring in a state Prisoner some Nawab or other. Rewah is 10 marches off and he will have a good dose of the rains before he comes back, I would rather he went instead of myself certainly.

I am getting on pretty well with my reading but I find Bathing and reading interfere with each other - so I must try and have some of each for it would never do to have to give up either.

You give me bad news from Rome but I hope your fears may not be realized in that quarter.

Poor Alfred what a Bother waiting, waiting, getting good words and nothing else.

I have not heard from William since I wrote to you last but I was never aware that the climate of Ceylon disagreed with him so much.

This will be a great place in time. They have built an hotel here for the steamer passengers. They are at last going to get rid of the Sand Banks that have in so many places obstructed the passage of vessels - one at Sultanpoor just below Chunar was removed by a private Individual Major Hill for 24 Rs. an absurdly small sum considering the delays that it has occasioned to the vessels. One remained stuck for 40 hours. The quickest passage ever made was by the Patna to Mirzapore from Calcutta 11 days. How curious it will be when the railroads come into vogue about 10 years hence I suppose.

I must now say good bye for I must write a scrap to Minnie.
Love to all

Believe me
Yrs Sincerely

Sp.C.D. Ryder.

June 26. 1847.
Chunar.

My dear Mother

I have been spending a few days down here and return tomorrow. It is fearfully dull and hot up at Mirzapore. The rains have not yet set in but are expected every day now as the wind has changed to the East and clouds are coming up rapidly from that Quarter, Thermometer 89o anything below 90o is pleasant out here though it would not be to you people in England.

Not much news anywhere just now except this that a party of 2 or 300 men attacked the Treasury at Musseerabad and killed and wounded 9 of the Guard at the same time making away with 27000Rs. of public money.

There is now engraving in England a picture (The largest Engraving ever yet made) representing the Triumphal Entry of the Captured Guns into Calcutta. C.F. Lewis is the name of the Engraver. It will be well worth seeing as there are a number of Likenesses in it. I can't help thinking that I must have missed some letters. I have received one from Alfred but no more. I have received your last letters by the Mail of May 7.

You see they do not approve of the New Furlough regulations. They consider them as only made for the benefit of the higher grades of the service and therefore will not agree to them. However I hope that they will do something for us before 4 years are over.

Who will be the next Governor General. I hope it may be some one who may benefit me whoever he is.

I am afraid Mother you could never be prevailed upon to sit for your portrait. I wish you could for I want something of the sort to look at and fancy that you are looking at mine at the same time. Perkins and another of our officers have had pictures of their mothers sent out and I envy them much for I have not got a likeness of any one of the family except what is engraven on my own mind.

As long as this weather lasts how I long to be in old England for one cannot go out. There is no excitement going on of any sort and it always makes me think both of past and future. The former is certainly the pleasantest of the two. But in the cold weather what a change there is when I can be out the whole day miles away from Cantonments with my gun under my arm, perfectly happy I feel as if I had not a thought on either side of the present time.

I wonder whether people will ever come out to this country

by way of a pleasure trip. They certainly could pass a very pleasant time of it. I feel as if it would be very comfortable. The hills in the hot weather and the plains during the cold. I think Tom & Dick might come out here and be delighted if they only had the money.

There Mother that is your share of my packet, so Good bye.

Yr. affecte. Son

Spencer Ryder.

July 31. 1847
Mirzapore.

My dear Mother

Our Fate is sealed. We are to leave this in the Cold weather for Barrackpore and it is truly disgusting to keep us here just long enough (not one short year even) to make us really like the place, and then pack us off to a half Batta Station where there is lots of duty and mighty little shooting. I had formed all my plans for this Cold weather, what I would do at this place and that and then ~~N~~ but there is no use crying about spilt milk so I will make the Best of a Bad job a thing I flatter myself I am a good hand at.

We are all in excellent health, I think greatly owing to the Bath. I told you I believe that I could swim. I swam for the first time on my Birthday, and I am very fond of it.

There are some beautiful waterfalls about 7 miles off at a place called Tarra. Money the Magistrate here is going to take us out there in about a week as soon as a Bungalow which is being built there may be ready.

x bigram money

I send you the title of a work on Natural History I should like to be sent out to me as it comes out in numbers. "Illustrations of the Genera of Birds" By Captn. Thomas Brown. In Numbers Royal 4to. containing 4 plates colored Price 3s. each. I should like the numbers to be sent out by the mail at the same time as the letters go so that I should not be long in getting them.

Augt. 1. This morning we had a taste of the Rains again after a cessation for a week at least and it is really delicious a very strong wind blowing and lots of clouds.

I think it is very likely I may manage to get exchanged from the Rt. Wing into the Left and if so I shall be able to stop here a month or two longer that is if we are sent down by wings which is very

likely, however the Relief is expected out every day now and before next Mail it will be all settled.....

Augt. 14. 1847.
Mirzapore.

Dear Mother

I have received yours of June 22 in which you mention that Sophy & George have returned. I am very glad to hear of it. You must be very glad to see them again however changed they may be.

I have not many new acquaintances to tell you of except one or two Civilians that are residents of this place. They are all of them very nice people. 2 of them are married and Mrs. Sapte and Mrs Money are very nice people indeed. I shall be sincerely sorry to leave this place But it is all for the Best. My Chum is just leaving for Chunar and I shall be all alone which is a thing I thoroughly detest. However I shall most likely take a trip down there myself before long.

Berhampore is considered a Bad place for one reason they say a Corps going down there always gets spoilt because many of them marry & there are lots of girls always there. So you must not be surprised if - But I will not frighten you for I do not think it is very likely so dont look at Emily and Sophy in that way. What sort of a person would you prefer for a daughter in law as of course I would wish to have some one who would be presentable at home. I firmly expect that one if not more of us will find someone to take care of us down there. But I think I can take care of No.1.

I did not know that young Sandford was out here as I could easily have run over to Benares from Chunar and seen him. I am at present rather bothered as I have charge of a young friend of one of our officers left for ~~for~~ me to take care of and as is always the case I have had 2 invitations to dinner both of which I am obliged to refuse on his account and as he is a person I have never seen before and do not care about at all it is a great Bother.

Perkins goes off today to try his luck at the Examination in Benares and I think he has a very good chance of passing. I do not feel well enough up in my studies to try it and so I do not like to run the chance. What I require is application. I cannot continue reading long enough. I begin very well and carry it on for a month or two and then break down. Perkins on the contrary studies too much I think nearly the whole day he has been having the moonshee with him till they are both nearly tired out. It will be a great pity if he does not pass for he well deserves it.

best/ Pray give my/love to Sophy and tell her to write me one of her

old letters and I will take care to answer it. I am very glad Alfred has got a vessel. I wish he could come out to Calcutta. I might see him - that would be fun. Fancy my seeing two Brothers in the same year.

I must now say good bye to you Mother and write a scrap to Emily so believe me

Yr affecte & dutiful Boy

Spencer.

My dear Emily

Here is your regular bit or rather irregular for I am afraid you write oftener to me than I to you. However it seems to me that you must always (unless anything particular happens, a row for instance or anything small that way) have more to talk of then I have for I have only myself to speak of and you have everyone.

I have not sent the Box yet. I do not know when I shall for I am always putting it off. I have just been disturbed writing this by the Mess accounts, I holding the honorable situation of Mess Manager and Treasurer, rather responsible I assure you. But it gives one something to do now and then which is a blessing. I am sure one ought to have a salary for if anything happens to go wrong "Oh it is all that fellow Sam" is always the cry for you must know that is the name I go by in the Corps, why I don't know except that the two names both begin with the same letter.

Now do get Sophy to write to me as she used to in auld lang syne.

And believe me

Yr affecte Brother

Augt. 15. Spencer

Mirzapore Augt 25
1847.

My dearest Sophy

I had just been thinking as to when I should receive a letter from you and sure enough one comes. How long is it since I wrote to you, many a weary month has come and gone since I last put pen and paper together to try and concoct a letter for you.

We started from Ferozepore on the 20th Novr. Last year and a most delightful march arrived here on the 1st Feby. upwards of 700 miles

did we travel and I was never in better health in fact I always am in ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ a good state of mind and body when on a march. The getting up at 2 & 3 oclock morning after morning is rather a Bother at first but as it is necessary and does not do anyone any harm why there is no use grumbling. Then the appetite one has for breakfast, after having been walking and riding for 4 or 5 long hours, is wonderful. Then after Breakfast The Major and self used to get our guns in order and away we would go not to return till near sunset dress comfortably and then to dinner. The moving about from place to place, the varied scenery - one time our march would lay through dense jungle another time beautiful fields of grain of all sorts or a beautiful sward, magnificent groves of trees, and picturesque villages with their curious little temples &c it was certainly very pretty, and when after a hard day's fag 4 or 5 hours on one's legs and over all manner of ground we would stretch ourselves down by a well under the shade of a fine peepul or some other large tree .....(the letter continues about their sport as in the earlier letter to Dick).....

Well well suppose the march is over and at last we arrive at Mirzapore as nice a station as there is to be found in India at least I am so fond of it that no praise seems too much. It is situated on the banks of Holy Gunga - about 12 miles off a range of Hills where game of every description tigers and all sorts of deer are to be found - and the residents here, most of them civilians, are such nice people. How I shall survive the parting I do not know. There are fortunately no young ladies here for me to fall in love with or I would not answer for the consequences, for I have become quite a ladies man, very much changed from what I used to be. There are two very nice people here, Mrs. Money and Mrs. Sapte, universal favorites. Money is the magistrate here and entertains constantly and his parties are just what I like - about 6 or 7 people at a round table all perfectly well known to each other regular little family parties.....description of Chnaar and his first deer all as in earlier letters).....

Alas, alas, we are to leave this paradise and go down to Berhampoor where I was before for a short time. I felt in a most awful state of mind when I heard it but "what must be must ~~xx~~" "Grin and bear it" &c. We, the right wing, leave this on the 20th Octr. by water and the left wing when relieved by another corps which won't be till March. How I envy them passing the cold weather here. However my cold weather will not be an unhappy one as far as sporting goes for there is very good shooting down at Berhampore and the Major is going to take me out into the jungles for a month - so I must make the Best of a Bad job.

There is a very pretty place about 10 miles from here called

Terrah among the Hills a very pretty waterfall. We had a party out there for the day some time ago. There is a Bungalow being built there for picnics and we had a very pleasant day. I sketched the falls and really I think it was not a bad attempt and the ladies all said it was very nicely done. I shall be out there again when I intend to take it from a better point of view.

You must not be surprised if some day you receive a letter from me informing you that a pair of eyes have made a deep impression on my too susceptible heart. I certainly expect if there are any unmarried ladies down at Berhampore good looking enough that it will be all up with me. I would rather keep my heart unseased till I return to England, and then if you like, why I should not particularly mind.

It is raining hard. The river has risen tremendously high during the last week & has swept a whole village away. Breakfast is ready so I will just go and take a something.

Augt. 29. I have nothing much to talk of now unless I tried to frighten you all with rumours of wars and bloodshed and all manner of horrors, hints in the ~~paper~~ newspapers and reports of various kinds. There is some talk that "Oude" is to be brought under the Company and that the Rajah of Nepal has offered his assistance to the King of Oude in case anything of the sort takes place But I suppose nothing will come of it.

There, Have not I written you a long letter almost as long as those you used to send me.

So you are greatly delighted with the soft scenes of Italy, and that place of which I have ~~much~~ heard much but seen little* Venice Queen of the Sea. I am afraid it would be too much for my tender heart.....(the letter breaks off there).

*he had seen nothing of Venice

Augt. 29. 1847.
Mirzapore.

My dear Mother

But a few more letters will you receive from this delightful place. In less than two months I shall be away to make new acquaintances at a new place. That is the worst of this life. One no sooner gets to a nice place among those whose society is really pleasant, than away away to a place and people one knows nothing of, Hard fate. - "T'was ever thus in Childhood's hour I've seen my fondest hopes decay" &c. But there is no use in repining "it is my fate" as the natives say when anything wrong

or disagreable happens, or as we should say "it is the will of God" so we will have no more thought about it but I cannot help saying something now and then. May I never meet with a worse place or worse people and then I may do.

There is nothing new going on except that Both my contemporaries, my chums on board ship, are made Lieutenants and here am I 3rd Ensign, however in a year or so we shall have a run in the Corps, we must, we have been so unlucky for the last 18 years. I daresay it is all for my good.

There will very likely be a marriage in the corps soon. It ain't me mother, But some one else no one that you know anything of so I need not give his name. However it will be a beautiful couple. The lady is the eldest and knows how to use her tongue and so does the gentleman for the matter of that so they will suit. Perkins and self are thinking we had better be doing something of the same sort if it is merely for the sake of bringing somebody respectable into the Regiment. Our Adjutant's (French's) wife is certainly a very nice person but the one or two others that are with us are not exactly the thing. However there is no accounting for taste, which I think is very lucky, as perhaps in that case some one may take a fancy to me.

I am afraid I am writing a great deal of nonsence Mother, and I have just finished a long long letter to Sophy. I have just taken to sketching again and if I practise I daresay I shall get on very well.

Please don't forget to send out the things I asked for but of course they are on their way. I wish I could say the same for my box but I think now it will be just as well to keep it till I get down to Berhampore when I shall be able to send it safer.

I mentioned some reports in Sophy's letter but I beg you will think them only as such, and don't be alarmed. I had a visit a night or 2 ago from a thief. Luckily I was laying awake and the man who was pulling the punkha said "Sahib" (Sir) in a very low voice and then informed me that there was a thief just outside the verandah. I jumped up and he bolted. However I made a patrol all round the Compound but found nothing.

There that must be a wind up to my letter Mother But I must not forget to tell you that Perkins has passed in the Little Go Examination in Hindostanee. I did not go up.

So good bye Your dutiful Son

Spencer.

Septr.21. 1847.
Mirzapore.

My dear Mother

I am much afraid this letter will not be in time for the Mail But I will just try. Everything & everyone in good health, The Weather getting very comfortable. The day before yesterday the Thermometer was below 80o. The nights are getting pleasantly cool. I get up at 4½ ₀clock regularly every morning and go down to Perkins take a cup of coffee and a walk, a walk too that I can feel afterwards, and I find myself much Better. I wish I could always do it in the hot weather.

And how do you find William looking. I hope English air and English scenery will put him all to rights if he requires it. I suppose his trip to England will put an end to my trip to Ceylon. Should it do so, I shall be off to Darjeeling a hill station under Nepal and very well spoken of. I want to get away from the plains very much next hot weather. It is such awful work.

Your last letter July 31 reached me yesterday and in a fearful state from the wet, all manner of colors. However I managed to decipher it all. Pray don't mind about cutting down my allowance for a bit. You say you will finish your letter Tomorrow But you have not given me any more of it. Did you leave out any bit of Paper. It seems as if you had. So the Boys are going abroad. I wish them joy of their trip, and I wish I was with them.

Do not be astonished as this being such a scrap of Paper. I did not know the mail would start so soon, so I have only time to let you know that all is well here.

I should like to have seen William this year before he went as he could have told you all about me, how I looked and everything. However there is an officer of ours (Wood) going home on sick certificate in the same steamer and so you will hear all about me better than I could tell you by letter. I must say good bye now with love to all

Yr Dutiful Boy
Spencer Ryder.

October 2. 1847

My dear Mother

This is almost the last letter that you will receive from this place, so we will try and make it a little larger I mean longer

than the last. Not that I have much more to talk of But I am more in the humor for it.

In the first place as regards that everlasting topic for conversation the weather, there has been a great change. Three days ago we had rain and wind and they are both in full vigor at the present time after a desperate night's work of it that they had last night, it was so cold that I was obliged to shut the windows wrap myself well up and give the punkah a night's rest. The Thermometer outside is 77° inside just below 80°. I have got a beautiful thick warm coat on and am wearing the Cap that was sent out to me and feel very comfortable.

I see Mason has been distinguishing himself in the pursuit of some freebooters that have caused a great deal of trouble. There is an officer of ours (Showers) also after them. The Renowned Doongur Sing is the head of the set and they have been doing a great deal of mischief. One of their exploits was to rob the Treasury at Musseerabad of about 25000 Rs.

I still keep to getting up early and having a good walk sometimes taking the rifle to practise at the pariah dogs which swarm in the villages round about and I begin to feel in good trim for the cold weather which will not be long coming in after this rain. I have not had the pleasure of a bath for some days as they have been emptying it out to clean it, and it takes several days filling. I have had beautiful health the whole of this year, thank God. But I certainly intend to take a holyday next hot weather and either take a trip to Ceylon if William can see me then which will be the beginning of May or else I shall run up to Darjeeling for 6 months which will be very delightful I hope.

The River has sunk rapidly but whether this last storm has caused a rise in it I don't know. It ought to certainly. I have had some sport fishing yesterday in a tank near here caught 2 Roves the Carp genus 1. 4½lbs 2. 11 3/4 lbs. I send a long account to Dick of the sport. It certainly was the best I have ever had. The only pity was they didn't eat well. However the sport was the fun.

This letter will reach you at the same time that William will. I wish I could accompany him however the Cold weather is coming quick and I shall have some good sport it is to be hoped. As long as the weather is cool so long I shall be happy that is to say perfectly happy for I have always something to do, and the exercise

I take is the thing, health and happiness go together with me. Berhampore is an unhealthy place that is now and then and this year has been so very unhealthy (The corps there now had 260 men in Hospital) that it will be quite the contrary for the next two years.

I think you should all take the opportunity of W's return to take a trip to Ceylon. I could run over and see you all easily. What an idea.

I thought when I began that I was going to rattle off a long letter quite easily but I have been disturbed a good deal while writing and my train of thoughts have been very like a railway train upset or (letter torn) in a regular Mess. They are just off (?the rails) again so you must excuse the shortness of this Epistle. Now do not be anxious about me if you do not hear from me for the next 2 or 3 mails. I shall write if possible but I only caution you in case I am not able to send a letter. I most likely shall be able to write - But - I suppose however it is no use saying don't be anxious of course it only makes you more so. If I write I shall have lots to write about and will be able to make out some amusing letters I hope. So I will say good bye to you Mother & will try and remain as I ever have

Yr affecte Boy
Spencer or as I am called in the Corps
Sam.

Octr. 2. 1847.

My dear Dick,

I really must tell you of my sport yesterday. I caught first the small fellow 4¼ lbs and he gave me about ¼ of an hour very pretty fun. They are very strong but do not jump like a trout or salmon. However as these were the 1st fish that I ever had to play I thought that I did not do badly.

You must know that a Tank is a pond the sides of which are built with stone and pretty deep with steps going down at one side sometimes on all sides. Opposite the steps on the other side of the Tank was a place made as if it was intended for another flight But a shelving bank of earth randown into the water. This was the place at which I landed my prey. We had no landing net and I was obliged to tire them out so that I could draw their head and shoulders out of water on to the shore when my attendant a little nigger Boy pounced on them and carried them up the Bank.

But I must tell you of my monster. They bite very gently

and my float hardly moved and presently it lay on the water flat. No.2 thinks I. I struck and away he went. Well I took him the whole length of the pond and then as he went along very easily, I thought I could take him down to the landing place. I got him into the recess when he quickly turned tail and rushed ½ across the Tank and I played him for some time when he suddenly went down and remained fixed at the Bottom for about ¼ of an hour and the only way in which I could dislodge him was by sending Mr. Keimar into the water. He swam out the line and then let himself sink down. He must have gone near the Fish for he got tired of sitting still and left his hole. A few more turns and I drew him into the recess and close to the land. Mr Keimar the nigger Boy above mentioned pounced on him But he gave a spring and made a dash out agin. Luckily I was all alive and the line ran out free But it was his last struggle for life and liberty for I drew him to the shore another moment he was panting on the green sward 5 3/4 seers or 11½ lbs. We had some for Breakfast and he ate well.

There Dick match him in weight if you can. The most awful part of it was that the bit of gut had been worn against the stones till it was so thin that it broke in my hands like a hair.

I am going out again almost immediately so good bye for the present.

Yr Sportsman Brother

Sp. Ryder.

Off Dinapore
Novr. 1

My dear Mother

Here we are half way on the journey to Berhampore. I certainly do not like this river travelling not that it is dangerous but I do not like being shut up all day long in a Boat now that he weather is getting cool. We have had no sport at all notwithstanding our most zealous endeavours. One day the Major and self walked 6 miles to a jheel to look for ducks the same back again, no not a Bird could we see. The quail are just coming in so we may have some sport in a few days.

We started as you know on the 20th Octr. and we shall most likely arrive about the middle of this month. I have no news to tell you of relating to myself or any of my friends. Perkins we left behind with the left wing. He will have a hot trip of it for they will not start before the end of February.

I wish you could see us in the Boats. Ours (a young Ensign of the name of Armstrong chums with me) is a large native Boat By far the safest conveyance on the River very comfortably fitted up

for subs the only fault about it being that it seems very sorry to go down stream so it keeps almost the last in the fleet which is very disagreable. We start at day Break every morning and come to the shore about 8½ oclock for Breakfast and then on again till it pleases the Major to stop which is about 3 though often later when we jump ashore with our guns and wander about the country looking for game and up to the present time certainly without success till sunset when we come home and dress for dinner, and so the days wear on wearily.

I have been pretty well except once when my interior was out of order But I put it on its good behaviour by starving it, for which I take great credit to myself.

We have been hoping to get a little sport at Bajmahal with the wild Beasts of the hills & jungles. If we do you shall have a full and particular account. I am keeping a journal now But it is useless sending it to you as there is literally nothing in it, however, I am accustomed to disappointments so I don't much care. I always hope for Better days.

I think I told you that one of ours was going to be married. It will take place in January and he seems very happy. We left him at Chunar where his lady love is. He was very busy getting furniture &c for keeping house but how long his happiness will last remains to be seen, I am afraid it is not a good match for him, but of course he knows best though I flatter myself I should do better if my time ever comes not that I intend to think about it till I get to Old England again, if I can help it - that last bit may mean a great deal, Mother, But don't be afraid.

I am afraid I must cut this short hoping it may find you all in good health & spirits. Give my best love to all, and I will say good bye for the present

Yr affecte Son

Spencer Ryder.

Berhampore
Novr. 28. 1847.

My dear Mother

Here we are at the end of our trip and very glad I am, for I do not approve of that mode of Travelling, being cooped up in a Boat all day.

When we arrived at Rajmahal we found Elephants waiting for us and the Major & self started on our trip. Unluckily we were a great deal too early in the season and the country was very swampy

and the Jungle so thick that it was impossible to see any animals that might Break cover as the Elephants made such a noise crashing through the Bushes. So we were obliged to content ourselves with small game. We bagged a few Brace of a description of Partridge called there a chickore but it is not a real one, a most magnificent Bird, a Hare or 2 & a few brace of snipe made up our Bag of small game for the 3 days we were out. The Major knocked over a small hog deer and I wounded a fine large one But could not get him. I was much pleased with my shooting from the Howdah. I found it much easier than I had expected, for it was the first time I had tried it.

But now Mother the long wished for time has come and a day or 2 more will see me on my way to Titaliya fair. A shooting party has been formed here. There are four of us, the Major & self, Torrens, Poll.Agt. (he said he was formerly acquainted with Frederick Ryder) & a Dr. Young. We are out for a month, start on the 1st with every thing ready to ensure good sport. Look at the map Mother & you will see Titaliya underneath Darjeeling towards Nepal. The Fair there is well worth seeing, however I would rather have the shooting, as it is we have a little of Both.

(3rd son of 1st Earl of Harrowby.

And now I suppose I must tell you something about the station. I fancy I must have described it to you when I was here before, a large square surrounded by Barracks & quarters. But as to the inhabitants more may be said about them. There are a few civilians and some silk merchants besides the military. There are four unmarried Ladies. I have only seen 2 of them Miss Smalleys not bad looking and very agreable. There are also 2 Miss Betts one of them I hear is remarkably pretty, But my shooting trip has driven everything else out of my head. The 2 I have seen have Black eyes & Dark Hair. Tell Sophy she shall have a better account of all when I come Back.

We have good accounts from Mirzapore and we are all well here. I hope (as I used to write from Cheam) that you are all well too. We actually sit down six at Mess sometimes. Govan of ours has just joined from England. He had gone home on sick certificate, and there is a young griff doing duty here. There are some nice people here. Russell the Judge & Dr. Young are great favorites.

And now dear Mother I must say good Bye for I do not know how long as I am afraid it will be rather unsafe as well as difficult to write from the Jungles. However don't be frightened if you don't hear from me for some time. Give my love to all. Tell the chicks that I am going to shoot tigers & Rhinoceros & all manner of Big animals and that they will hear a long account of it all afterwards & now good bye Mother & don't forget that we live in the hope of

Better days.

So good Bye again & again

Yr affecte Boy

Spencer Hurrah for the Jungles.

Dec.1.
We are off Mother. The Palkee is loaded, the Bearers are waiting, we have had a comfortable tiffin, so we light our cheroots (shocking Boy) get into the aforesaid Palkee and before long we are hurrying on to the mighty Gunga, which we cross tomorrow morning early. The evening closes round us the damp fogs are rising rapidly, so we wrap purselves up snugly in thick quilts. The doors of the Palkee are nearly closed and ever and anon a tiny wreathe of white smoke steals through the half opened door and mixes with the thickening fog without and shows that the occupant is awake & most likely comfortable thinking days past & to come and presently the end of the cheroot is thrown out and we curl ourselves up and are soon Buried in forgetfulness charging tigers &c are whirling through his Brain & there Mother we will leave him & say Goodnight. Spen.