

One more from Phasi
April 7.

My dearest Ruth

I stupidly didn't write from Phasi - not realising that I should probably have no chance of sending a letter back on the way to Kampe. But it happens there may be a chance to-morrow, so I will write a few lines in bed to-night. It isn't easy to write because the site of my tent dips slightly toward the head of my bed & no amount of propping seems quite to overcome the difficulty. If I had my bed the other way round my head would be at the mouth of the tent & this would create

a difficulty about light; besides it
is snowing slightly & may snow more
& though I don't mind having my feet
snowed upon for the sake of fresh air
I am unwilling to have my head snowed
upon during the night. As it is my
tent is a wonderfully comfortable spot.
The little table made for me by our
friend in Mail's Causeway is at my bed
side & on it my reading lamp; I expect
I shan't always be able to have oil for
this, but so long as I can I shall
burn it. Do I tell you about the
Whymper tents? We each have one
to himself they have two poles Λ at
each end, a much more convenient
plan than the other with single poles;

a ground sheet is sewn into the sides
so that draught & dust are practically
excluded if one pitches in the right
direction; and, a great blessing, the
tent has plenty of pockets; moreover
it is } no means small - 7 ft square
or very near it. The men tent also
is a great improvement on last year's;
there is ample head room & the men-
servants can pass round without hitting
one on the head with the dishes; the
tables are wooden (3/4 wood varnished)
& it is supposed that messes will be
wiped off without difficulty; and
they fit conveniently round the poles,
the lamp ~~and~~ which burn paraffin
vapour (assisted) some clockwork

arrangement inside) are also good &
an enormous improvement on the dim
hurricane lamps used last time. To
short a certain amount of care &
forethought (Chief Norton's) has
made us much more comfortable without
spending a great deal of money.

I must tell you Frank me how
wonderfully fit I have been these last
days, much better at this stage I'm
sure than either in '21 or '22. I feel
full of energy & strength. Walk up
hill here already almost as in the
Alps; I sleep long & well; my digestion
is good & in short I haven't a trouble
physically, unless one may count my
ankle of which I'm often conscious

but the leg seems perfectly strong & I am sure it won't let me down.

The general's trouble has been an irregular pulse & he & Hingston are both nervous about the effects of these altitudes on his heart - consequently he is not coming with us to Kampo Dzong (last year's route but in 6 days instead of 4) but by another way which will allow him to camp lower. It is difficult to know how much to make of this trouble (don't mention it); I think it is 10 to 1 he will be all right.

I can't write much more in this position - my arms are getting cold.

I was going to tell you something about
our plans but I will leave that until
next letter. Tibet is much warmer
or this year, though this afternoon
was pretty cold.

Much love to all & many kinds
to you & sweetest one.

Ever your loving
George

