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Khartoum

July 1, 1922

My dearest Ruth, We've just received our missing mail & there had two lovely letters from you about two months old. I suppose I shan't get any more till I reach Darjeeling & about four months will then be missing - Correspondence has been more difficult this year & this letter will be going with the last I wrote.

Well, I must first tell you of the great event two days ago - I found two new white primulas, the first a real treasure - I came upon a large patch of it on a hill-side at the bottom of the valley growing with rhododendrons & another fine yellow polyanthus primula & it was so beautiful I nearly fell down & wept with the joy of it. The flower is far larger than any of the cowslip sort I know - 3 to five on a stem, the edges rounded & the habit drooping so that the whole appearance is more like a clustered snowdrop. But on close examination one realises that the colour is not dead white but the palest imaginable cream & the centre pale dusky yellow. It is a ravishing flower, far more beautiful than any of the other beauties we've seen. Indeed I've never seen any thing that so knocked me silly - an ideal flower for ample grace & delicacy combined. I only hope some seedlings we are bringing back will survive. The other was a little beauty too a much more showy flower which would have been a good enough find for one day. In all we've got 4 white

primulas o about 20 different sorts altogether. The flowers have been wonderful altogether these last days. Yesterday Norton & I explored, on our way back here o side valley going down to the Arun. We had the loveliest of walks, trees, shrubs o all at their best in broken sunlight o showers - perhaps the best of all that three-purple iris blooming freely in patches the size of our garden.

I received today a copy of the Everest book o am rather bored with having to find a place for it in my baggage. It is well got up & looks the money's worth considering the high price still obtaining for books; but the reproductions disappoint me. Rather amusing to find the Morning Post my most favourable reviewer - think of Mary & Ralph covoring it at their breakfast table.

The others you have sent so far are remarkably dull - one quote while hunkes of me as Howard Busby. But the Times seemed to me pretty favourable.

We start back the day after to-morrow. I shall be glad to have turned my face homeward. But I shan't catch a boat before Aug. 5 I expect o I shall probably save money by sailing right on to London.

By the bye your husband says a curious thing in a letter about the book - "Jura was a splendid contribution & I am glad I resisted efforts to have it broken up & subdivided in". Whose efforts & surely not the publishers, because they wouldn't be such fools. It sounds like some jealousy at work - Bury's?

I had a good letter from Ethel Stopford last mail - she wants us both to go over to Ireland o stay with her o her family some-time. And the last news I read is that of a battle between

British troops & Republicans with whom were combined
apparently Free-Statens. I wonder if it's possible for
civil war to be avoided. With says everyone expects it
but none seems much concerned! Ireland is more & more
incredible. E. is coming over to England in the autumn.
o I shall write asking her to come ^{to} us for a bit.

You seem to have a pretty gay time while I'm away!
I'm very glad you see something of London. Please congrat-
ulate Ursula from me on her concert. I'm very glad you
were there. I hope I shall be in time to see something
of the summer dresses.

The thought that the next letter I post from Gantok
may even catch the same mail as this one discourages
me from writing much. And in any case there's not
much to be said just now.

So farewell, dear love o may the time pass
quickly till we meet again.

Ever your loving
George.

