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Chevrement
Dorjeeling
March 21. 1922

My dearest Ruth. The mail goes to-morrow so I must tell you a few facts though nothing very interesting has happened to us.

The journey across India passed well enough. It was hot but not unbearably so; the worst of it was the dust which settled in covering everything. The plains were baked bone dry, but about half the trees were green, either old sombre green or the brightest imaginable sort like our Syamoras, only lighter in tone. One tree the 'flame of the forest', more or less leafless, was making great patches of exciting scarlet - much that was worth seeing in all India but we were glad to get to Calcutta. Our baggage, with the various oddments loaded in the Calsonia at the last moment was

a formidable bulk - $2\frac{1}{4}$ tons in the
luggage van besides a lot of personal kit
in the train with us; on this we paid
over 600 rupees to Calcutta & 150 more
for handling at Bombay. At Calcutta
we were met by the A.C.N. stores agent who
did everything for us & will charge for the
trouble no doubt. With our stores &
outgoing fares it must have cost about
£200 from Bombay to Darsjeeling - poor
Bury's eyes would have dropped out of
his head at such expense last year.

We found Norton in hospital at
Calcutta, with bad piles after sitting in
the pip-sticking event; but it was not
necessary to operate & he is coming up
to-day & hopes to join us start with us
- however I fancy that our counsel
will persuade him to join us later.

From Sijensi the junction where the hill railway starts we came up in the rail motor, a much cleaner ride than the train, though less amusing, and considerably swifter, so that we were quite near Darjeeling before we were expected a met Bruce coming up the road in a car who made great cheer at seeing us. The country looks very different now - much browner than when I left it; it has been a particularly dry winter - no rain has fallen here there but 2 months - so much the better for us!

The General is full of activities & immense quantities of stores, it seems all already on their way or already at Phosi. You will be having telegrams about these arrangements so I won't say more, except to explain that how it is possible to

save a march to Kalimpong, & our second
stage last year; - the narrow gauge railway
which comes up here from Siliguri has
another branch from there to Teesta Bridge
which is only about 250 ft above sea-level
without crossing the hills; we are to go down
to Siliguri in a special train & then up to
Teesta Bridge, a journey of 5 to 6 hrs I
suppose, & from there will get up to
Kalimpong quite early in the day. From
K we shall proceed in two parties (I shall
be in the first) to Phari & from Phari
an advance party, I imagine about 8 of
us, will go on taking a limited amount
of stores while the rest will roll up
gradually behind us. I wish to stay
here with Crawford & buy up the
oxygen when it arrives (the cylinders
haven't yet reached Calcutta). It
the first party will be G. Bone, Strutt
Laystaff, Wakefield & Noel besides myself.

I'm much looking forward to seeing
the earlier flowers - Sikkim particularly
magnolia which are in full bloom
now & an amazing sight on Senseschal
Hill near here as we came up.

I'm very happy about the altogether
- it seems such a congenial party -
to think of the difference between
Bruce & Thuy - & the way I read
the proofs of Thuy's chapters coming
up from Calcutta; they are worse
than I had expected, quite dreadfully
bad, & I'm afraid it doesn't even
give me satisfaction to see the man
giving himself away as he does - it is
too disgusting a spectacle.

No - it turns out to be a busy morning -
farewell. All my love goes out to you dear ones.

So I will bid you
farewell.

I'm staying with the Moorheads as you
will have gathered; it is now practically
certain that Moorhead will be coming
on the expedition; of which I am very
glad. As we are not starting till
Sunday - the mail should arrive Monday
& catch us up about Wednesday I shall
have a letter from you just very soon after
we start.

It has only just occurred to me that
you will be in Wales - but will you?
No - I make out you should get this
on April 11, so perhaps you won't have
started - Anyway give my love to Gifford
& Lee & David & my best wishes
to the party.

I fear this is a dull letter - perhaps
I'll add a few words to-morrow
morning.