Lahore.
Ash Wednesday 1892

My dear Mrs de Forest

If I were a horse, — and I sometimes wish I were, to be out of a worrying existence, — I should be a "confirmed" jibber; — not quite vicious; not altogether incapable of going when once set in motion but apt at unexpected times & places to refuse to start. I have lashed myself unmercifully for my failure to write to you for months and months; but the more I have thrashed the more firmly did my fore legs seem set together and the more obstinately was my head pulled down.

But now here are your & Mrs de Forest's kind letters of the 2 nd ult: and I must

start – and, like many a jibber, once set in motion I am glad to write. I thank you for your congratulations about Reddy. – If I had been in his place I think I should have preferred the younger & prettier sister; but a merciful Providence has ordained a mystery in the matter of choice of a wife in which no outsider, tho' never so near, has a right to say a word. I am sure it will settle and soothe and fix him generally. Moreover it will remove a little slur of injustice I have often detected in people's talk about him. – In this way, – because he writes freely & boldly of good and ill and knows a great many shady things some people have spoken of him as writing from experience of ~~shady things~~ having done them and has had a naughty youth. As a matter of fact I don't know of all the young men I know intimately, and they are many, – one who has lived a more stainless life in all the essential points of clean living. It is a good thing I think that he has married ~~and~~ and taken up the semblance of that decent, wholesome respectability to which in fact he has always been wedded. Some folks have claimed in him a sympathy

with irregularity &c – but there is absolutely no warrant for anything of the kind.

In the matter of the double payment for the arches, Messrs Ewart & Latham have probably told you that the other Latham (stupid, having two firms of such similar names) – who had quietly absorbed the remittance from you without saying a word to us – refunded the amount to them so that it lies to your credit with them.

I find that during my absence things went all sorts of ways. My locum tenens and assistant,

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Mrs Lockwood De Forest
7 East 10th Street
New York.
U.S.A.

R. G. Kipling.

I am for your kindness to my dear boy. My uncle will write on behalf of Mrs De Forest

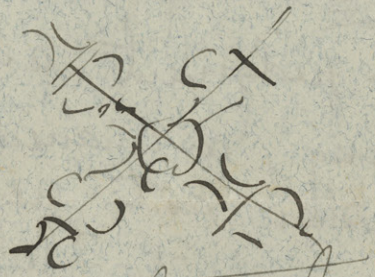
Yours ever
R. Kipling

Nov. 2/89

You are as just in your judgment, as right in every way, as unanswerable in your questions as to my civil behaviour, as the Recording Angel — but I trust after all to your mercy.

I don't think St Lawrence of blessed memory suffered more on his gridiron than I have from those neglected chairs and tables in turnery.

I want, if possible, a little more definite idea. It is possible to do turnery furniture in a dozen ways — with Cairene — criss-cross



and other treatments or in the Savage Indian way.

My own Experiments were not satisfactory. It was plain to see that they were "gotten up," unspontaneous, — and over ingenious, — not a bit like the common turnery furniture here made for wedding presents. But then I doubt if you would like the native turned chair as it stands. It is so hard, however, to touch it without spoiling it.

Ask Mr De Forest, please to put down yet one or two more lines — showing in what way he would treat the things.

I don't want to make a worse blunder

than is avoidable under the circumstances. Also - Colour ???

I have got some dozens the embroidered quilts from Central Asia of which ~~your~~ my son spoke and I will send you one or two to see.

But I doubt if you will like them - for they are so positive, not to say aggressive in pattern and colour. Great blobs of red - &c - but they shall be seen. I showed them to Mr Hopeland who has been the other day & he gently shuddered.

I write to save the post, - especially every minute to have to hurry out - to receive our new Viceroy, Lord Lansdowne - and I have emerged from a sick room with as much voice as a railway break, to do this. But please give my love to Mr De Forest and I pray for both to believe how grateful I

Andrews is a young fellow with cleverish hands for sketching &c and a good notion of teaching but I can't get him to learn the language, the art of the country, to read its history and he seems incapable of management – has no head.

We now have one of the finest schools in existence so far as rooms and space go. And next door we have built a gigantic, – too gigantic Museum. This will be finished next autumn & we propose to inaugurate it by an Exhibition of a comparatively restricted kind in the winter of 1892-93. It will not be a big thing in scope, but there will be some things – as carpets & wood-carving – that will show an advance on the one ten years ago. Yrs & Mrs de Forest head

better come over then.

This time, I went to work in a subterranean fashion. I wanted a show to inaugurate our new Museum and didn't object to running it myself. But I got the local Municipality to propose it and secured thus the support of outsiders.

But we are changing Governors just now and the consequent fuss has detained the proposals in the office, so our Govt: programme is not yet out. But it's got to be. In so short a time, the show will of course be limited. But I think we can make it a fair one.

Ale I know about the Chicago Exhibition is that they are getting up a big Committee in London of old Anglo-Indians. They expect, I suppose that as at the Indo Colonial we out here will toil and collect and work and describe - ~~to be apeh~~ and when all is done all the credit we shall have will be to be told by Birdwood that we are ruining everything.

If anything is done for Chicago it should be done between America and India direct.

I have heard nothing officially on the subject and cannot of course move without orders. —

They have started a Society at home for the encouragement of Indian art but how it is going to act on the work people in India puzzles me beyond measure.

Very glad you like my book. But I am puzzled about the illustrations. The proofs I got of the engravings were good and I am quite content with the English edition. It may be that the American edition has inferior reproduction

I am asking Thacker & Co in Bombay to send you a copy of the English edition. Macmillans sent to Washington a series of small photographs of the sketches for deposit according to the rules for American copy-right.

It may be that from these photos, which I remember were poor & muddy as photos go, the reproductions have been made.

The English press is uniformly complimentary

about the illustrations.

The Queen is delighted with the Osborne dining-hall. The designs grew and grew and Ram Singh let himself go in the matter of elaborations till no sketch would give a notion of the work.

Ram Singh is to leave for India this month – but he took to England and English ways with such enthusiasm, I begin to doubt if he will return at the time fixed.

And I quite expect he will look to be master of us all when he does come.

I am expecting photographs of the room from Mr Mann the Osborne clerk of the works & when he sends I will send to you.

Here comes Colonel Prideaux, the Kashmir Resident – to see our coins – because its a holiday, you know. It doesn't seem to occur to him that its my holiday too.

Will you please repeat your order for panels, giving dates, that I may lie down on Dhunpat Rai & Andrews for the delay.

Mrs de Forest talks of her turned lac chairs & couches. I can't get anything done to please myself. If you would design them I shouldn't perhaps be so hard to please.

In haste

Sincerely Yours

R. Kipling.

Mrs Lockwood de Forest

8 East 10th Street

New York City

United States


P.O.N.Y.
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Vancouver Hotel
Vancouver B.C.
April. 6th/92.

Dear ~~Mrs de Forest~~ Myra!

Just a good bye to you and Mr de Forest from us both and kisses for the children.

We are off in a few hours if the train from the East arrives on time.

It was a wonderful and beautiful trip we and we found Spring in working order when we arrived here. The primroses and

all the dear Spring flowers in full bloom.

The trip was comfy enough, but one must feel a little tired after such a go of sightseeing.

Rua is up to his eyes in his Yanni's letter but means out to send you and Mr ~~the~~ Forest his love and greeting.

We talk of you and our pleasant times in New York and keep our eye fondly on

the hope of seeing you in India in the Autumn.

Best wishes for the Summer outing and hearty love from

Yours affectionately

Carrie Kipling

Mrs Lockwood de Forest
7 East 10th Street
New York City
United States

NEW YORK
PAID
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N.Y.

Yokahama Japan
May 28. [1892]

Dear Beforests:

We were overjoyed to have your letter and all its dear delightful news of yourselves and the children.

It's so dreadful about the Tiffany illness and our hearts ache for them. This had been such a hard winter for Mrs Tiffany that one trembles for her with this mighty addition of a burden.

There is a mail just in and we hope it will bring us better news of them all.

We are in the midst of reasonable Summer weather and most happy and content & think spite of a change in our plans which makes

India out of the question for this winter. It's the usual Publisher and serious enough for Rud to feel he must be on the spot so we are turning our faces to America in late June and shall start to build the house at once so we may have a spot to rest ourselves in.

It's wretched but we shall like doing the house and if you are not going out we shan't so much mind.

Japan is perfect and we have been so happily placed. Some dear English folk we met on the Steamer who have a joy of a house on top of the Bluff at Yokohama with a garden not to be believed in unless seen, said we must make their house their headquarters. leave our things with them

and come and go as pleased us. They have been perfect in their kindness and its so good to come back to them and a home after a struggle with Japtea houses and European hotels.

Rud is at work on his Times letters and other things and is so well pleased with it all.

We can't write about the land its far too good to picture that way; but we have decided you must see it — its not a thing to miss.

I have been to some Chinese merchants about your material; but with no luck as yet. Its Singapore stuff in truth and they don't import so far.

Rud wrote Mr Marshall care of you good people because we never remember his number. We are so dull

The place is full of tourists and its not an easy matter to get a place on any boat at such short notice.

Its time for this to be sent, if its to get in for the mail.

Best love from Rud and me and kisses for the children.

Affectionately

Carrie Kipling.

BRATTLEB
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Mrs Lockwood deForest
Cold Spring
Near Syosset
Long Island
New York


SPRINGFIELD
11AM

Brattleboro
Vermont
Aug. 14. 192

Dear Mrs DeForest

We've been fighting with a new & raw & crumbly cottage for the past four days & have at last managed to lick it into something like shape — to leave alone for a bit. It has been an unusual job though amusing in places. I don't think Heaven made me to put up bedsteads.
However we hope — if you can take us in — to come to you for rest refreshment & repair and picking up the scattered ends of the last few months — on Friday we've a whole lot of things to get in New York and we shall encamp at our old boarding house on W. 23rd till we've got 'em we move for New York tomorrow Monday but you see for several days we shall be useless to associate with.

No man can serve down town shops & politic at Longboland at the same time. Marshall Sahib is coming to see us early in September I believe and if we do not poison him with mad Swede girls or drive him into a book he will set a new site and tell us about the house.

Oh, by the way. The reason we were mixed up with the Oriental banking corporation was because it is — or rather was, ours luck — my bank in India and in London and it happens to have a branch in Yokohama at a meeting of which I assisted in the capacity of a ~~shareholder~~ depositor.

Send us a line at 11. East 32nd. Carrie sends you her much love. She's taking an easy day today — hunting servants. Give my severe & respectful salaams to Sudh & a hug for Alfred. I gather from your letter he's better. I suppose I shall see book in town. With love to yourself & Miss Julia believe us

Yours affectionately & exhaustedly

Carrie & Rud.

Autograph of
Rudyard Kipling
enclosed

Lockwood de Forest Esq.
7. East 10th Street
New York City

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Brattleboro
Oct 1. | 92.

Dear Lock.

I've kept this letter till the last moment so as to wait for things that turned up. Here's wishing you the best of good times in the good East and the pleasantest of journeys both ways. The family out here have been in sore affliction through the illness of an aunt who came to stay with them for a year & then started to be violently ill (entire woes she rather cultivated her maladies) to the weariness & fatigue of my good mother. Now Father & Mother both are heartily sick of India & by their letter dated the 30th Aug want to come away. I quote now from the Pater's letter:—

"I would throw up the Museum and India if I could get the maximum uncovenated service pension Rs 5000 which in fact I have earned excepting in the technical details. one that though my salary has been practically Rs 1000 per mensem for the last 15 years it has been technically below it by Rs 100 a local allowance for the Museum which does not count in the Accountant Generals computations. another is that I came out in 1865 under a covenant with the Bombay Government for three years, and it will take a petition and interest to get those three years counted in to my service under the Govt of India. I ought to memorialize on these two heads but I have a morbid horror of going abegging. Neither of these things seems insuperable to me. Let the Pater only make up his mind to go & do you stir him to memorialize & petition.

I have my own notions of what to do my side. I wish to goodness tho' that there were a Conservative Government in power. Sir Henri up to get his pension question settled while you are with him.

Tell Meta. with many thanks for her note - Yes we are heeled, well heeled in the matter of supplementary doctors in case any accident should arrive.

Enclosed I send letters to Aunt Georgie and Aunt Aggie - Mrs Burns. Jones & Mrs Poynter. You'll find ambrose Mrs Poynter an a delightful man.

Send us a line to let us know which your Indian boat is and when it sails. We desire much to keep track of you. Also tell us if you have an address in the North & if so where. or shall I write the Paler duett.

With much love from Carrie & me to you both

Yours

Rud.

I have my own letters & what is the big side. Mrs G
[illegible] the last have been a [illegible] [illegible]
in power. She have up [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible]
while you are [illegible]

[illegible] but [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
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BRATTLEBORO, VT.
NOV 14
11 AM
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Mrs Lockwood de Forest
Care ~~Messrs Ewart Latham & Co.~~
Dak Bungalow
~~Bombay~~ Ahmedabad
India


AHMEDABAD
DELHI
INDIA
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POSTAL CARD ONE CENT

United States of A

THIS SIDE IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY.

Customs

Rev.

Brattleboro. Vt.
aug. 27 '92

Rudyard Kipling.

Brattleboro. Nov. 13. 92.

Dear Meta

We are filled with sorrow over the news last-post brought of Rudy's father and know how badly you will feel.

We are quite sure you will not fail to see him, to meet somewhere ~~[illegible]~~ as we know you have been in communication with him.

If his sea wanderings set him up sufficiently to give him strength to get away from India it will be well.

He made us intensely happy by saying he would come next Spring to us and Rud feels if he would the entire change, the quiet even life here would do him great good and make ~~him~~ so happy.

Our love to you ~~[illegible]~~ & we are ever yours

Wonder what you are up to. So all is well here

Carrie K.

It has given us a spur about the new house and Beatty joins in to help us get it on its legs this Winter so we may have a comfy place for him when he comes.

Julia de Forest has sent us the dearest picture of your boy, with very little on, blowing a pipe. It's perfection and I said in that same breath how you would enjoy it.

Your letter from dear dirty old London amused us immensely. It's the nicest city in the world; but it has its drawbacks and October is not its best time.

Mr Locks letter from Brindisi encourages us to feel you are getting on, you will be home directly! Mr Marshall stayed from Friday until last Monday afternoon and then left

us to vote for Charlance who could have managed quite well without his help. I quarrelled with him most of the time because of a porch with a miserable seat in it which we have no use for and I want ~~[illegible]~~ made into a covered drive way. He says it can't be done but it must for its a necessity. I tell him if he leaves the porch out of the contract ~~and~~ I build my own porch as a private enterprise. He never spent a season in the country and had to get wet and hot and cold and snowed on before he found shelter. Rud won't help because it amuses him to hear us quarrel. but I remember Mr Loch and go on insisting. We delight in Mr Marshall. He and Rud had a fine visit together.
I want Rud to go to newyork

for a few days to see the men at the Club and have a small spree. He says he will go, but I find he makes when it comes to details. Your mother has most kindly asked him to stay there and so removed his largest objection, the finding a hotel and staying in it. Mamma is having Josephine in town and coming to us for Thanksgiving. I'd just as well not to have Josephine here for any attempt at a family gathering is ~~such~~ only a sharpened reminder that its not as it was in the other years and gives the bitter pain home.

I'd glorious weather and Bud and I go forth for small walks and drives each day, always of course the house has to be visited. They are coming on and we are making a study of how to make the moss such a shade of green. Stay on the stones now they face south. I hope Bud will have seen Alfred when I write again.