

Cacutta house rent and servants 240 which is saving 180 th ^{pr} month. I propose to make my price to those whom I attend at their own houses 200. Or. and to those that come to me only 150 and I can with ease do six pictures ^{pr} month my savings will be considerable about 950 and though I may be disappointed in part of this and be able to save only six hundred I shall have no occasion to complain

The reception I have met with here considering the cloud that hangs over peoples heads has not been amiss I dined the first day I arrived with Mr. Massie the collector and yesterday with the good old doctor with a large party which I believe he invited to introduce me - he is overseer of the mint & arrival and Mr. Hughes Mr. Spaldings acquaintance is deputy and I believe they are on the same footing as Balli and him I must beg my compliments to Mr. Spalding I also beg you will put Mr. Fairley and yet more in mind that their mentioning me to any of their correspondents here would serve me very much - I shall not transgress any longer on your patience. I hope my good sir next time you here from me you will have the pleasure to learn that my hands are full of business

my compliments to Mr. Thibault and tell him my hand is a little more settled than it was on the Sunday I parted from him when he was obliged to write a note which it was not in my power to do myself

I am I Sir most sincerely yours Alex. Taylor
I hope you will excuse this intrusion on your time

Dacca the 28th Aug^r 1798

Alex. Taylor
Dacca
28 Aug. 1798

my Dear Sir

I arrived here in the evening of Thursday the 24th inst. ^{the} twelve days after I left Calcutta and excepting a slight fever which I caught in the march (in consequence of the custom of sleeping in shore) I must say I had a very pleasant excursion. - being naturally nervous the many things I met with to irritate and vex me ^{in leaving Calcutta} threw me into such a state of body and mind that I was incapable of holding a pen I could the journey I was about to perform with the utmost horror, but so different ^{are} my sensations now after having experienced the pleasure of traveling by water in this country that I intend to traverse the whole range of Bengale before I return and perhaps make my way from the upper settlements to Madras but in that I must be guided by the circumstances of the moment - such an effect had the water I mean the running stream on my health and spirits that in less than an hour after we set off I found my appetite so restored that I devoured on half a piece of fine roast beef which James Campbell sent aboard with me for my dinner I eat more than I

had done for a fortnight put it altogether. I got rid of the
swarm of Mules which I had about me in Calcutta and hired
a portagueis boy I was obliged to wait for him a couple of
hours I pay him twelve rупees a month but I have no reason
to repent my bargain he speaks both the languages extremely
well and as he understands something of seamanship
was of assistance to me in the budget he is Cook, unsworn
valet de chambre and every thing.

This City is most wonderfully populous in great deal more than
Calcutta I mean of the native it is situated on the banks of
one of the branches of the Ganges which breaks out in many
about this part of the country it is about a mile and half
long the waters eye all the length of the town being planted by
a regular row of buildings of different sizes some of which
are ancient structures of whom there are many dispersed in
different parts of the city most of whom are in ruins
but they are very large many of them having bastions
of defence ^{and} you easily see the remains of magnificence
I did expect to meet with such things here there are many
mosques and places of worship for the Moors ^{they} have a
style in their architecture which I did not expect to meet with
some of them are quite perfect - the black peoples houses are
out and regular elevated a good deal above the street or road which
is kept very clean they are obliged to sweep the ~~the~~ street before
their door every morning so that there is not of that dirt which
you see amongst the streets of Calcutta this is a great appearance
of industry ⁱⁿ these streets which run regularly from one end of the town ^{to the other} are
composed of shops work men of all descriptions houses and there is
a large square in which there is a market every afternoon and

and now my dear friend having given you as good a description
of Dacca as I can. I must say something of myself and tell you
that I do not think I shall reap any great advantage in
coming here the circumstance of the times are very much
against me and what is worse I think they persuade a India
the circle of the Company's servants is very small and they ^{are} hate
all of them had their pictures done by a man who was fortunate
enough to come in better times. The large subscriptions and
scarcity of money furnish them with arguments to oppose
those who might importune them in favour of me or any
other artist so that I have but little to hope from their
bounty. But as you know Diopore is our greatest well in
this world and hope our greatest good I am determined
never to abandon her but place her on another description
of men. There are here some officers and a good many young
men employ'd as regulators and in the manufactures. I mean
to make my terms such as will put it in any one of their power
to employ me. I confess to you I cannot help thinking in
spite of my philosophy that I have been very unbrave
but as there is much merit in cheerfully submitting to our
state whatever it is I am determined for the future that it
shall not be in the power of fortune to shake my firm
resolves. — as preliminary articles to this treaty that I am
making with myself I have taken a house at the Smithy rent
of twenty arcot rупees considerably less than our rent ^{as yet}
I shall have a great deal of running about I have hired 4 adits
bearers for which I pay ten rупees and a matranie for 2 m
here we must have water men 2 rупees in short my whole
establishment house rent included is about 60 rупees ^{per}
month in Calcutta