

H.Falconer to his Father and Mother

Cashmeer Feb.15th.1836

My dear Father and Mother,- I wrote you some time ago under cover to Sandy a long letter giving you an account of my late wanderings. I have also written several letters since to Sandy and one to Grace, all of which will have apprised you of my welfare. I have been delighted beyond measure by the accounts which Sandy has given me from London of all at Ferres. I hope dear Aunty Anne's illness has yielded. Sandy says that my father, notwithstanding his advanced years is hale and stout as ever, and that my dear mother's health has not failed. Our family has much to cause to be grateful for the continued blessing of life, spared to so many of us, when there have been so many deaths around us both in Ferres and India. I have had a letter from Charles dated the 23d. October, all well at the time...

I am far from India at present, and the only news I can give you is about myself. I am wintering in Cashmeer. The ground is at present deeply covered with snow, but in a few days we shall have all the luxuriance of spring. In fact before this snow commenced I thought our spring had set in. The weather was warm and hyacinths, jonquils and amaryllis &c., had come into flower, with the sweet scented willow. But the snow has again altered the face of everything. When the winter is over and the snow clear of the mountains I purpose crossing over into Thibet and at the end of the year returning into Hindoostan. There is little of adventure about my journey and nothing to excite fear, although in remote and semi barbarous countries. The character of our nation stands high in these countries for honour and good faith. They put the most unbounded confidence in our word, whereas among themselves they are all liars, the best disposed among them must become so from necessity to encounter the world after its own fashion, and they would meet with the fate of a sheep among a pack of wolves. A certificate of recommendation from us is prized more than silver and gold, they keep it as an heir loom in the family and expect that some day or other it will prove a fortune to them. With this high estimation of our