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character, they entertain most extravagant notions about us otherwise. They think we are unboundedly rich, that we possess the Philosopher's stone and can convert the baser metals into gold. Were I to spend a thousand pounds a day it would be nothing out of bounds for a Feringhee (European). They imagine that we have an insatiable passion for domination and extending our empire in all directions, and when a solitary European gets into a country they imagine it has passed into our hands. In consequence the more remote they are from us the greater is their terror of us. Although an European may be alone he is considered as constituting an army of himself, as they believe that by witchcraft and the demoniacal arts we can, with the wizard's nod, call into life and clothe with solid flesh and blood pictures and paper figures of which we always carry about with us a sufficient supply for a large army. To make a picture of a country is to walk off with it in your pocket, as you would put a bonnet onto a handbox. I was lately ill for about a month and severely so, and during the time I saw nobody, and used to be still and seldom even called for a servant. It was currently believed that I had a set of familiar spirits in attendance who physicked me and tended me, and that was the reason for seclusion. I do not mean to say that all classes believe in such folly, but a large portion do and in some parts of Turkestan whole nations do. Wherever we go we are at first received with suspicion. They are afraid to attempt injuring us, but they fear us and wish us to be with his satanic majesty. After a little acquaintance our good qualities gain upon them, and they find that Feringhees are not such demons as they are represented to be. But under excitement Mahomedans, particularly under religious frenzy, commit fearful acts. To take the blood of an unbeliever is a passport to heaven.

I am very happy to hear such agreeable accounts of Louisa's happiness and prosperity with her family. It must be a great treat to you to see her children growing up around you. I imagine my father will have schooled Gracey into a thorough recollection of the shorter catechism by this time. Make offer of my best affection to Louisa and Milne and assure her of my warm interest in her happiness. Grace is apt to be lazy at times and is like myself, a very bad correspondent. My father and mother must both keep her in mind of the propriety of writing me frequently with all the Forbes news. After a couple of years more I look forward to my furlough, and hope that you both and myself may be spared to have a happy meeting. I have now nearly completed half my period of service, and if I live the remaining half will soon pass by. By the end of the year I shall have saved some money. I am at little expense at present. My most affectionate regards to Grace and Aunt Anna. Remember me very kindly to Mr. John Macrae and Mrs. Macrae, to Col. Fraser and all friends, and believe me my dear Father and Mother, your affectionate son H. Falconer.