Bombay
30th Dec 1901

My dear Mr. Blake

This letter will take you my good wishes for the New Year May it bring you Health Strength & Prosperity is my sincere prayer. I am writing you a draft, it might to have gone last week, but I could not manage it - I have not been ill but so very tired, I was obliged to see the Dr, he gave me a strong tonic and I feel better. The South Easters always make me miserable, and these terribly close hot days are equally trying. Yesterday was beautifully cool. Mr. Darwin & self went to the early service, and I went again

at ½ past ten, and enjoyed both services.

Ethel is a little better, and up again, it rests with the Doctor whether she returns to the Island at the end of this month or not. Our news from Fay & her party is good. Strange by last mail I did not hear from either Dick or Edie, hope I shall get letters tomorrow.

How are you all! I hope you had a merry happy Christmas, even though it is so cold.

I am enclosing you a draft on this letter, but fear it will be the last for some time, as all the insurances and taxes come in with the New Year. You will be disgusted to hear they have just doubled the rates, instead

of 2d on the pound so is 4d and
the Tenant rate 1/- they have also
raised the value of the house £400
I protested but in vain - so then
year the taxes will be terrible - so
instead of the £8 - 6 - 8 from Jan I
shall pay £10 - 10 - a month for
the house - I have never raised my
charges, but intend charging each
room 5/- more - Mr Jeeps makes
fortunes but these boarding houses
I don't know. These municipalities
are perfect tyrants, they do nothing
for you, I wanted them to put a
sheet of iron with a pipe under
it to carry off the water at the
front gate, they promised, but
never performed - Carts come
round & take away the slops
and clean the rubbish box

that is about all they do -
Susie (Mrs. Solomon) my niece
has come down from Cresbrook
and is staying with Ella, she
has been very ill with dysentery
I can't imagine how thin
she is, her little girl is a dear
little creature, takes after the Solomons.
Ella Susie & the children joined
me a visit this afternoon, children
are noisy, especially boys -
but much love to yourself
& the girls, and good wishes
for the New Year

Believe me
Ever sincerely yours
H Rowlatt