

B. P. F.

Friday

Dear Armstrong. In many a day I have had the good intentions of writing to you but I have failed to get further with it. Hope you are very much better though from the accounts than do feel through you don't appear to be quite mended yet. Are you being sensible respecting to your resolution not to return until completely recovered? Things are going along in the same old way, nothing new or interesting except perhaps the extraordinary good times of the "all highest". Goodbye we lost very soon as the Division claimed him so I have been muddling your job for you as well as my own, but I have persisted in pursuing the holiday spirit. I must congratulate you on your engagement & wish you the really good wish that you may be as happy as Sam. I believe that it is supposed to be a secret but Sam assure you that it is known by everybody throughout the length & breadth of the land. The General was very amusing about his C. & B., did it cost a bit whether he got it or no, in fact although he was given a piece of ribbon he has not yet thought of putting it up. Stanley on the contrary was highly delighted with his D. & B. I am sorry to say that he has now gone sick & that we are not likely to see him for some time. He has undergone an operation for an abscess in the groin. He was very distressed at having wanted to assume one that it was not because he was shy of the butcher. Brinefatten, otherwise Harris, went back to his Battalion just after Christmas. He was making himself a beastly nuisance, chiefly I think because he had no work to keep him out of mischief, and so I

Packed him off with a note to the Rajah asking that he might
be hunted a bit until you return. So will you let me know
when you are coming back a day or two before you start & I will
arrange that he shall be back on time to look after you.
I suppose you haven't been able to have a hunt. I have had on
or two runs after hares but without success. Now the country
is so ploughed up that one really can't go after them. Mr. Lee
has not yet returned though he is due any day now. By the way,
don't be foolish enough to hurry back before you should.

Yours
Frederick Selous