Depôt Lines
Karachi 19th July 1913

Dear Sir Narayen

Though unknown to you I take the liberty of addressing this long letter to you, & hope to be excused for the liberty I am taking.

Though unknown personally I have long been your admirer, as besides your great learning &c I heard much of your very noble & generous character & great kindness of heart from my friends the late Drs. J. F. Gonsalves & J. A. da Gama, & I was very sorry I missed the opportunity of making your personal acquaintance when you saw Dr. Gonsalves at Byculla two years back, as I was there at the time.

In order to go to my object I find it necessary to give you my past history, & beg to apologise for taking up so much of your precious time.

Soon after I passed, I went to Poona & took up the late Dr. A. M. Baptista's practice from Dr. J. F. Gonsalves who had taken it up for a few months. I was doing well there but having been offered the post of Chief Medical Officer to the W. I. P. Railway

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with headquarters at Vasco da Gama, through the recommendation of Surgeon General Beatty who befriended me in Poona, I accepted it, & worked there for 23 years until the line was taken up by the S. M. & Madras Railways - Besides Railway work I had large consulting practice all over Goa, & was fortunate in being the Medical adviser of the Patriarch Archbishop of Goa, of some of the Governors of Goa, & of most of the highest Government Officials, & the King of Portugal conferred on me the Knight Commandership of the Military Order of Christ - On severing my connection with the Railway, I should have settled in Goa but my wife insisted on our going to Bombay on account of the English Education of our children. So we came to Bombay but happening to be soon laid up with serious illness, which confined me to bed for 3 months, & not feeling quite comfortable in Bombay, at the recommendation of a friend of mine I went & settled in Singapore, a lovely seaport town & island. I was doing well there, but ambition led me to enter into speculation during the great Rubber boom there and was very unlucky at the end losing all the savings of my life time - This would not have mattered very much, as, especially with the help of my daughter

my daughter who had just then completed her medical studies I would have been able to get a larger income, if I continued with my practice, but unfortunately the loss produced such a shock on my wife that it brought on mental derangment, & I had to take her to Bombay where under the care of my friend & College Companion Sir Balchandra she gradually recovered and I took her back after 8 months, but she hardly been in Singapore for a couple of months when a severe relapse set in, and as she was tormented with persecution delusion she would not leave me for a moment; & after trying all, & as she insisted on leaving Singapore for good, I had to give up my practice - the very bright prospect my daughter had especially as there was no lady doctor there, and come to India.

At the request of my friend the Bishop of Cochin I went to settle there, and at the very start had large practice there, & my wife was quite well soon after our arrival - Cochin is a pleasant little town, the British part of it, but owing to the very bad water supply, Elephantiasis is very prevalent there & you come across hideous forms of the disease wherever you go. Notwithstanding all the care we took with our water supply, to my great misfortune, my wife contracted the disease, within 6 months,

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and a severe form of it, and as the only treatment for its radical cure is to get out of the locality immediately, & while we were thinking where to go to, it happened that my daughter Eugenie was offered the post of House Surgeon to the Lady Dufferin Hospital here, & my wife at once decided & insisted that we should come to Karachi, and here we are for the last 6 months.

As I am now old & broken down especially with the reverses & trials I have had latterly, I am not fit for hard work now, and our hopes are centred on my daughter Eugenie, who has now to be the breadwinner of the family as my 3 sons are all young. And as we find that there is not much field for private practice for my daughter here, as besides there being 5 other lady doctors in the field, there has been opened a Lady Lawrence's Nurses Home where well trained midwives are available for Confinement cases free of charge, my daughter thinks that we must try to find a better field for her, elsewhere, and as it happens that you have just taken up the Dewanship of the large Loder State & so are in a position to help us, I have ventured to address this to you.

My daughter obtained her diploma of L.M.S. from the Straits Government Medical College at Singapore - The Curriculum and the 5 years course for the diploma followed there being similar to that of the University of Cambridge, which is a little superior to that of the University of Bombay for the L.M.S. degree. She passed her final with honours having come first in the first class and a special prize for excellence in Midwifery & Diseases of Women was awarded to her. After passing, as I was unable to send her to England as I intended, I sent her for a post-graduate Course to the Govt. Maternity Hospital at Madras under Col. Giffard the great expert in Midwifery & Diseases of Women. Colonel Giffard finding that she took very great interest in her work appointed her Honorary Assistant Surgeon and made her to assist him in all the operations, & then allowed her the very exceptional privilege of performing all the operations herself, and she availed fully of her opportunities and was able to acquire a thorough mastery in performing all Midwifery operations, and those for the Diseases of Women. She also attended a Course of Ophthalmology under Col. Elliot

under Col. Elliot the eye expert in Madras. Col. Elliot also was very kind to her & allowed her perform several cases of Cataract & other operations under his immediate superintendence. Both Cols. Gifford & Elliot, have given her excellent certificates.

Since she joined the Dufferin Hospital here she has performed successfully a great number of very difficult Operations, & the Physician in charge actually asks her to perform the more difficult Operations saying that as she has smaller hands than herself she can perform them better & easier! She has also performed a few cases of Cataract Operations, in the Hospital, successfully—

Sir, dear Sir Ranjitsinji, I can confidently assure you of her great ability in these subjects. She is 26 years of age, very patient & hard working takes the greatest interest & delight in her work. As your State is a very large one I believe there should be a great field for her & if you will kindly condescend to take her under your patronage & protection her success is assured. I therefore request you the favour of kindly letting me have your opinion on the subject, and if it be

And if it be, as I hope, favourable, I have further to trouble you to give me some information about Indore, as we know nothing of the State - Are there any Christians, and is there a Catholic Church or Chapel somewhere near? & some general information about the cost of living &c.

Confiding in your kindness I have ventured to write this long letter to you - hope you will kindly excuse me for the trouble I am giving you, for taking up so much of your precious time - And I can assure you we shall be always very grateful to you for helping us in our present circumstances -

In Conclusion, I sincerely wish you and your dear ones, all happiness & prosperity -

And beg to remain

Yours Respectfully

L. D. Dunes L. M.