

11. Letter from Vincent Smith in Gorkhpur to W. C. Peppé in Birdpore, dated 3 March 1898.

Congratulates P. on his plans but goes on to say that he is 'compelled to retire earlier than planned. Explains that he has been insulted by being turned down for the Lucknow judicial bench. Considers himself 'grossly insulted' and has intimated that he must resign. The lieutenant-Governor has expressed his regrets and expects his final word in a day or two. Says he is glad to go 'for private reasons'.

Gorakhpur
3.3.98

My dear Peppé

Your plans and inscription are admirable. Your letter mentions photographs but there are none in the parcel.

I suppose you will be in for the wedding when we can talk over the question of publication.

As to myself it is true that I am compelled to retire earlier than I had intended. The Lieut. Gov. by a D. O. letter to me dated the 23rd instant inflicted on me the public affront of cancelling my nomination to the Lucknow Bench, solely on the grounds that the Allahabad High Court wrote an angry letter objecting to my appointment. Sir John Edge is in a rage [?] with me because some months ago I followed on a question of Hindoo Laws rulings of the Privy Council which he and his colleagues chose to ignore. I have nothing to be ashamed of or retract, and I will not give way. I at once intimated to Govt that I should resign the service. Not a word of explanation was asked for, and I consider myself grossly insulted. The L. G. is full of expressions of personal regret but I have told him that these do not alter the fact that he has inflicted on me a public indignity which I will not submit to. He says that my retirement will be very inconvenient. I tell him I know it will but that the responsibility for this inconvenience does not rest with me. I have also told him that I intend to appeal to the Viceroy, and to press my resignation which he says he will oppose. I expect the L. G.'s final answer in a day or two – so far all the correspondence is D. O. I am angry at my treatment but for many private reasons glad to go. We are selling off all we can. With our kindest regards to you both. Believe me

Yours sincerely
V. C. Smith