

**8. Letter from Dr. A. Fuhrer in Camp to W. C. Peppe in Birdpore, dated 3 February 1898. Alternative reading of last paragraph.**

*Thank you to the site visitor who emailed us with this alternative which transcribes 'Jinavaravansa' as 'kalaiwalah'. Any insight into the sometimes illegible handwriting is greatly appreciated.*

Camp, the 3rd February 1898

Dear Mr. Peppe,

Please accept my [ ] thanks for your kind letter of today and that nice [ ] shirt Mrs Peppé so very kindly sent me. I hope to be at Piprawakot on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February, as Captain Bir Jung says he cannot stay any longer here, although we have spent only about 800/- out of the 2000/- sanctioned by the Nepal Durbar. At present I have commenced excavating a very old lion temple which existed at the [ ] at the home of Buddha Gautama and as the foundations are just being exposed I am afraid to leave the coolies here alone. I shall therefore be much obliged if you could kindly instruct your men to uncover the monastery which existed next to the [ ] stupa. When coming to Piprawakot, I shall try to find whether a railing ran round the stupa.

I have written to Government for sanction to use the 3000/- still available in our Budget. Thus I hope I shall be able to let you have payment for your coolies.

In one of those small square stupas, you saw to the south-east of the lake, I found a very fine bronze urn, with relics; the urn is of the same shape as those found in ancient Greek cities. I am reluctant to give you at present a complete translation of the inscription on the shrine relic casket, as I cannot yet make out the meaning of the last word of it. I shall, however, [ ] supply you soon with it.

Would you please tell that [?] kalaiwalah\* [?] from Bansi [?] to come to Sagrawah, where my camp is, as soon as he has finished your work. I told the [ ] the [ ] last [ ] to come to Rummindei in the beginning of February, and he may have gone there already, or be ready to go there.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

A. Fuhrer

\* The kalaiwalas belong to the time when brass and copper ruled the kitchen, before steel and aluminum captured our hearts. The kalaiwala ensured that the holes in your utensils, caused by constant scrubbing over the years, were patched with the special compound they brought with them and literally welded on. Most households had their regular workmen who made a visit to the neighbourhood on a rotation basis, a bit like knife grinders do. All they needed was a small corner of the building compound to temporarily set up their mini-furnace. But with brass and copper utensils becoming almost extinct, they are today rarely seen and the few who still exist, move from place to place with a handcart.