

May 17<sup>th</sup> 1891

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My dear Pippa.

Many thanks for your letter which arrived here safely on Friday with a letter from Naomi. Apparently Cousin Ethel & Sydney are going to London on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June where they will stay for a fortnight. They are then going on ~~to~~ to Rothiemur-chus to Kitty's cottage. Naomi is going to stay at the convent where she goes every day for classes and on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August Marion & Maggie are going to take her up North with them.

On Friday 17 of us trooped off to Mr Loman's concert. As usual two females sang during the intervals; the first was a ~~girl~~ "Hochopernsängerin" or something of the kind & I am sorry for the Hochopern. The second was a Miss Kathleen Grant, not, as one would expect a young & beautiful person but a hideous old crow. What was my surprise to see accompanying her whom do you think? Cousin Connie Whalley. She spoke to me afterwards as we were going out & Mildred was there too. Wasn't it surprising?

Mr Loman played very well especially a fascinating Sonata by Beethoven. Yesterday Miss Royce Lili Siemers (a new German girl) & I went to London. First we went to the tailors for Lili's habit then we went to Bedford's in Regent Street for some needlework. The reason I went to London was chiefly to get a present for Therese Bauer as it is her birthday next Tuesday week. However I did not succeed in getting ~~exactly~~ what I want and I am going to ask Dorothy to get it. I want a small framed etching or something like that which I am sure could be got at that shop

in Oxford Street close to Bumpus. I shall tell her on Tuesday but as I daresay she will forget could you keep her up to the mark? We next went to an Orated Bread Shop & had some food. We then bought a Vicar of Wakefield with illustrations like mine only not so nicely bound, also for Therie from Violet Croall. Lili got a small terracotta figure; a sort of imitation of Mama's Yanagra young lady. We then went to the Academy. I thought the Doctor was the best decidedly. I thought the Perseus & Andromeda extremely nice. Perseus was

not on Pegasus nor did he shoot  
the animal with an arrow.

However these are really mis-  
nor details I suppose from a  
painter's point of view. I think  
the Return of Persephone is  
nicer. As I was walking round  
I came to a full length por-  
trait of a young man. I said  
to Miss Boyce "He's not beau-  
tiful, is he?" & we both agreed  
that he was not. I then looked  
casually in the catalogue to  
see who it was when lo a  
behold! I saw written in front  
of the number. "The Earl of Winchelsea  
& Nottingham"! I hadn't

recognised him in the least. He looked perfectly strong; like a farmer; and though I know he is yet it must be owned he doesn't look it in real life. I thought Pymalion & Galatea not bad. There were ~~several~~ terrific pictures; in one of them the colours were as follows: 2 people in a green ~~green~~ field with large scarlet poppies; the young lady in a bright purple dress with red hair; the young gent in a blue dress. I would rather be blind I think than be the person who painted that

picture. Signorina told me to tell <sup>you</sup> that she is going to sew your letter with the other letters which produce the tree you know of.

Don't you think this letter is splendid? The weather here is very showery. I have begun Latin & have just mastered the 1<sup>st</sup> Declension. Did Rose tell you that I met her at Gloucester Road? The building is getting on beautifully. M<sup>rs</sup> Lou's rest is pretty well; Berthe ~~has~~ is recovering from a bad cold & Miss Boyce is always more or less on the sick list. She is very agreeable.

I have quite forgotten to tell you something  
most important. If Mama approves (I  
fear she will) I am to go up for the  
Royal Academy of Music Junior Exam.  
next year. You have to pass a prelim-  
inary exam in the Elements of Music  
that is intervals scales etc. Then you  
have to know 3 pieces & 3 studies as  
well as reading by sight. Wigs! wigs!  
As the pieces are only published in  
October, <sup>& the exam is in February</sup> it does not leave much time.  
A friend called Ethelwyn Birt has  
introduced the demoniacal idea &  
Miss Boyce has snatched at it  
of course. I must now bid Goodbye

Please give my love to Willy, Ruth  
& Rose  
your loving

Estel Ch. I am  
reading l'Etatie  
Mystique with M.S.  
It is about the  
religion of Italy  
very nice.

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