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Allahabad

23rd April 1890

My dear Pippa

Last week has been another blank as usual. There was a weak attempt at entertainment in the shape of a café chantant, which means sitting on the lawn outside the club and joining in the chorus of comic songs to the accompaniment of a cracked

piano and a donkey -

Theodore came here for a day, but I didn't see him.

Yesterday I discovered a promising young family of rats in my chest of drawers - luckily there was nothing in that drawer but paper.

I have at last discovered a pony that will suit. It is ^{rather} ~~very~~ small and black, not yet bought but I think I shall shortly. I have also

got to get a trap (called a tum-tum) - some people think that should it come &c harness &c -

Tell Elinor I have not forgotten her but I must wait till there is something to say. Also I got a lovely letter from Pernel relating the alarm of fire at Whitestaunton and the squire going off to the clump in dress clothes - I can imagine

the scene.

Love to everybody

Goodbye
yr loving brother
Ralph