

Hope Lennox

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
East Cliff, Bournemouth

April 18<sup>th</sup> 1881

Dear Pippa

Many happy re-  
turns of the day. When we first  
came Aunt Lell went to a  
place called the Roost and  
Ida and I went to the Bath  
Hotel which is near the sea. In  
the evening I went on the  
shore a little. On Wednesday

I got a spade and a pail and had a pony ride. It was a grey pony and a boy led and it walked ~~heavily~~ all the time for an hour. Just as I was coming <sup>back</sup> I saw a man with performing birds. I did not see much then but I saw it afterwards. There was a long sort of a table and at one end there was a cage with a lot of birds in it. They were not English. There was a little sort of see-saw about the right size for them and a bird got at each end and

~~then~~ another one got in the middle and rushed up and down to make it see-saw. Then there was a ladder like this  and a bird rushed wildly up and down. Then he was told to go in but he wouldn't. "Go in or you'll get no dinner." Still he wouldn't go in. "Very well I'll fetch the sergeant." He wouldn't. Then the man said to the birds in the cage who were chirruping "Oh laughing there." Then he took up a bird which was the sergeant and told it to send it in. It toddled after the bird who rushed in. There was a sort of hansom cab and the man took a bird <sup>and</sup> put on a cloak

and hat and put it in the driver's seat and he took another and told it to put its head in to a hole instead of shafts.

The bird pulled it about and then upset it. Now the last thing - The man got a clockwork engine and two carriages with doors that opened. Then he got a little signal that lowered & raised. He wound up the train and put a little piece of wood under the wheel so that it shouldn't go on. And a lot of birds got into the carriages and the doors were shut. The carriages were 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class. When the doors were shut, out came another bird and wanted to get in but the man said No room for 3<sup>rd</sup> class.

so the bird had to go back in-  
to the cage. Then the man  
took out two other birds and  
one went to the signal and  
the other to the piece of wood.  
They stood still a little time  
when the man said "Take  
down the signal" and the  
bird took it down. Then he  
said to the other bird "Pull  
away the brake" and it  
seized the piece of wood in  
its mouth and pulled it a-  
way. The train went on and  
came with a bang against  
the cage. There was a Punch  
and Judy show too and a  
little white Toby. While I

was watching the Punch I suddenly discovered that I hadn't got my pail. I had brought it out with me. I rushed off to the sea but I couldn't find it. I came back sorrowfully when all of a sudden what should I see but my pail calmly lying in a boat where I had been sitting.

I forgot to tell you that I had and I had to go away from Bath Hotel to a <sup>lodging</sup> house called Hope Lennox. There are two Persian cats here but they are not very big yet  
Goodbye  
your loving

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RALPH