

4884

69, LANCASTER GATE, W.

Friday Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> 1892

My dearest Pippa, Many thanks  
for your letter. Dad first  
I must wish you a Merry  
Christmas & a Happy New  
Year! This done we will  
proceed to business. Your let-  
ter arrived most opportune-  
ly on the night of the little  
concert. The performance  
was over. Margaret had  
made the most awful mess  
of her piece (piano) & I did  
not quite know how to begin

a lively conversation so as to cheer her up. Your letter paved the way splendidly, ~~had~~ quite the desired effect. I have just written to Ralph like a good child, ~~to~~ ~~the~~ as I am all alone in the house except for the two babies. The rest of the family has gone to see Lytton & Dorothy off: as I could not brook the idea I remained at home. Lytton has got a very bad cold which is recovering & Dorothy's is even worse notwithstanding hot baths, gruel etc., etc. ~~ad lib.~~

Poor things how I pity them! On Tuesday evening Aunt Sell came to dinner; she was rather tired but still she took Dorothy (who was also dying) to the Alma Tadema's at home. Apparently it was great fun; the next day Mamma & I met Aunt S. at Beadle's at she told us that D. had colloqued the whole time with 2 young men who turned out to be Trevor Rolles and M<sup>r</sup> Peel, son of the Speaker elder brother of Oliver's fag-master & a rising orator. Trevor is now a reformed character; he lives somewhere near Swindon

I think, and farms his land with  
his own hands, never comes up  
to London & has not been to a ball  
for centuries. I am telling <sup>you</sup> these  
details as I am sure they  
will interest <sup>(keeping the party)</sup> you, though I don't  
see anything specially thrilling  
in them. Aunt Sell presented  
Dorothy with 12 pairs of gloves  
from White's - 8 morning & 4  
evening. Wasn't it noble?

The Gay Tents have come from  
Bumpus; they are most beauti-  
ful mine is blue & Oliver's  
is brown; one also arrived  
for Cecily in white with little  
red & gold flowers at the corners.  
For my other present Mamma  
has got me a brush with an  
imitation ivory brush you know

the kind I mean.

Dec 24<sup>th</sup>

I continue the letter to-day ;  
 in a few minutes we are going  
 to have our presents. I feel  
 rather depressed as there are  
 so few of the family present.  
 Aunt Henrie, Aunt Ethel &  
 Susan are coming to dinner  
 and perhaps Miss Loveston &  
 Signorina. Last night a bill  
 amounting to £2-1-0 came for  
 you from Lewis & Alenby for  
 a hat & a renovated hat.  
 I do not enclose it. I will put  
 all such things in the drawer  
 of your writing table; if you

require it otherwise please  
write. I am afraid my language  
is rather weird but as I am  
struggling with cold you must  
please excuse. I feel that  
there are a thousand things  
more to say but I must now

say

Goodbye.

Yr loving

Pernie