

4839

The Croft

Oct. 31st 1893

My dearest Pippa

I have promised Lily I would write to you and ~~ask~~^{tell} you that she wants a situation in Edinburgh as young ladies' maid or second maid where two are kept. She says she can sew well and do plain dressmaking but not dress hair, but is anxious to take lessons in this art. I thought if you told the Croalls about her they might know of some one wanting such a domestic; I think she would make an excellent maid. We have decided to go on Friday. It is so cold and

there is such a fuss about coals,
is one reason that eggs me on. I
heard today from Grandma, she is
better but still very tottery and has
been four days in bed, two of which
Mama was with her. I heard from
Jim that she had overwalked her-
self and thought she was paralyzed,
but Dr. Macrae is sure there is no
sign of this. [There is such a gale
blowing I feel quite nervous!] Edith
came today, I thought she was
rather cool in manner; she said
she thinks Jaeh is to buy the furni-
ture of this house after all! The
following conversation took place -
Mrs. R. - Oh, I am glad of that, it will
be far the best plan for both parties.

Mrs. G. Of course it is much the best
for those people - If they did not sell it
to Jaeh it would ~~too~~ have to be sent
away somewhere by train to be ware-
housed, as of course there is nowhere
here at all where it could be put -
(Mrs. R. in petto - oh indeed!) and
that would cost them sums of money.

Mrs. R. I am sure it must also be to
Jaeh's advantage, as of course he
would not be able to furnish a house
like this under a good big sum.

Mrs. G. Oh well as far as that goes, we
have heaps of furniture we could
put in; notwithstanding the quantity
that has been removed from the
House there is still a great deal too
much there.

Mrs. R. But surely not enough to
furnish the Croft and leave sufficient

for the Doune?

Mrs. G. Oh no! not entirely. But we should not have to buy so very much extra.

Mrs. R. (Impetto Bosh!) And then you will have to pay ^{the} carriage for whatever you do buy.

Mrs. G. No, there are plenty of charring shops in London that deliver their goods carriage paid - For instance Octymane. And then we have our own carts - That man of course has no carts.

Mrs. R. Well even if you don't buy the furniture I can't think why it should n't be left in the house for the winter. What ~~could~~ good can it do Jack to pitch it into the road?

Mrs. G. Why my dear, we want to put our own furniture in. Besides of course "pitching it into the road" is only a *façon de parler*. Of course it

wouldn't be left there, it would be taken away somewhere -

Mrs. R. (in petto - got a rise) But surely you can't furnish this place in the dead of winter?

Mrs. G. Yes we can - We should set about it immediately - Jack is going to town next month to see his mother, and will also choose furniture. We hope to let the Croft in April for the spring fishing.

Mrs. R. Oh, I see!

I thought she seemed rather unconcerned to hear the of Granvie's illness and asked if she wasn't over 80. I don't know whether she was disappointed to hear that she is only 74. Under the circumstances it seems rather a pity that Dell Grant should have been written to, but I suppose it was unavoidable. Jim says also

that Aunt Polly still looks very ill
and has got alarmingly thin. Isn't
it dreadful? Ruth is at Lancaster
Gate and is to undergo an operation
on Monday next. I can't quite
make out if they are anxious
about her or not. I feel quite
sure I shall go away without
paying some most important
debt of honour. Edith is giving
a tea party tomorrow at the library
to all the old women on the place.
She has arranged with Mrs. Charlie
Macdonald to make soup all the
winter for the poor house - and
they are to have a regular extra
allowance of coals there also, from
her. So I think that ought to

counterbalance the penny bottles of
sour milk! Eneas is much out of
favour, Donald Grant has been
abusing him. I hope Miss Douglas's
nose will drop off if she opens this
letter. All hallow e'en went off with
great éclat and the most appalling
scuries of merriment from all the
children and servants, especially
when the Dallochzie children,
dressed up like quiz and father
& masses were dragged by Lily and
George, blushing into the kitchen.
I hope you didn't freeze with cold
on your journey - The three o'clock
train is cut off on Wednesday! So
we shall have to pass 4½ hours at

Perth; playing draughts, bégiznie,
go-bang, halmar and fox and geese,
I suppose in the waiting room.
I must now stop. Shall we this
winter provide ourselves with gen-
tlemanly attire and go to the pits
of all the theatres with your gentlemen
friends? I long to do it. Farewell.
Andrew has done nothing but de-
mour to ~~write~~ be allowed to write
you a letter, ever since you left.

Always your loving

Elmer.