

The Croft of  
Rothiemurcell  
H.B.

4887

5<sup>th</sup> September 1893

My dear Pippa,  
Many thanks for the  
important news on the + question. Now  
that you mention it I believe you are  
right & that it does refer to the  
leading note. Highly clever of you to  
discover it.

We have just come back from an  
expedition through the Larig Ghruamach  
Pass. We were driven (on Saturday) as  
far as Auldme & were met at Derry  
Lodge on the other side in Braemar. We

walked about 14 miles from Alder to  
Derry. It is most awfully rough in  
some parts. The track is quite lost &  
you have to leap & bound over immense  
boulders. However it is quite worth  
while for it is most beautiful all  
the way. It reminded me very much  
of ~~God~~ Ennach; the hills on each side  
sweep down in just the same way.  
About half way through we met a man  
and a guide coming through from  
Braemar; we asked them how far it  
was to Derry & they said 12 miles &  
that it was the roughest part of the  
road. As it turned out we had already

passed by far the worst bit & of  
course it was not nearly 12 miles on.  
Cairn Toul is the most splendid hill  
better than anything one sees from  
this side; it comes about  $\frac{1}{2}$  way  
through & we saw some snow up  
in one of the corries. The weather was  
splendid; very cool & grey with just  
a very little wind at our backs.  
It was as clear as possible & we  
saw everything to perfection. I collected  
a few oddities we picked up on the  
road though I fear they are not very  
rare. The burns one meets are, first  
the All na Sairig which is an angel. The

bit of the path went along it ~~fast~~  
to its source and was most charming.  
Everything was so extraordinarily green  
there were quantities of moss & wild  
geranium (unfortunately not in flower)  
and ~~noticed~~ some very large hare  
bells. However that of course was pretty  
low down; higher up there were sorts  
of moraines, streams of large loose stones  
to be got over & that was very unpleasant.  
It had poured with rain the day  
before so it was naturally rather wet  
& the burns fuller than usual. After  
the Alt se Sarig we comes to the Dee &  
then to the Ruibeg, a little ~~burn~~ which  
runs into the Dee. We started from  
Auldme at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 & got to Derry  
Lodge at about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 7 so you see it

took us some time. We had a magnificent carriage & pair to meet us at Denny Lodge & at about 9 o'clock we arrived at our hotel, the Savercauld Arms, in Castleton of Braemar. Our bag of clothes which we sent on 2 days before had not arrived so we had to exist on borrowed nightgowns, curling tongs & razors. Braemar is not a patch on Rothiemurhus; it is much higher up, for one thing & consequently not so cultivated. The hills are not really such a good shape as ours though they are very big. It all belongs to the Duke of Devon & is kept in the most spick & span condition. The cottages are sights to behold. I did not see one broken down fence

all the time we were there. The place was  
very full, as their games are this  
week & the Duke & Daughters of York are  
expected to be there. On Monday at  
8 o'clock we were driven to a place  
called Byrack Shieling. We there disem-  
barked & set off to walk down Glen  
Tilt as far as Forest Lodge there  
to be met by a trap & to be driven  
to Blair Athole. The reason of these  
complications is that there is no rail-  
way at Caelteton of Melacmar & so it  
is rather difficult to get away. Our  
walk yesterday was only 10 miles but  
it was I think more tiring than the  
day because it was a piping hot  
day & of course there was no shelter

any kind in the way of trees. On  
the way we met a German governess  
who was walking through all alone &  
at Forest Lodge we gave her a lift  
in our machine. Do you not think  
we have been very energetic? Eliza-  
beth you are going on a visit today to Watson  
one of the Assam directors who has a  
house at Abernethy in Perthshire.  
I shall therefore be quite alone for a few  
days. Aunt Sell has gone to St Andrews  
& the Sheriff and Co., are going to Inver  
drum. The children & I are going to  
the Abernethy games on Thursday. There  
is a penny reading here tomorrow. The  
other day there was an exhibition  
of wood-carving which was most

excellent. If mamma would feel inclined to encourage the people I ~~like~~ might give an order for her to Miss Martineau. Everyone here asks after her when they see me. I hope all is well. Will you give this message to Ellen; it is highly important. I want her to shorten my black serge skirt so as to make it a good walking length because my present skirt is much too long; if she would do this as soon as possible & send it off she would greatly oblige

Yrs affly

Pernel