

whether it gives him permission to go in as many times as he likes, or only once. I have got to write and ask you to send written leave to go to the Teages', as I shall not be able to go another time unless I have written leave. On Wednesday, Ben and I and thirteen other chaps went out in the *Syren*, that small schooner yacht you saw, and we went round the point into Torbay, where we were becalmed, and so, after we had been on shore, and had a bathe, and gone on board again, we had to be towed into Torquay by one of the boats, when we went ashore, leaving the yacht at anchor, and came back here by train. The *Syren* came round the next day, as she got a breeze. Ben's finger is getting on pretty well, only he has to take great care and not knock it, because if he did it would begin to bleed again. There is a German frigate come into the harbour, with a lot of German cadets on board. Their captain came on board yesterday. He had an awful jolly uniform, with a lot of medals and crosses on his breast.—Your loving son,

EDWARD A. BAIRD.

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XVI.

H.M.S. *Britannia*.

8th July 1884.

MY DEAR MOTHER,—I am sorry I have not written before, but our examination in essay came off yesterday, and I had to work up my essay every spare minute of my time. I hope the young