

XIV.

*H.M.S. Britannia.**May 1884.*

MY DEAR MOTHER,—Will you ask Helena to take those two cole-tits' eggs if she has not taken them already? Ask her if she minds taking two instead of one. I want to know whether you can send me my rabbit-net box full of cotton-wool, or at all events as much as you can spare in it, as I have got a whole lot of different kinds of eggs this term, with nowhere to keep them. I will send you a list of all I have got :—4 rooks', 2 water-ousels', 2 linnets', 2 long-tailed tits', 2 missel-thrushes', 2 chiff-chaffs', 4 jackdaws' besides a few more which I cannot think of just now. That sextant did all right, and I have used it twice already. The Queen's Birthday is on the 24th of this month, and then I intend, if nothing prevents me, to go to Start Point to get some sea-gulls' eggs. I hope "Jumbo" and his mother are all right. Will you tell me when his mother has some more young ones, as she is going to have some soon? Ask Helena whether her little nest in the Shepherd's Hill Wood has had eggs in yet?—Your loving son,

EDWARD A. BAIRD.

P.S.—I went to Communion service last Sunday.

XV.

*H.M.S. Britannia.**5th May 1884.*

MY DEAR MOTHER,—Ben told me to thank you very much for that ticket, and he wants to know