

## V.

H.M.S. *Britannia*.

1st Dec. 1883.

MY DEAR MOTHER,—I was clobbered out of bounds last week, and I was brought up before the skipper, who gave me six cuts over my behind, besides stopping my pocket-money for two weeks. There were several other fellows clobbered with me, and we were all taken down into the cockpit, where we were lashed over a chest. There were three corporals and three canes to lick nine of us. It did not hurt much, but if we are brought up many more times before the skipper I am afraid that it will count rather against us in the end, although I don't think this alone will make much difference. I am sorry I did not write last Sunday, but my pocket-money being stopped I could not get a stamp. I have done my seamanship exam., and I have also done my essay. Are there any rats and rabbits at home now? I am working up hard for the exams. I hope nothing is wrong with any of the ferrets now, as I shall want to begin the day after I get home. Are Judy and Nelly all right? —Your loving son,

EDWARD A. BAIRD.

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## VI.

H.M.S. *Britannia*.

1883.

MY DEAR MOTHER,—Captain Brent, the Staff Commander, who teaches us all about charts and sextants, says that Elliot in the Strand is a very