

XI.

H.M.S. *Britannia*.*April 1884.*

MY DEAR MOTHER, I never found those stamps again after you sent them to me. The sports come off on Wednesday this week, and I shall be confirmed next Sunday. I have been thinking a good deal about my Confirmation lately, and we go up to Mr Aldons every evening after the other chaps have turned in, for about half an hour or so. It will be an awful joke having my ferret here next term. I am so glad you are better now, and I hope you will keep all right. Will you ask father the name of the master of the stag-hounds which I am going to hunt with next holidays? Ask Kitty if Jumbo is at all fierce now, or whether he is as tame as I left him. I am going to bring Jumbo here, as I want to breed his old mother again. The term has passed much quicker than I expected, as we have plenty to do now. There are hundreds of rats about here, so I expect I shall have plenty of fun with them next term. The beagles stopped going out last Wednesday, but yesterday we had a paper-chase. I have got leave from one of the farmers about here named Farmer Wyatt to go on his grounds, and he says he has got lots of rats in some parts of them. Please will you send me two pieces of ribbon about six inches long and one inch broad, as we each have to have a colour in the sports, and these are mine. Please send them by Wednesday morning if you can, as I shall want them during the day. There is only a week more on Wednesday. I will come by the 7.13 as usual.—
Your loving son,
E. A. BAIRD.