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M^r. Robert R. Corbould.

Sturt Street.

BALLARAT.

Australia.

Edward Henry Corbould.



Thursday
31st October
1889.

When I found out the mistake, of course I thanked the right man: but in like manner as Lord Bury was unable to understand what it was all about - so your brother will be at a loss to discover by what Magic, a long box of weapons could have got changed into a square one, & containing a Glass shade with 5 stuffed Partridges and 12 Photographs of Ballarat. It must have been a rare totting sea that could bring about such a wonderful change of materials - and might in a measure account for the inundations in Japan & America where - by so many thousands of unsuspecting & above all their lives. - and also in a small degree for the milk in the Cocoa nuts. Pelham lost no time in returning thanks to your brother for the Partridges & Photographs. I fancy his hair will stiffen a few - if he gets the letter before he leaves the Flora Bell District. You once wrote to give the faintest hint that you intended sending a box, so the "Box from Australia" we put down to your brother. Please understand that I thank you as warmly as your brother has been thanked. I trust you & your wife & family are in the best of health. & you & other improving greatly. Faithfully yours
Mr: Robert R. Cobbold. Edward Henry Cobbold.

7 Trebovir Road. Earl's Court. LONDON.

Dear Mr. Cobbold. Oct: 3rd / 884.

Lord Bury (who was one of my Pupils when I lived at Rutland Gate, Knightsbridge) called upon me in my Studio, & Fred & Clara being upon the table, he asked whether he might try his hand at it - & he did such ample justice to it & the ale, as you would scarcely expect a Nobleman to do, who had journeyed no further - than from the Tower of London. When he had finished, I said "I have not such a thing as a cigar to offer your Lordship!" to which he answered "Who wants a cigar - when he can get hold of a pipe?" In those days Clay pipes were all sufficient - & the one he took from the mantel-piece was by no means fresh. Well! his Lordship smoked - & afterward took his departure; but he had not been gone more than 20 minutes, when a boy arrived from the Tobacconist's shop with a large box of cigars - with he delivered to me of my servants - saying "It is paid for!" & away he went. The box was brought to me, and when I opened it - I beheld some wonderful cigars. Of course, as Ingratitude is a hateful virtue, I at once sent a note to Lord Bury of the Tower saying "The next time you come, I will give you a pipe - & you won't be able to find any defects!"

Of course I saw clearly enough - that he had called in at the nearest Tobaccoists, & had selected and forwarded at once - that it had come to my hand, but it seems that he could not make the head or tail of my note "When next you come, I will give you one of your own - and you won't be able to find any defect." He told me he had frequently read it over - but could not understand it, unless perhaps that some thing was defective with my brain. When he did come - I told him I alluded to the box of Cigars which he sent me - but he assured me that he had done no such thing, - and it was worth before I discovered who it was that sent them, an old friend of mine Capt. Fred. G. Wilson of the 52nd. So you see sometimes - the thanks are given to the wrong person. The Square Box which was brought to my house yesterday and which the Carrier stated had come from Australia, Paid![!] I concluded was sent by your brother William Henry - as he had written to say a box of Native weapons was on its way for Pelham Stewart Corbould & would be so directed. Pelham had seen the box just as he was leaving in the morning to go to St. Pauli, De hood - & made me promise not to open it till he got back - it being a half holiday. The following is a copy of your brother's letter, at least it is an extract from it, and says

Dear Uncle Your welcome letter dated 26th May arrived here last Thursday. A box containing Native weapons (addressed to Pelham Corbould Esq) was forwarded to our agent at Port Darwin about four weeks ago, and I trust is on its way to England ere this. I told the agent to pay the freight at his end, so I hope you will not be charged. I would have liked to send Pelham a better collection, but the Misses did not turn up at the right time. The few weapons with, I hope, give him an idea what kind are used by the Blacks in this part of the world. I have seen Misses sending spears through $\frac{1}{2}$ inch boards at 70 yards!
Pelham made the remark "The weapons must be very short - or else take to pieces like a fishing rod" but when the box was opened & some of the packing removed - & a glass shade appeared - he said, I suppose as Mr Corbould said "The Misses did not turn up in time" - perhaps he could not get the weapons at all, but got the head of some Indian Chief - which he has put carefully under a glass shade. Well! this shade when we got it clear from the dried grass & G. spoke proved to be 5 Part. Her 1 stuffed. & 12 views of Ballarat - 1st view - Pelham carried into the Drangy room to his Mama & I did not see them at all till long after. I had posted your letter. Your brother has had thanks for this Square box - with evidently has come from you. It's a case of Bury & Wilson over again.