

Pitau, 20 March 1857

Dr George & Anna

Is Elias's Sad Story;

As you know, that when the long summer days come, and it gets so close in the town, we all go away to a beautiful cottage Papa has in the country. Oh, I used to be so happy there, climbing the hills, and fishing in the little stream that runs close by the house; but it always makes me sad to go there now, for I think of dear little Lina lying in her cold grave, & that it's all my fault. You never saw Lina, but she was very pretty & gentle, and I loved her better than any of my sisters, for we were twins. Every autumn, before we left the cottage, to come back and be shut up here, all winter, Papa used to let us have a nice Nutting party; but we never have it now since Lina's death. It is just two years since we had the last. I remember it so well, my sisters, Brathery, and myself were so happy, that we could not sleep in the morning, and were up and dressed long before the usual time, and tho't Papa and Maria would never come to breakfast. After breakfast, the

Baskets were packed for our Picnic, and we set off; we had 6 miles to drive before we got to the place where the Nuts were the finest. There were a great many of us; for my Cousins were all with us, and we were all wondering who would gather the most and get the finest ones.

After we got to the Glen, Papa & Mama left us, to call on some friends, who lived near. But before they went away, they made us promise that we would not climb any of the Rocks, or go where there was any danger of hurting ourselves, and they told the servants not to let us wander out of their sight. For some time we kept all together, and had a great deal of fun; but at last Lima and I found we had wandered away from the others, and we saw a Tree loaded with pretty Nuts, but the trunk was so surrounded with Brambles that we could not get near it. By climbing a Rock, however, close to which it grew, some of the Lops Branches would be within reach of our arms. We hesitated for a long time, for we remembered our promise to our Parents, but they looked so tempting that we could not resist. We went and gazed all round to see if any of the rest were near us,

but they were all a great way off, & so
Bussy themselves, that there was no fear of
their observing us, or knowing any thing
about it. Oh, if I had, then remembred
that God saw us, dear little Lina might
have been lying, & my leg not broken,
we easily climbed the side of the Rack,
but Lina was so nervous & frightened in
case any of the servants would come seek-
ing us, that we had scarcely got up be-
fore she begg'd me to come down again,
but I said, Oh, no, Lina, see what beautiful
nuts; it would be a pity to leave them
we will just gather these within our reach
and then we will go down, I am sure
none of the others will have got such
fine ones. after a while Lina said again
Oh, Willie; I am so unhappy, we have
such a good papa & Mama, 'tis very wrong
for us to disobey them. Do come! Well!
I said, we'll just pull this other bunch
and then we'll go; but while I was sug-
ging at, I heard one of the servants
cry, Miss Lina! Master Willie! where
are you? Oh, dear, dear! I shall never
forget what follow'd. Lina, my own
dear Lina, was just at the edge of the
Rack; she started up, lost her balance,
and fell over, crying, Oh, Papa, Mama!
I felt quite wild with terror, & rushed

down the side in such a hurry, that my
feet slipped on some damp grass, and
I fell over also, and recollecting nothing
further, till I found myself lying on my
own little bed at home!

(remembering next week)

Dr George I was quite amused with
your graphic account of the Bumping
frolic you had with Mr Baines & young
folks, on the ice; you must take good
care when at this sport not to be too
rough, in case you hurt either them
or yourself. Your last letter seems
to be pretty well written, but how
came it to be so bedaubed with ink,
that I can scarcely read it? It occurs
to me that, perhaps, W B may have done
it, or made you to do it while playing.
If so, you know, I hope what is your
Duty, - be not angry, but forgive
him, he is only half your age and
knows no better. But if you did it
yourself, you must be more careful
in future, and in the hopes that you
will be so forgiving, you, too,

Grandpa

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