

L. 1/P. 19

Dunrobin
April 29th 1905



The New Girl
+ The Old Paragon

Dear Miss Dollie

Since last writing

I have been up to all sorts of games, including Bush Fires, at which you want to be there to fully appreciate; we had a large ^{one} Saturday at Dunrobin, about 9 miles from the house on the other side of Easterton; I had a ride of about 15 miles, full pelt to reach it, from where I happened to be, & worked away at it with about 150 others until after nine at night; then rode into Easterton to get some things & booked a bed at

the Pub, as a ² party of 6 ^{of us} were
starting on a canoeing trip down
the Glendy next morning, leaving
Easterton at about 10 h.m. I had
a 5 mile ride home, got some more
things together, & had a bath as I
was pretty black after the fire, &
then sat down pretty ~~hungry~~
hungry to an 11.30 h.m. dinner, (had
lunched at 12 h.m.) got on my horse
again & started back for Easterton,
but had to let my poor old moke,
go, & walk the last mile, as ~~he~~ she
was fairly knocked up, having
been on the go all day; I finally
reached Easterton sometime after
1 a.m., & had to knock up the
local tobacconist, much to his dis-
quiet, after which I got into the
Pub & by a door they had arranged
to leave unlocked, & had only got
properly to sleep when I was
awakened at 4 a.m. to start for
Dartmoor, ~~where~~ where our canvas

had been sent by waggon a couple of days before, we reached Dartmoor ~~at~~ about 4 p. m. after a drive of 50 miles, for the most part through heavy sand & scrub, & had a 5 mile walk ~~at~~ with the waggon through the scrub to the river (Glendyff) ~~where~~ where we launched our canoes, we were away a month, except two days, & had a glorious time, fly fishing, for perch (native! a much better fish than the English) bottom bait fishing for bream, bathing, & all kinds of larks, we had two tents, but the last week one caught fire & was burnt to atoms, with a ~~no~~ good many of our clothes, I had to put a half yard patch in one pair of pants with tent remnants sewn with a packing needle & waterproof fishing line; they looked grand, from Dartmoor to the sea is about a 100 miles

& we ~~dog~~ dodged up & down
river as we felt inclined,
at the mouth there is a small
township called Nelson consisting
of a Pub, Post Office & two or 3 houses.
we used to travel about 7 miles
an hour when loaded up, my
canoe was called the "Skelpie"
& was a grand little boat.

Two of the fellows travelled 75
miles one day in the lightest &
fastest canoes empty, we could
easily leave a small steamer
behind that was on the lower
part of the river, to take
picnic parties up etc. the best
fun was bathing out of the canoes
two of us would stand up in one & pad-
dle until we were capsized head first,
the canoes weighed from 45 lbs to 112 lbs.
so they were light paddling & could
stow away a lot of cargo considering
their size, we paddled about 500 miles, without
counting dodged about at fixed camps, hoping
to hear soon
yrs. sincerely
Matthew