

In spite of tradition & saw
beller, Donkeys do sometimes
die - and a Donkey's head
with ~~modelled~~ ^{covered with} a real
donkey's hide might surely
have been procured, instead
of that feeble attempt at
imitation. When he talks
about being "marvellous
having" about the face,
the effect was silly in
the extreme.

THE GLADE,
BRANCH HILL,
HAMPSTEAD.

January 20. 1890.

My dear Howse.

I send you herewith
a copy of your Essays of Elia
(Alas! I wish they were mine)
the more you come to relish
and prize, the happier for you,
for your whole taste in literature
well, I went to see the
Mindermanns Nights Dream, &
must admit it was more
interesting than I had hoped.
Its defects are indeed
terrible, the act. reading -

a Bottom without the slightest
sense of the humor, or even
of the meaning, of his part,
is a phenomenon indeed. When
I recollected Harley - then
after "sporting" his own "piece"
in that first scene, ^{he added}
with superb contempt "how
have the rest of the actors!"
I could have leaned back in
the Box and cried, "when
Mr. Wier let it go without
any ^{point} ~~point~~ or meaning at all!"

nor was any compensation afforded
by the grossly overdone
buffoonery of the "Pyramus &
Thisbe" "Play at the end."
What the serious parts of
the ~~Play~~ comedy were thoughtfully
studied worked out - though
they were not an actor
among them. Benson himself
is a manifest stick - a
piffling-rate amateur.
Good bye, my dear Mr. & God
 bless you. I had a very
happy evening among you
on Wednesday - it did
me good. Ever your affec-
tioned Aunt.
T.O.