

M'Kie's business to start; that being done, I am now wending my way once again to your arms. I leave here to-morrow for "Cincinnati," a city in the state of "Ohio," to transact a little money business, and then I go to New York for the first "Cunard" boat that leaves. I cannot say definitely when you will see me, but depend on it, I will take you to church on Christmas morning, and a prouder boy will not walk over the Dean Bridge on that morning.

I wrote Mr M'Kie and yourself by last week's mail, when I was in Toronto.

You will oblige me by *not* letting Allan know of my return, as if I can't surprise you I must surprise *somebody*, also Freddy, *on no account breathe a word to him, or I shall be much disappointed.*

Mr Donnelly's health necessitates a change of climate, so he is going south, down to "Alabama." He is with me now. He intends staying all winter.

Snow and frost have begun in Canada, and it was snapping cold the morning I left.

I am in a deuce of a stew just now, as I am afraid I have lost a box with all my Indian curiosities in it. If so, it will be a great pity, as I had over £20 worth; but I hope it will turn up.

I need not write you a long letter, as in a few weeks I will tell you all verbatim.

Hurrah for Topsy!

Love to aunty.—Your ever devoted son,

JOHN SWAIN.

*Don't give Topsy's pup away.*