

UNCLE IKE AT CHAUTAUQUA.

TO MR. GRIP.



SIR:—I'd hern tell a good deal bout Chautauqua for a good sight of years back, and I jest thought I'd take the famerly over thar for a little bit of a visit, seein as I wan't very busy and bein as my folks riginally belonged to York State, whar Chautauqua is. So bout a week ago I got everythin ready and off we shied, me and my wife and our darter Polly Euphemia and our son George. We took the boat

right at Toronto here, and I tell you it didn't take us long to kite across the lake. That's a slick boat, blamed ef it ain't. The wimmin folks was awful sick though, but George and me could stand it, cause we have ben to the Island several times and got used to sea-farin life. Well, we arrove in Niagara, whar I see a lot of Toronto swells on the dock awaitin for to be inspected by the passengers, so as folks could see for theirselves that they was actually astayin at the Queen's, or some-whars round this summer resort. In dew time we got to Lewiston and thar we took a train and scooted right along to Buffalo. As we shied by we had a good squint at the Falls and Polly Euphemia she rit some poetry onto them which I will copy down right here. It runs as follows :

Ob, Falls, Niagara Falls,
How you do make the people stare
Rushing along like that,
Where are you going, O where?
You are a wonder I do declare,
In fact, one of the wonders of the world.

Thar, I think thats putty slick for a young gal of nineteen, which has only been to Normal school two sessions.

We arrove in Buffalo in the evenin, and jinger blue, but isnt that a big place ! Its growed like a weed sense I was thar thirty-six years ago next fall, but after all bigness aint everything. I'd ruther live here in Toronto, whar I kin understand what folks say. In Buffalo you can't tell what the American citizen is a drivin at cause he speaks Dutch, and ef you ask him a question he jest looks at you and shakes his head. Blame my cats ! ef I was President of the States, I'd *make* em learn English and I wouldn't put up with no sich tomfoolery. I never did spose that my native country would turn into a furrin land. We had to loaf round the Buffalo deepo for a couple of hours, but we managed to while away the time a feedin on bananars and doughnuts. We was out for a hollerday and I told my wife she could have the best the market could afford and not to be bashful, ef she didn't see what she wanted to ask for it, cause I was flush of money owin to the high price of grane skewered by the grate N. P. This here was sarkastick, but Marthy she didn't ketch on, and the consequents was I was let in for



bout sixty-five cents of extry expense for luxuries.

Wall, bout half pas 8 long comes the cars, and youd ought to a seen them American citizens which speaks Dutch a hustlin for em. Thar was a hull heap of em,

some sort of a society I guess they was, as they all had broad brim white hats on and each feller wore a badge. I couldn't get nigh enough to read what was on the badges very clear, but I made it out to be Sourcroutercranz Liberlagerbieritsche, or something like that. When we got into the cars they was mighty crowded, but I got Marthy a seat and I found one for myself. Polly Euphemia and George, they was all right cause they are hustlers and it wan't long before they squeezed theirselves into a place. So away we started agin, and nothin happened worth tellin till we got to Mayville, whar we changed cars agin, and got onto the Chautauqua railroad, and in bout ten minutes we was into the deepo at the grounds. This deepo is a long slim affair and it stretches quite a ways up the track, seemed to me as though it started off to go to Mayville and kind of changed its mind when it got half way. We got out on the platform and grasping our carpet bags and things started for to strike out for the tavern whar we meant to put up. But afore we could get out of the deepo we had to buy a ticket for admission to the grounds, and when we got it we had to go through a narrer passage, and thar stood a feller with a punchin machine, and he bored a hole into every ticket, and then give em back to us. "Now look here," sez he to me, "them tickets that you've got is fur one day only, and you've got to



come and deliver em up to-night and git a new one ef you want to stay. Ef you don't you can't get out without payin a quarter for every day sence this show opened, namely the 25th of June. And what is more," sez he, "dont you lose your ticket, or you will have to pay the same for that." "All right, mister," sez I, "that's a fair start anyhow. I guess we'll be startin for hum agin to-night so



these tickets will do." Then we passed along and wended our way up a lot of stairs, and then up a slope follerin the path, and thar we stopped to look around, and I yum, ef it wa'n't bout as pretty a picter as I ever see in my life. I don't believe Melissa Snodgrass, our neighbor's darter, which has been to paintin school could paint anything half so good. Thar was the beautiful lake below us stretchin up and down fur miles and only bout two miles accrost, with steamboats and all sorts of things kitin round on to it.

The scenery accrost the lake was grand, and round whar we stood it was a beautiful grove with roads runnin everywhere, and severil nice snug cottages with vines climbin over em. But there wan't no hotel as we could see so we passed on and, great-grand-mother's cat ! what a sight did break onto our astonished eyes. Cottages ! why, we had'n't begun to see em. They was everywhere. I saw a feller comin along, and I stopped him, and sez I, "Look here, mister, how many houses in thunderation is there in this assembly grounds?" "Well," sez he, "thar's bout 500 at present, but thar's lots more going up." And so I see thar was, any mount of em. "Whar's the tavern?" sez I to him. "I guess you mean the Athenium, don't you?" sez he. "Well if that's what you call em over here its all the same, I spose, but," sez I, "we call em taverns over in Canady." "Are you from Canady?" sez he, with an air

