

THE LITTLE COAT.

BY JAMES WILLCOME RILEY

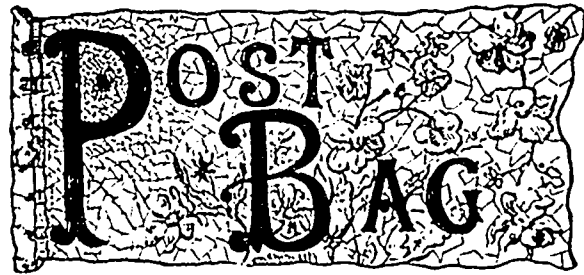
HERE'S his rugged "roundabout,
 Turn the pockets inside out :
 See, his penknife, lost to use,
 Rusted shut with apple-juice :
 Here, with marbles, top and string,
 Is his deadly "devil-string,"
 With its rubber, limp at last,
 As the sparrows of the past !
 Beeswax buckles leather scraps
 Bullets, and a box of caps
 Not a thing of all, I guess,
 But betrays some waywardness
 E'en these tickets, blue and red,
 For the Bible-verses said
 Such as this his memory kept
 " Jesus wept "

Here's the little coat — but oh !
 Where is he we've censured so ?
 Don't you hear us calling, dear ?
 Back ! come back, and never fear
 You may wander where you will,
 Over orchard, field and hill .
 You may kill the birds, or do
 Anything that pleases you !
 Ah ! this empty coat of his !
 Every tatter worth a kiss,
 Every stain as pure instead
 As the white stars over-head,
 And the pockets — homes were they
 Of the little hands that play
 Now no more — but, absent, thus
 Beckon us

MARK TWAIN IN FRANCE

We stopped at the first café we came to, and entered.
 An old woman seated us at a table and waited for orders.
 The doctor said
 " Avez-vous du vin ? "
 The dame looked perplexed. The doctor said again,
 with elaborate distinctness of articulation
 " Avez-vous du vin ? "
 The dame looked more perplexed than before. I
 said
 " Doctor, there is a flaw in your pronunciation some-
 where. Let me try her. Madame, avez-vous du vin ?
 It isn't any use, doctor — take the witness. "
 " Madame, avez-vous du vin ou fromage pain
 pickled pigs feet beurre des oets du beuf horse
 radish, sour-cROUT, bog and hominy anything, *any*
thing in the world that can stay a Christian stomach ? "
 She said
 " Bless you, why didn't you speak English before ?
 I don't know anything about your plaugued French ! "

It has been computed that there are 100,000 railway
 locomotives in the world at the present time



It is always a genuine pleasure for me to hear from my young friends
 on any point on which they have anything to ask.—ED. POST BAG.

COLE M.—The flowers for the Wild Flower Prize should be sent
 in all at one time. This will save you postage, and will have the
 advantage of keeping the specimens in good order. You must send
 not only the flower, but the plant itself, and, if possible, by the
 root.

F. P.—No nicer birthday present for your little playmate could
 you get than the *YOUNG CANADIAN* for a year. Don't you think
 she would enjoy it ?

M. H. W.—Your solutions to the Puzzles were all right, but
 they came too late. Please remember that the Prize is decided on
 the last day of the month.

J. R. H.—I have not a copy of "Maple Leaf for Ever," or I
 should be happy to send it. Perhaps some of our young friends can
 help us to one.

BENJAMIN M.—I am glad your package of seeds arrived safely,
 and that your garden is getting on well. Take good care of your
 pear tree. Do not let it blossom too much this year.

PIGEON LOFT.—Yes, you certainly ought to compete for the
 challenge cup. Maj. gen. Cameron of Kingston, Ont., will tell you
 all about it. He is an enthusiast and an authority on messenger pi-
 geons. Mr. Moore, of Fredericton, near you, is also a fancier and
 could give you information. The secretary of the Dominion M. P.
 Association, at 374 Ontario St., Toronto, might also be applied to.

TOMMIE S.—Give your rabbits an abundance of fresh green food,
 juicy grass, hedge parsley, and clover. The morning is the best
 time to pick the food.

HECH R.—I believe some legislation has been proposed in On-
 tario to make cyclists responsible in cases where damage has resulted
 from horses taking fright at wheels. It is evidently unjust, and
 should meet with a bold front of opposition from every lover of the
 winged horse. The Queen's highway is open to all on equal terms,
 and whilst common sense would expect cyclists to be thoughtful
 and courteous, there is no kind of sense that would exclude eques-
 trians from the same criterion. Horses have had altogether too long
 a monopoly. Women and children, and cyclists should have their
 day. You should move against the absurdity through your club.

BEATRICE B.—Your list of names for our birthday book has been
 duly received and entered. The more the merrier, but you must
 have a very full house. We want them all, however, every one.
 Send us the names and birthdays of your little friends too.

GEORGE D.—The Prize Watch will be given on October first to
 the young Canadian who sends in the largest list of new subscrib-
 ers before then. The names, with addresses and money, should be
 sent in every week, so that your friends may commence immediately
 to get the magazine.

ROBERT B.—You can make a very good copying ink by adding
 sugar to your ordinary ink.

GEORGE.—"Kind regards" at the end of a letter is merely a
 matter of custom, or courtesy. I would say that the young gentle-
 man had no right to imagine that you intended anything else.

DICK W.—Perhaps I should have explained sooner that if ques-
 tions in the Post Bag are not answered immediately it may mean
 one of several things. Perhaps it takes time to find a helpful and
 reliable answer, or there is delay in the Post-office, and the *YOUNG*
CANADIAN is always set up ahead of time, in order to do justice to
 the finish.

Visitor: "What are you painting?" Artist (sarcastri-
 cally) "Can't you see?" Visitor (sweetly) "Yes, I
 see it is a flower. Have you decided what to call it
 yet?"