

THE NEW SEALS.

MRS. BRITANNIA'S LETTER TO HER SON CANADA.

MY DEAR CANADA,

Though you are so far away, you must not think I have forgotten you. I must say you are sometimes peevish; perhaps that is because you are so young, but I know you are not ungrateful for my kindness to you as far back as you can remember. To many proofs of this, I now send you another in the shape of a small parcel of very curious seals, which will prove both amusing and instructive. They have been made expressly for you, and are far better than the set which you have hitherto played with, and which, in your childish simplicity, you have, perhaps, thought very pretty. The toys which I now send you are intended to excite your curiosity.—they are the greatest puzzle I could get the ingenious Mr. Herald to invent, and if you can understand them—why, it's more than your mother can. The designs are peculiar; but Mr. Herald assures me that every line means something. Perhaps so, but the poor man, whose business has of late years been going down rapidly, has a fancy for sketching things which would drive *Cædipus* mad. I send you the toys, however, and if you can make nothing of them, you will have the more sport in trying to. As soon as the parcel arrives, you will please pack up the old seals very carefully, and send them to me. Do not omit this, as I cannot let you have two sets lying about the room at the same time. It is a bad thing for children to have too many toys at once, and these might get mixed, so that you could not tell which was which. I must give you another caution: don't burn your fingers with the sealing-wax. I hear that you and your cousin Jonathan do not get on well together. I hope that my present to you will not give him any offence; you must be very careful not to boast much about your new toys.

Now, good bye, my dear boy. Take great care of your cold, which I sometimes fear you will never get over; but this, perhaps, is only a fond mother's anxiety.

My best love to you,

BRITANNIA.

MIXED MATHEMATICS.

If there are ten mile-stones on a road ten miles long how many stones are there in a pound of raisins?

If a woman gives ten dollars for a bonnet this week, how much will she give for a pound of suet next year?

Suppose a wheel makes thirty revolutions in a minute, how many will the Mexicans make in a year?

"Time is money." Calculate how long Somerville's next letter will be.

If a barber shaves William for five cents, for how much will a broker shave a bill?

Estimate, at market prices, the value of the cloak of hypocrisy.

If one cwt. of flour yields 36 quartern loaves, how many will a man weighing fourteen stone eat in a week?

If a sixpenny loaf costs sixpence, what constitutes a well-bred man?

TO MASTER JAMES LOVEBOOK,

SWISHTAIL ACADEMY.

My Dear James,

Your last letter was very neatly written. I was pleased to notice that your *i*'s were all dotted, and all the *t*'s crossed, and that the loops, in such letters as required them, were properly made. A little more India-rubber, or bread crumbs, might have been used to take out the pencil marks from the ruling; but on the whole your progress, my dear boy, is satisfactory, as far as mere penmanship is concerned.

You do not, however, I regret to remark, use the more modern words which have been introduced by fashionable writers. The want of these gives a pedantic appearance to your compositions. It is true you may not always know the meaning of them; but that is of no consequence. There is a very nice, pleasant-sounding word, "eliminate." It is a good word to use, even when not properly applied. It originally means to expel or throw off; but it may be used in a variety of ways, and, as the general public is very ignorant, you may use it frequently in different senses. You can always trust to the want of education of those to whom you write, and a long word invariably gives an appearance of learning.

Such another word is "transpire." Of course, my dear James, I need not tell you it means something that has become known. But it is a pity to confine it to that. Some of our best commercial writers (and they are models for correct writing), use it in a variety of ways. Instead of saying something has taken place, say "transpired"—it sounds much more elegant. Or a certain time has elapsed, "transpired" will do much better. It is not correct, but that is of no consequence. Always use a word that sounds well, or at least out of the common. Never use a short word if you can get one of ten syllables. The longer the word, and the more incorrect its application, the greater credit will you get for learning.

There are some words that do not sound well, but which you should always use, because they are neither elegant nor English. There are words not long introduced which you should drag in whenever you have an opportunity. Such, among others, is the word "donate." If one of your schoolfellows has *given* you some marbles, be sure to say, "he has *donated* them." If a quiet benefactor of the poor sends an order for a few cords of wood do not, I beseech of you, neglect to write "he has *donated* them." There is no such word in the language; it is a wretched Latinism, without sense or meaning, but it has gained currency among the half-educated. Use it, therefore, my dear boy, be sure you use it. I donate you this advice. "Locate," "collide," "excuse," and similar words, should all be used in the same way: you will find the use of them to be to your advantage.

There are some phrases which sound sacred, and should always be introduced into religious essays and reports of Dorcas Societies. Such is that useful vehicle, "in this connection," which is, it is true, one of the most unmeaning in the language. Ministers, however, and writers in religious magazines use it fre-