

JUNE 15, 1911

the eldest of a family of 9,—6 boys and 3 girls. My mother is an American; my father was born in Fiji, of English parents.

I am sending you a handbook on Fiji, which will give you a better account of the islands.

Hoping that the letter will reach you before May 23rd, I remain,

Yours sincerely,  
RANDOLPH GRIFFITHS.

### A Letter from Demerara.

92 Smyth St.,  
Georgetown, Demerara.

My dear Friend,—The master of our school gave me your letter to read, and asked me to reply to it, and I am very pleased at the opportunity he has given me for doing so.

Our country, British Guiana, is larger than Great Britain, and nearly as large as the British Isles. Its area is about 110,000 sq. miles, and it has a tropical climate. The country has many rivers and islands, which are very important. The Essequibo is the largest and most important river of British Guiana. The Demerara is the river on which the principal city is built. On both its banks are thriving villages and plantations of various kinds.

The gold fields of the Colony are situated principally on the Essequibo River and its tributaries. The chief products of our country are sugar, rice, balata, timber, coconuts, gold and diamonds. We have some very beautiful scenery in the interior. Our Kaieteur Falls are spoken of as the highest and grandest in the world, being 822 feet high, but travelling in the interior is not easy, as the roads are not fully opened up.

British Guiana is divided into three counties: Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice. The city, Georgetown, is the capital of British Guiana, and is situated at the mouth of the River Demerara, on its right bank. It has a population of about 60,000 inhabitants, and an area of about 4 sq. miles. One of its principal features is its finely laid-out streets, some of them fully two miles long. The Demerara Lightship is stationed at a distance of eight miles from the shore. The Lighthouse, built at the mouth of the river, north-west of the town, has a light, revolving once every minute, which guides vessels into harbour at night. It can be seen at a distance of 25 miles from the sea.

The town is lighted by electricity. The chief places of pleasure resort are: The Botanic Garden, a very large and beautiful garden, in which the Militia Band plays on Wednesdays; the Promenade Garden, which is beautifully planted with flowers and lighted with electricity; and the Sea Wall, which is built to keep out the sea.

The inhabitants of this country are very loyal to the British Empire, and on Empire Day we all unite in singing the National Hymns. We are a mixed race, comprising Europeans, chiefly English and Scotchmen; East Indians, Chinese, Portuguese from Madeira, Blacks, Coloured Creoles and Aborigines.

There are various public schools as well as private ones in the Colony. I attend St. Philip's Intermediate School. There are seven classes, but I have passed them all, and so I only take private lessons now. I am studying for the Third Class College of Preceptors exam. The principal of our school is Mr. S. A. Campbell, who gives instruction in secondary as well as primary education. The school is one of the largest in the Colony.

I shall be twelve years old this month; my height is five feet, and my weight about ninety pounds. Our family consists of five girls (including myself), three boys and our parents. We are coloured. We once lived in the country district on a sugar plantation, where my father was at that time and for twenty-three years factory overseer. He is now living in the city, and is a clerk at the New Colonial Company, Ltd., owners of sugar estates. I am very pleased at your kind suggestion to exchange coins.

Many thanks for the very fine lines you have quoted. We have no local poet. With very kind regards, I remain,

Yours truly,  
AMY SMITH.

### Regarding Dogs.

Is there anything in this world more innocently confiding, more friendly, more ready to be pleased with you and with all the world than a little pup? Watch him as he waddles around, a trustful grin on his little face, a half-inquiring, half mischievous twinkle in his roguish eyes, and clumsy babyishness in his thick little feet and queer stubby tail, and understand that if this puppy ever develops into a snarling cur it will be through no fault of his own. He is, indeed, so far as his great warm heart is concerned, the index of what he will be all his life if he is "left alone" and used decently. At the present stage he is, of course, somewhat too general in the dis-

apparently asleep, the question was mooted as to whether he understood what was being said, and we decided to try him. "Carlo," said I, quietly, "go and see if M—— is coming from school." He immediately arose, walked over to the window looking towards the school-house, put his front paws on the sill and looked out, then turned with a disappointed look as though to say she was not there. Many subsequent trials of a similar nature showed that this old collie,—one of the squarely-built, old-fashioned kind, by the way—understood much more than he had been given credit for.

Upon one occasion this old dog showed a delicacy about intruding an unwelcome presence in a way that was

manifested the keenest delight, jumping upon it, and trying to draw it down from the pole over which it was hung.

This collie later developed into a very useful cattle dog. Many stories might be told of his sagacity in collecting and driving the cows, a task which was his especial delight, but one will suffice. Upon the occasion referred to, M—— and I had walked down the road to the field where the cattle were kept. Having put down the "bars" we stood waiting while Pat collected the cows, some of which were on the hill, while others were browsing among the willow bushes near the river. From where we stood we could plainly see the one white cow of the herd at some distance, while among the bushes was a white heifer, almost full grown. Having gathered all but the white cow, which was invisible to him, Pat stopped a moment as though to reconnoitre, then, catching a glimpse of white among the bushes, set off thither as fast as he could go. As soon, however, as he was near enough to see the heifer, he stopped short, then turned and ran off to look for the white cow. We took it that he knew quite as well as we, which animal was required.

Before leaving this subject, may we say a few words in regard to caring for the puppy? The great essentials for him, of course, as for the human child, are pure air, nourishing food, and exercise. He should be permitted to run about at will, and should be kept supplied with plenty of fresh, clean water.

An expert says that a puppy should be fed about four times a day, the last meal being the heartiest, so that he may not become hungry and chilled during the night. For the first meal a little porridge with boiled milk is recommended; for the second dry dog biscuit; for the third vegetable scraps, etc.; and for the last stale bread moistened with soup, and scraps of meat. Some authorities would give no meat, especially to dogs that may ever have anything to do with sheep. . . . A pup should never be given rich or greasy food. The quantity of food will depend somewhat on the pup; if he bloats he has either eaten too much or is in need of vermifuge. Do not have his kennel too small, as that may induce a crouching posture; and see that it is kept supplied with clean sweet hay, and never permitted to grow in the slightest degree damp.

Before closing, may I embrace the opportunity to say that plenty of clean, cool drinking water should be supplied to dogs at all times, especially during the hot summer. In neglecting this precaution we are often sad culprits in regard to these helpless creatures so dependent upon our care.

A LOVER OF ANIMALS.

### Care of Older Dogs.

Do not let your dog lie on the couch one day and whip him for it the next. Be systematic with him, so that he will understand what is wanted of him, then he will seldom need scolding or whipping. He does not mean to offend.

Brush the dog's coat once a day with a fairly stiff brush. This will give it a beautiful gloss. Do not shave his hair all off in warm weather under the idea that he will be cooler. His skin is sensitive and will burn with the sun. Never be cruel to your dog. A dog is much more easily trained by kindness. Once in a while you may need to scold him, but do not beat him. Never even scold him unless he understands what it is for.

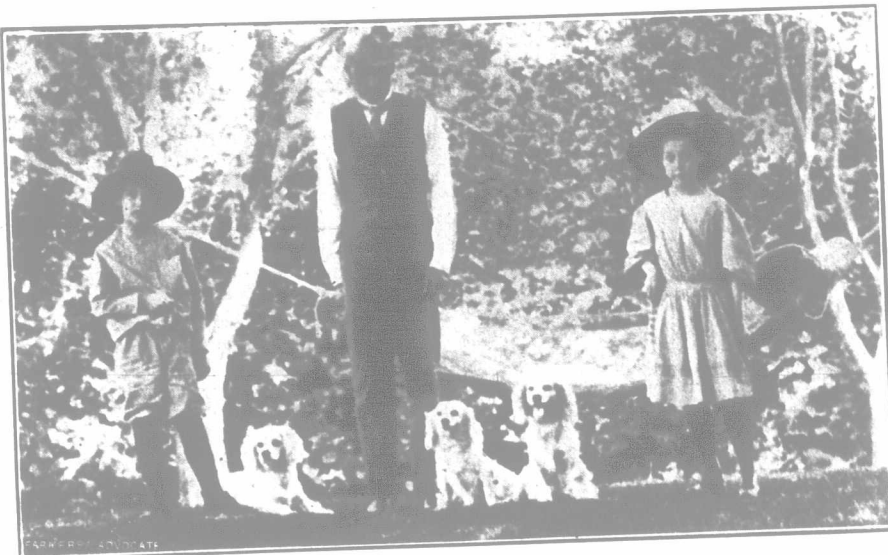
Be sure to give the dog plenty of cool water in a clean dish to drink, especially during hot weather. He needs it, and will appreciate your kindness.

Give him an occasional bone to gnaw. Gnawing helps to clean his teeth and keep them in good condition. Remember that many a dog has been killed as "mad" when he had merely toothache, and was slavering and running about with the pain just as a boy would be likely to do under similar circumstances. Plenty of bones to gnaw may save your dog from such a fate.

If your dog becomes sick, give him a good dose of physic, which is good in such cases for animals as well as for people.

### School Fairs.

I have been wondering how many Beavers are cultivating little garden plots at home with the object of having



Mr. Groff, Simcoe, Ont., and His White Cocker Spaniels.  
The only White Cocker Spaniels in the world.

tribution of his favors. He never saw you before: No matter; he will follow you anywhere, cuddle up to you, and look at you in a way that makes you his friend. But by and by he will exercise more discrimination, and merely condescend, unless you are his master, to give you a momentary recognition. If you are his master, however, he will follow you to the ends of the earth, live on a crust with you, starve with you, lie on your grave. And always for you will be waiting the wag of the tail, the frenzy of joy at your coming, the patient service,—never for you the growl or the snap, which he keeps only for those whom he suspects to be your enemies. The dog, so Thompson-Seton affirms, is by far the most intelligent of the lower animals, and the thousands of

very commendable. By some mischance he had meddled with a skunk, and had come out of the encounter at the usual disadvantage. His first act was to go to a creek, where he performed ablutions sufficient, as he no doubt hoped, for his purification. But he had evidently not learn that skunk odor may defy even the "multitudinous seas." Coming forth from the creek he shook himself vigorously, then made off, tail and ears drooped, like the veriest culprit, to the middle of a plowed field, where he remained in self-abasement for the rest of the day, refusing to come even when called.

His successor, one of the more highly-bred species, a Scotch collie, laboring under the sobriquet "Pat," came to us when a mere baby-dog, so small and



"Don't Tell the Dog."

stories which have been told of his sagacity, and to which we beg leave to add a few more, would seem to confirm this opinion.

Some years ago we had an old collie who (one can scarcely say "which") notwithstanding his aristocratic aversion to such common labor as cattle-driving, was the pet of the family. He was talked to and petted every day, but no pains were ever taken to teach him to understand ordinary conversation. One day, when he was lying under the stove

helpless that he was permitted to sleep on a thick goat-skin robe. That robe became very dear to his heart; M—— named it his "mammy," as, indeed, he evidently considered it. Whenever it became necessary to take it away from him for use in the cutter, the little mite would object in the most strenuous way, yelping his entreaties, and trying to hold it with his little teeth. Finally, as he grew larger, it was removed from him and put away for the summer. Months afterwards, coming upon it unawares, he