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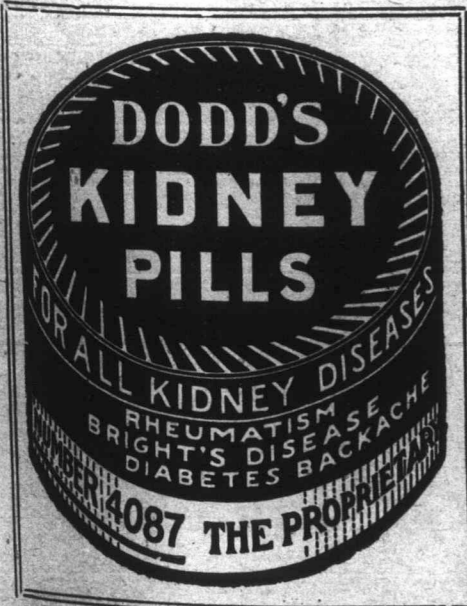
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Boys and Girls

Dear Cousins,—

A whole fortnight, and no letter yet! Where are you all, and what are you doing? At the time I am writing this, I suppose you are looking forward to a long day's holiday on Monday, Thanksgiving Day, and when you read my letter that will be all over. What are you going to do, I wonder? The country cousins I suppose will find plenty to keep them busy; I know on a farm there is always work for everybody. Last time I was in the country, just a week ago, I saw some cousins of mine very busy digging potatoes and filling bags with them; very hot and grubby they looked, too (the cousins, I mean, of course, not the potatoes), but they were doing useful work.

Who knows that some of those potatoes mayn't go to England, where the crop has failed this year? We have had such a splendid harvest ourselves that we can easily send food over to countries where it isn't so plentiful. We ought to be thankful for that, too, for there's more happiness in being able to give things to other people than in actually possessing things ourselves. I daresay lots of you have found that out, too.

I wonder if any of you have heard Dr. Grenfell speak yet? He is the man who has given more help and comfort to people who needed it than anybody knows. You know how he has been working down in Labrador for years and years, going up and down that wild, rocky coast, trying to lessen the pain and suffering of the fishermen who live there in such lonely places. There's somebody, if you like, who knows what the happiness of giving is, for he gives time, knowledge, money—why, his whole life—to his work. If you hear that he's in your town, be sure you go to hear him. Perhaps some of you may go down one day—when you're a full-fledged doctor or nurse—and help there. There's something to look forward to. I don't mind telling you, as a great secret, that I intend to go myself one day. I'll have to wait for a year or two, though.

Who's been out into the country lately? I was up in the woods yesterday, and I think I've never seen anything so beautiful, with brown and red and gold leaves, and a wonderful purple mist over all the fields. Canada is surely a beautiful country, and on Thanksgiving Day we ought to remember to say 'Thank you' to God for putting us to live in it. When you think of all those huge western prairies that have yielded so much wheat, then the North of Ontario where the rocks are full of hidden valuable minerals, of the rich farming land in South Ontario, and then the lonely Labrador coast where the sea is simply thick with fish, isn't it a country to be proud of? And that's only part of it, because there's British Columbia the other side of the Rockies, with fish and timber and fruit too. Why, it makes you gasp to think of it.

I have to stop now, but I want to tell you one thing I do in my mind these lovely days. You all know that text 'Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness?' Well, I always want to turn it round and say 'Worship the Lord in the Holiness of Beauty.' There! Is that too hard for you to understand? Think of all the beautiful sunsets and woods and lakes you have ever seen; don't you think that the beauty of the earth is holy? Just you think about it a bit, and write me what you do think.

Your affectionate
Cousin Mike.

ENGLISH AS IT SHOULD NOT BE WRITTEN.

The humorous possibilities of English as a written language are demonstrated fully when one has been a clerk in Bombay for two years.

The average native of India is elated when he feels himself competent to pen a letter to his commanding officer in English.

The following effusion came from a native desirous of being accepted in a certain regiment as a recruit: "Honourable and glorious sir: Very humble it is my wish to join up with the —th Sikh Regiment. I had brought up with a very ancient family always most loyal to the Government. I have a very sufficient mental and corporal faculties, and of the English language I have a very robust education. I have also a highly obedient and moral calibre, and shall be highly gratified for you to cordially desire me to your regiment—"

An Indian soldier lay ill in hospital and found that he needed his belongings. He wrote to his company officer in this strain:

"Illustrious Sir:—To the cherished and admired officer of my company, whose shadow is like that of the mountains and whose care for his humble servants is unflinching. I have the unfortune to lie up in my bed with such grievous pains. So that I humbly demand of you that you friendly approve of my kitbag to be sent to me. For they have cut me in the stomach very outrageous, and as there are several things in it that I must keep, I pray you to let me have it."

Here is an answer penned in response to a notice asking for clerks in an orderly-room:—

"Very good and beneficent sergt.-major.—I am a clerk also in the English and Hindustani languages. Very much excellence is in me, too, of the Bengali language and much more of the mathematics and the figures of every sorts. I make your letters so clean to understand and also I make your cash to last out the week. Therefore admit me to your office and I expect the reply favourable much promptly."—"Khaki Call."

A REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES.

The creator of Sherlock Holmes tells an amusing story against himself:—

During a lecture tour through the United States he arrived one day in Boston, and was considerably astonished when a cabman accosted him and addressed him by name.

"How did you know who I was?" said Sir Conan Doyle, much interested, and not a little flattered.

"If you'll excuse my saying so," said the cabman, "the lapels of your coat look as if they had been grabbed by New York reporters, your hair looks as if it had been cut in Philadelphia, your hat looks as if you had had to stand your ground in Chicago, and your right shoe has evident Buffalo mud under the instep, and—"

"And what?" queried Sir Arthur.

"Well," replied the cabman, "I saw 'Conan Doyle' in big white letters on your trunk!"—"Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph."

There are 179 different languages and 544 dialects spoken by the natives resident in British India. These have all been officially described and classified by Government officials.

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