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DO WRITE!

Now, don't forget my letter (I write this on my knee!)—
It's meat, and drink, and baccy—just everything to me.

No! I don't want a parcel, so keep the sweets and cake,
Your message is more welcome, and stops the blessed ache!

Just anything you write about, it's sure to interest me;
I love to know what's going on and what you do and see.
Do tell me if the apple blooms, and if you're well and fit,
And if the hens begin to lay . . . and don't forget to knit!

Those socks and mufflers were all right—they fit me just a treat,
My mates they were that envious to see my stockinged feet;
And they began to write for some from mothers and their girls—
I tell you I was happier than "Mar-kisses" and Earls!


Now, I must go to trenches—good-bye my deary, deary wife,
I'll be getting leave, I'm thinkin' . . . if God He spares my life,
I'm joyous as a bird, old girl . . . but now I'll just say this:
I want a peep at Blighty! . . . God bless you—here's a kiss!

A FUNERAL OF ANTS.

By W. D. Neale.

One day a little boy, tired of play, threw himself down on a grassy mound to rest. Shortly afterward his father was startled by sudden screams. He flew to the child, thinking perhaps a serpent had stung him, but was at once reassured on seeing him covered with soldier ants, on whose nest the boy had laid himself. Numbers of the ants were still clinging to him with their forceps and continuing to sting the boy. The father at once proceeded to kill them, and about twenty were thrown dead on the ground. He carried the boy indoors, and in a half-hour returned to the same spot, when he beheld a large number of ants surrounding the dead ones. He determined to watch their proceedings. He followed four or five that started from the rest toward the hillock a short distance off, in which was the ants' nest. This they entered, and in about five minutes reappeared, followed by others. All fell in rank, walking regularly and slowly, two by two, until they arrived at the spot where lay the dead bodies of the soldier ants. In a few minutes two of the ants advanced and took up the dead body of one of their comrades, then two others, and so on until all were ready to march. First walked two ants bearing a body, then two without a burden, then two others with a dead ant, and so on until the line was extended to about forty pairs. And the procession moved slowly onward, followed by an irregular body of about two hundred ants. Occasionally the two laden ants stopped, and, laying down the dead ant, it was taken up by the two walking unburdened behind them. Thus, by occasionally relieving each other, they arrived at a sandy spot beside the sea. The company of ants began digging holes in the ground with their jaws. A dead ant was deposited in each hole, and they laboured on until they had filled up every grave. Then they departed for their home in the grassy mound.

Blessings may appear under the shape of pains, losses, and disappointments, but let him have patience, and he will see them in their proper figure.—Addison.



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