

The foregoing letter was well written, well punctuated, and well paragraphed, indicating that Ruth took pains to do her very best. Properly directed and encouraged by her teacher, she could tell many interesting things about the horses, cows, pigs, and chickens. City children know very little about such things.

A boy's letter from Seaforth contains the following paragraph:—

“Our town is not large, but it is very beautiful. If you were to come here by railway, you would get off the train at Main Street. On it are many stores, four hotels, a theatre, a post office, and a library.”

It speaks well for the influence of letter writing that a boy is given the opportunity to write a paragraph of that kind. Such an opportunity might occur in no other way.

All readers of *THE SCHOOL* will be interested in an American pupil's description of tobacco growing:—

Somers, Conn.,  
October 9th, 1914.

Dear Canadian Friend:—

I was very much pleased with your letter, and I hope that you will be pleased with mine.

My age is 11 years. I am four feet eight inches high and weigh eighty pounds.

Do you know how to raise tobacco? First, we plant the seed in the tobacco bed. When the plant has seven leaves, we set it out with a machine, called a tobacco setter. Then we cultivate it and hoe it, to loosen the soil around the plant. When it is a foot and a half high, we hoe it with a horse hoe. When it is about four feet high, we cut it down, put it on a lath, and hang it in the shed. When the tobacco is damp we take it down and strip it and put it in bundles. Then the tobacco buyer comes along, and gives us money for it.

It is autumn now. The trees are very pretty because the leaves are all colours. We go shooting squirrels and hunting rabbits. I went hunting rabbits once this year, but I did not get any.

I hope that you will write again.

Your friend,

PHILIPPE LEROUX.

To be able to express one's ideas clearly and concisely in writing is a most desirable and valuable faculty. Letter writing between distant schools offers the most effective and interesting means to accomplish this end. Letter writing cannot be interesting or effective unless the young writers have assurance that they are writing to some purpose—that is, that their letters are likely to be read and answered.