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## **LETTERS OF THE MOTOR GIRL**

BY

ETHELLYN GARDNER

BRILLIANT, THRILLING, STARTLING

The breeziest bunch of letters ever published



Distributed to the trade by  
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**Letters of the Motor Girl**

BY

Ethel lyn Gardner

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By Ethel lyn Gardner

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LETTERS OF THE MOTOR GIRL

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LETTER I

I am fourteen years old to-day, June 17th, 1905. Pa said he hoped I would live to be at least one hundred, because my Aunt Annie wanted me to be a boy, so she could name me Jack; she had a beau by that name and then married him, and he married some one else, so had two wives at once, and got put in jail. Pa says he's a live wire. I have seen his picture, but I thought he looked too stupid to get two wives at once. I would think a man would have to be very smart and step lively to get two wives at once. Pa says he has stepped over all the good he had in him he reckons.

I am learning to drive a big touring car, the Franklin, Model G. It's a cracker jack car, just let me tell you. The manager is the nicest man I ever saw. He said I looked like Pa—that's why I think he is so nice—my Pa is the very nicest man I ever saw. Then Levey Cohen comes next to the Franklin car manager. If you want a good car that can pick up her feet and fly on the road, you get a Franklin, and you will find that the finest car made is the Franklin. I am in love with my car. Pa says I know a whole lot for my age, almost as much as a boy. I am glad I am a girl, boys are horrid sometimes; they don't like to spend all their money to buy chocolates for the girls. Ma says Pa sent her a five-pound box every Sunday. Pa says nearly all boys are good for is to play ball, and smash windows, and cry, if they have to pay for them. Pa says I will change my mind when I grow up, but I am not going to grow up. I have seen Peter Pan, and I like wings, and angel cake, very much indeed. Next to my Pa, comes chocolates—I like all the good ones. Levey Cohen says I am a sugar-plum, but Pa says I need a whole lot of sugar yet, to be very sweet. I told him I knew flies could tell the boys that were sweet, because some of their mothers put molasses on their hair to keep it smooth,—Johnnie Alton has lots of flies around his head,—and I wondered why, so one day I put my finger on his hair when he wasn't looking, and pressed just a little, and the hair cracked. My, he was mad. He said, "Cut-it-out," and I said, "Oh, Johnnie, you would look too funny."

Now about my motor car. I took my first lesson of the manager the other day; he says I will be going up the sides of the houses before long if I don't look to the wheel more. I like to let the machine go after she starts. Surely those lights ought to show the way. My, how she will go. Levey Cohen says I am a nice girl and when I get big he is going to marry me. Well, I don't think I will get married. Pa says I had better stick to him and Ma, and, anyway, I am having lots of fun. I went out alone in my car. I went all right for awhile, but there always comes a time when a car won't go, and I got that time out in Brookline near Dr. Jones' house. I went in and telephoned for the manager to come for me—he came in another car and towed me home. I don't like that. I told Pa I hoped that car wouldn't lose its breath again, and now in four weeks she has done fine.

I can't write always every day. I write a whole lot when I feel like it, then I don't think of it again for weeks. Pa says he nearly died laughing reading the diary Ma made. I shall give my diary to

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Levey Cohen when we are married—I suppose I shall have to marry him some day, just to prove to him that I don't like him any too well. Pa says that you had better not marry any one you really care for, then you won't need to expect to find any letters in their pockets—Pa's pockets are always full of letters, he never thinks to mail them—and every week Ma and I take them to the post-office in a bag. When Pa begins to look like a bundle of straw with a string tied in the middle, Ma will say, "Elsie, it's mail-time." Sure as you live, Pa says he's a walking post-office, but Ma says, "Yes, a dead-letter office out of date." Now I will go for a spin in my car. It's a fine day and the sooner I get started the longer I can be out, so bye-bye till later on, as we are going to see Barnum's circus.

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Pa and Levey Cohen and Ma and I all went to the circus. Really, it was very good—we all enjoyed it very much. Ma fed chocolates to the pet elephant and so did I. Pa and I took in some of the side-shows. What an awful cheat they are! We saw a sign that read: "Come in and see the \$50,000 Horse, his tail where his head ought to be." We paid our money and went in, and we saw the wonderful horse turned around in his stall—true, his head where his tail ought to be. Pa said he knew it was a big sell, and he laughed; said he would try again. A little further on we saw another sign that read: "See the wonder Dog—half bear." Pa said that must be a novelty, so we went in, and saw a big Newfoundland black dog standing on a box half-shaved close. Pa said, "Which half is bear?" and the man said, "The half that was shaved, mister." We looked up and saw a sign that read "Sciddoo!" We did. Pa said Barnum was a smart man—said he had fooled more people than any one man on earth, but the best of it all was they were just as eager to be fooled the next year. Pa says if that law about whiskers gets into force it will be mighty interesting for some good men like Dr. Parkhurst and Anthony Comstock. Neither of them poor devils will dare go out, except in the evening, and then the cop may get them for carrying about nude faces. Pa says it's a bad place for microbes to settle down in a man's beard. All the wise men I know goes smooth face and that's the best way, I think. We have a Frenchman who is our gardener. He can't talk very good English. He told Pa the other day, speaking of his memory of his childhood, that he could remember backwards very far. When he tried to harness the horse on our little farm he said to the horse: "You, good huss, just open your face now and take in your harness." Pa says, brush away and come to dinner, so,

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So long,  
ELSIE.

P. S. Pa says here are some questions that half of the Public are asking the other half: Question—What is an automobile? Answer—A wagon with big rubbers on its feet. Name two uses of the automobile? Ans. To run people down and to run them in. What is the horn used for? Ans. To frighten the life out of one, so he will stand still and get run over. What's the difference in running over a dog and a man? Ans. If you run over a dog it costs you \$5, or if a man, 5 years. What is a constable? A man with the hoe who is too lazy to work, so arrests every man he sees in an automobile.

Pa says these are all for now.

E.

## LETTER II

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Well, what do you think! I have been to Atlantic City for the Automobile races. Had I been older Pa says I could have entered my Franklin car for the race, but he said "no use for a girl to try," so I just looked on. I fell in love with Miss Rogers, she is a smart woman, a real thoroughbred, Pa says. Ma don't dare to drive a car; she is a 'fraid-cat, won't even shoot the shoots at Coney Island. Why, they don't make anything I wouldn't try! I got old Deacon Weston to ride the flying horses with me at Coney Island, and the band played "There will be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight." Deacon Weston's coat-tails blew out behind him like the American flag in a gale of wind, and the boys nearly died to see how hard he held on. It's jolly fun to live! I heard Pa say Mrs. Pat Campbell and her poodle had solved the joy of living, but I don't believe she has half the fun I do. Why, I can climb a tree if I like to. Pa says I shouldn't, else I'll be a tomboy. I don't see how I can be a tomboy when I am a girl, but Pa says that there are lots of things you don't learn in school. I like school pretty well, but like most girls, I am more fond of vacations. In vacation, in summer, we go to grandpa's in the country, out in Pennsylvania. I stepped on a bumblebee one day—that is, I tried to, but I didn't step heavy. He saw my foot coming and it was bare, and he made me dance good, for a little. I don't think I'll walk in the dewy grass any more in the morning. Pa told Ma it would keep me always young, and as I don't want to grow up I just went out to try it, but I believe I will even be willing to wear long dresses and grow up, if I have to dance to a bumblebee sting; I don't like the music at all, too much pain in it, for harmony.

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My grandma has a pet little cow. Pa says it's a calf, and I got the pony's harness and put it on the calf, and he didn't like to be a pony at all. He just kicked and tipped me all over the yard. Ma screamed and Pa laughed. Pa said, "Let them alone, both those kids are just alike," meaning me and the calf. We are better friends than when I first came here, for he would run when I came in sight, but now he runs to meet me, 'cause he expects me to give him some sugar. He likes it just as well as my pony does. I often feel sad to think that I can't feed sugar to my automobile—don't

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it seem a real shame?—but they are built to live on electricity or gasoline. I just pity them. Think of not being able to eat ice-cream and chocolates. My Uncle Smith is coming to see me from Buffalo. He is the dearest man. He has a camera and the first time I saw him he had on a brown suit and his camera slung over his shoulder, and oh, my! but he looked the professional. I was almost scared of him, but he is a mighty nice man. He has taken lots of pictures of me with my Franklin car, and he got a snap shot of Deacon Weston on the flying horses, and I nearly died myself when I saw it. He looked worse than a scotcher after a highball, Pa said. I never saw a highball, but Pa says it's a live wire, so I shall keep in the middle of the good path. I heard a Salvation Army man say that, so it is on the level. Pa says slang forms too great a part of the present-day conversation, but I don't think I am any joke, only I know my Pa knows all that is worth knowing. My Pa is a very wise man for his years—he's been married twice, and he says two marriages will either make or break a man, depends on his disposition. Pa says he made a mess of his first marriage, but the second one was good. I belong to the second house. Pa says a man who is married twice can learn to manage the worst kind of an automobile. He says none of them could have more kinks than some women, and do such unexpected stunts. I guess the man I read about in the automobile magazine that never swears under any condition has been married twice. Pa says two marriages will smooth out a man's disposition as nice as a hot iron will a shirt-bosom. They asked Pa to run for Governor of New York State; said he could govern anything, but Pa is very modest. He said his wife didn't like society and he considered her happiness first; said all men should. Pa knows which side his bread is buttered on, Ma has all the money I I sang that song one night called "Everybody Works but Father," and Pa nearly lost his temper. He took it personally to himself, so for the last few days he gets up at five o'clock and goes up Commonwealth Ave. with his car and blows his Gabriel horn for all he is worth all the way. Once I heard him say as he went out: "Yes, everybody works but Father, do they? Well, I guess they will think Father's working some to-day."

Isn't life a queer problem? My, I wonder what it all means! Sometimes it seems like a continuous vaudeville show, then it changes and becomes serious, clouds and tears, and, oh, dear, I don't understand it at all. I will try to be a good girl, but being a real Sunday girl isn't any fun. I think I am a little related to Buster Brown, anyway, I would like to have his dog. Levey Cohen said he would get him for me, but I thought Buster would be lonesome, and I have my Pa, and automobile. Why is it that girls like their Pas so much? I have got a beautiful mother, she is too handsome and queenly for anything, but I seem to be Pap's own girl. He says I am the light of his eyes. Pa's as much of a boy as I am, only he's grown up. He has beautiful brown hair; he isn't bald on the top of his head. I have always been told when a man is bald-headed it was because his wife was a tartar and robbed his pockets while he slept, and pulled his hair out, if he noticed the loss of his money. Pa has plenty of money. Pa said he settled the money question with Ma's Pa before they were married; he said all men making second marriages should see about the financial end of the game. I never knew just how it ended, but I do know that Pa is considered very swell, and rich, and he says Levey Cohen has his eyes on his pocketbook, but I don't see how that is, for Pa never carries it out of the house. It's in the safe in the billiard-room and Pa has never asked Levey to play billiards because he always calls in the late afternoon, and Pa always plays billiards at noon, or early in the day. Pa says the ice man would be as much of a gentleman as an actor, if he had the free advertising that some of them get. I like actors because they can be anything they like from a beggar to a king, and all they do is to put on different clothes. One would think it was an easy thing to be an actor, but I guess they have their ups and downs; they are not all kings, but I like some of them tip-top, say, for instance, Mr. Edmund Breese and Mr. George Coen. All the girls like them. I heard Pa say that they understood the real act of impersonating as well as any he knew of on the boards—and the women on the stage are all fine, that I have seen. I think Elsie Janis is a darling. I just love her. I would be almost willing to let her marry Levey Cohen if I didn't think I really wanted him myself. I am pretty willing he should take her out in his car. Levey Cohen is a very handsome chap; he is four years older than I am, and Pa says he's doing well for a kid. I don't like to be called a kid, and I don't think Levey does either, but it's Pa's way of talking. My Pa is a cousin to Bill Nye that used to write for the papers so much. Pa said he was better than he looked in the papers; I hope he was, because he looked in the papers, poor man, like a bean-pole with a rubber ball on the top of it for a head. He was a funny man, on paper, but Pa says in his home he was Mr. Edgar Nye, loved and respected by all, and that's saying a good deal in this age of rush and tear.

Well, good-bye, little book, I have told you all my secrets for four weeks past now, and I will say good night. It's 6 P. M. and we are going to the Touraine for dinner as the cook got dopy, Pa says, and let the fire go out in the kitchen. Ma, poor dear, can't cook, so we are going out to dine and then to see some circus on Mars they have here. Pa says I must learn to cook if I want to keep Levey at home after we get married, and I am going to learn. I boiled some eggs for Pa the other morning when the cook went to market. I thought they would cook in three hours, most meats will, in that time, but Pa said, "Nay, nay, Pauline, make it three minutes," so I did. My Pa can cook, but he won't. He says it's the cook's work. Pa objects to doing other people's work for them; he says they must all do it some time, and why not begin here, now, so that's how we stand on the cook-book question.

ELSIE.

P. S. Pa says he's from Missouri when the cook says the air is bad and the coal won't burn. He says it's more likely it's her breath that stuns even the coal and that it's 23 for ourn, as far as dinner goes, that's why we go to a hotel.

ELSIE.

Well, here I am again, little book. Pa and I went to Harvard Class Day, out to Cambridge. I took him in my Franklin car. I have never had any trouble since that Brookline adventure, and was towed home. My! but I felt cheap. I would have sold that car that day for 99 cents, but she's all right ever since—has just been making up for past bad behavin', just like a naughty little girl I know of. Pa says of all the colleges in the land Haryard is the best. Pa graduated from Harvard and Levey Cohen is a junior, and they are worse than ten old women about the old days Pa spent at Harvard. Of course I like Harvard because Pa does; I never question Pa's judgment because he says it's so, and there is nothing to do but believe him, especially when Levey Cohen always backs him up. It's two men against one little girl, and I don't have a bit of a show if I don't side in. Pa is a Democrat and Levey and I are both staunch Republicans—so is Ma—Pa don't dare mention politics in the house, he goes over to South Boston or down to Salem Willows when he feels a political spell coming on. He don't have our company then. Ma says two marriages ought to change any man from a Democrat to a Republican, but it hasn't worked on Pa's constitution yet. Harvard is just a dear, so many really handsome men, and fine fellows. Lots of them have automobiles and they make them hum. They say it's lots more fun driving a car above the speed limit and being chased by a policeman than it is to steal barber poles and store signs; they all have drop numbers on their cars, so no one has ever been caught yet. I have one on my Franklin. I had to use it one day, for I run a race with Harold Hill, of Brookline, and beat him by two miles, but I also beat the policeman, and Pa said he would give me credit for being my father's daughter. But you will laugh when I tell you Pa has been fined three times for fast speeding, but he has forgotten all about that and I haven't the heart to refresh his memory, Pa's such a dear. I went to a football game a year ago, and Alice Roosevelt was there, and a big crowd beside. I don't care for football. I think it's too much of a mush for comfort. I like golf. Pa is a cracker jack on golf; he has friends in New Jersey who are fine players. Pa won a cup one year. It's a beauty. I like that sport. I can beat Levey Cohen every time. I rather play with him because I always get the game. Pa says Levey knows his business, but I don't care, so long as I get the game. Pa says: "Just wait, little girl, till you are married, and you will be surprised how much faster Levey will pick up his feet in golf than he does now." That's about the meanest thing Pa ever said to me in all his life. He won't get but two kisses, for saying that, this day. I usually count 80, but he will see that kisses have had a big slump since this morning, and he will be out altogether. He won't have margin enough to cover, I'll bet you, he'll be taken so off his feet. Pa has dabbled in stocks enough to know all the points of loss. He says he was a hoodoo on the market; when he sold stock went up, and when he bought they slumped, so he will say it's his regular luck. Poor, dear Pa, no one will ever know how much I love my father. He's the dearest man on earth—except Levey Cohen—he is next best. It would be an awfully bad thing if I didn't marry Levey Cohen, after all, but I will; he's the only right sort. I know others are good, but—he is goodiest of all. He always lets me have my own way and any girl likes that. My Pa thinks it's just awful to put any money on a horse, but my Uncle Smith from Buffalo is a live wire, and he took me to a race at Readville this spring and he put a thousand, 10 to 1, on Bumshell, for me, and a thousand dollars for himself. When he gave me the \$10,000 I took it home and showed it to Pa and he said: "Elsie, where did you get that money?" and I said, "Off Bumshell, he won the race." "Did your Uncle Smith back you?" "Sure he did, Pa" "Thunder! What does he mean? My daughter learning to gamble on the racetrack? Your Uncle Smith ought to know better than that." "Well, Pa, he said if we lost it would be a gamble, but if we won, why, it was O. K., so we won." Well, Pa put the money in the Charity box on Sunday and said he hoped it would do some poor cuss good, for I didn't need it, neither did he. I don't know what he will say to Uncle Smith when he sees him, but I am going to write and tell him to wait a little till Pa cools off. Ma said I had better tell Uncle Smith that Pa had suddenly gone up above par in gambling stock, and to wait till the excitement was over before he came in. Well, I telephoned him instead, and he waited two weeks and then asked me to ask Pa how the market was. That was too much for Pa. He laughed and said, "Tell Uncle Smith to come over to dinner now the cook's breath don't put the fire out." So we will have a jolly dinner and go to Keith's this evening.

So good-bye, for I hear Pa asking where his little girl is.

ELSIE.

## LETTER IV

Well, dear little book, here I am again. We have all been down in Maine for six weeks. What a fine place "In the Good Old Summer Time." We went first to Rockland, then to Portland and Bangor. We used the Eastern Steamship Co. boats. They are certainly very nice, and have all the comforts of home, except bath-tubs. Pa says if they would only put in bath-tubs the public would call them blessed forever. At Bangor we were introduced to Mr. Lorison Appletree Booker; he is one of the youngest and smartest lawyers in New England. Pa says he knew his father and they were of fine stock. I had my Franklin car, so Pa asked Mr. Booker to show us about the city. Bangor is a nice city, but it don't have any barrooms in sight like most cities do. Pa says it's a matter of legislation whether they are in sight or not. Pa says a glass of their whiskey down there will make a man think he owns the State. Pa says he has never delivered any lectures on the temperance question,

so he won't begin now. Pa says if you want to shoot big game go to Maine; if you want the finest trout in the world you will find them at Moosehead Lake, Maine; and if you want to tramp miles over hills and dales after golf balls, go to Kineo, Maine, it's one of the grandest of all places in New England. If you want to see the ugliest woman on earth go to Lowell, Mass., she's there. I saw some fine automobiles in Bangor and Portland. The people down there are all up-to-date; they know a good thing when they see it advertised. Pa says you can't do anything, these days, in business, if you don't advertise. Pa is great on advertising business of all sorts, he has helped many a firm out on ads to sell and display goods. Pa has his own ideas, and when he has sold them they have come high, but the one that followed them got a big pile of dough. Pa says the business man to-day must spend money to make money, and the one who places the best and most judicious advertising gets the most business. Pa says even a business that's no good can be made good by advertising. Advertising makes people think—some think right, some wrong, some look and wonder. Pa says there is only one sure way to get rich quick, and that is to marry a rich woman, any other way is a snare and delusion. Pa knows by experience that this is true, so he gives his knowledge free to save others from expensive experiences. Pa says that women should be very careful about getting married to strangers that can't really account for their silver and their business. He says to especially beware of any slick good talker you might meet in a bank where your hard earnings are deposited and you are afterwards made acquainted with the same man you saw hanging around at the bank. You remember noticing him because he looked pleasant and dressed nice. Well, Pa says look out and don't think of getting married to such a man, for he's only another hawk, and is after your bank-book; perhaps he's had twenty or fifty wives, one cannot tell. If you want to marry, grow up with the man, Pa says, as I have with Levey Cohen. I have known him ever since I was five years of age and I know he's the best and dearest boy that was ever—even Pa thinks Levey is a sparkling light, and I know I do, for he brings so many boxes of chocolates. I don't know which kind I like best yet, but sometime I will decide.

Well, so long, we are going to Bar Harbor in our car from here, so I won't write again for some days.

ELSIE.

## LETTER V

We didn't go to Bar Harbor; we came back to Boston, for Pa had to see about one of his inventions—Pa's a wonderful man, he has invented lots of things—I don't dare record the name of his motor car, for he has arranged by phonography and electricity a whole band, and when he goes out by himself always turns on the power and a band plays wonderfully clear—sounds as if it were just coming up the street. People rush to the doors and throw up the windows, and look up and down the street, but no band appears, and as Pa rides up the street the sound gets fainter and fainter, till it vanishes into silence; then he will put on the echo, and they hear it all over again as distinct as before. They never connect Pa with the band, and I have been with him several times early in the morning and Levey Cohen has gone in the evening, and people are wondering what it all means. They wrote it up in the papers, but no one has yet found out what it is, or where it comes from. When they do I don't know what will happen. I am very sure I don't want to be around. The other night we were coming home real late from a trip to Wonderland (say, that's a good name for that place; I have wondered a whole lot since I saw it). We had had a wonderful day, Pa and I (Pa is a dear. He will shoot the shoots, ride the roller coaster or stand on his head if I say so to have fun). Well, we were riding real slow in Pa's automobile, the nameless wonder, when all of a sudden I heard something that scared me. I heard a man's rough voice shout, "Hi, there! stop or I'll shoot!" Pa stopped so quick that it shook the machine good and the band struck up "Where Is My Wandering Boy To-night?" The burglar listened for a moment, spellbound, took off his hat and bowed his head and said, "That's my sainted mother's favorite song, I have always been bad and my poor mother has died of a broken heart." Then as he proceeded with his story, Pa pulled out a second stop and the cornet played the second verse and a fine sweet tenor voice sang with such feeling that I nearly cried myself. The burglar was entirely broken up, and when the song ended and one of Sousa's marches began, the man pulled himself together and said, "Well, that song saved your garl darned neck, for I intended murder to get money. Good-bye, that band will be in sight in a minute and I don't care to be seen." So off he went; then we moved on. Pa put on the echo and it all came back, the moon came out and it was the most dreamy thing you ever heard. The burglar waited some moments by the roadside in the bushes for the band to appear, but none came. He pondered a moment, then said, "Strung, by gosh." When I got home I told Ma she had missed the best fun of her life, for I had had dreamland all day and all the way home besides. We didn't tell Ma about the burglar, she would have had a real fit. Pa says Ma is too timid for a real modern 1906 woman—said she should have been born in ye olden days, but I don't think so, my Ma is a darling and no one knows it better than Pa, either. Sometimes I sing, "Where Is My Wandering Boy To-night," and Pa always laughs, and Ma don't see the point at all. She says it's sad, but Pa gets a fit of the giggles just like a girl and Levey Cohen and I have our hands full to keep Ma pleasant, for she thinks Pa is making fun of that poor wandering boy, when in reality Pa's only giving thanks in a vocal way of his scalp and pocketbook being saved by his wonderful invention of a band. We have a fine burglar-alarm, Pa made it. It's a cracker jack, I tell you what. When it is set, woe be to the one who tries to rob our house, he won't try only once. A stranger is sure to bump into a wire, but they are very small, yet

they work wonders; they run about the walls and floors so close that no one sees them, but we put down the plates under the rugs at each door. When one steps on one of them plates it turns on the lights, opens the telephone to the police station and in three seconds any burglar would wish himself electrocuted for the things that happen before he can say Jack Robinson. If he isn't out of the house before three minutes the police get him, and there you are. Our gate has a red mark on it, small, but distinct. Pa says it is a warning for tramps and burglars to go by and not take the trouble to call. No one of that profession has ever called on us but once, and the police got them. They got 20 years and it is not time for them to call again for 19 years, they won't be out till then. All of that profession know that, and they think that the Shaw Mansion is a very nice place to let alone, so we surely are blessed. We don't put the silver away at night, for we feel sure it will be right where it was left the night before, even if that were out on the piazza.—or under the trees. Pa is a big man so he can do anything he likes.

We all went fishing out in a catboat and I love that sport. I caught 10 fish all myself, except Levey Cohen baited my hook and took off the fish. I don't like to do that part. Pa got more than I did, and bigger ones, too, one weighed 20 pounds—it was a cod. I got small fish, mostly, for I didn't think I could handle a big one, so I told the little fishes to bite my hook and for all the big ones to go to Pa's side, and they did. Ma don't fish, she says she never went but once and that's when she caught Pa. She said it was easy to land him and I said, "What bait did you use, Ma?" and she said, "I just baited the hook with five million dollars." Pa says that's the biggest fish story he ever heard, so does Levey Cohen, and Pa says he has been on exhibition ever since, as a good catch. Ma says Pa is the only man she ever could love, so I am glad she married him. We are all very happy and have such jolly times, all the time. It's a picnic for four all the time. When Uncle Smith and Levey Cohen is here I have heaps of friends that we see once in awhile, but I am too much taken up with my dear Pa to be much away from him. I go along with him everywhere I can because he likes to have me so much.

He is calling me now for a drive in my Franklin car, so

Bye-bye,  
ELSIE.

## LETTER VI

Well, little book, it has been some few days since I made you a call. Pa and I went over to New York City. We went in Pa's nameless motor, and such a trip, I won't forget in a hurry. Pa had the misfortune to kill a Jersey cow and had to pay \$60 in hard cash for the privilege. Pa said he was more sorry for the cow than for the man who owned her. He said the cow looked like a good one, while the man looked altogether to the bad. When we got to New York City we went to the New Astor House, up-town—that's a very decent place to stop at, Pa says. Ma seemed pleased with our suite of three rooms and bath. We stayed three days—Ma had some shopping to do and Pa and I had some sightseeing to do—so we were all busy. Pa and I started to walk up Broadway a little below the Herald Building, when we came to a poor, old blind beggar playing a very squeaky organ. I gave him some pennies, so did Pa, and asked him how business was. The beggar said, "Bad, very bad, haven't taken 10 cents all day." I told Pa I would sing if he would grind the organ. I thought Pa would choke for a moment, but he concluded he would grind the organ while I sang. We moved up a little from the old man and then tuned up. I sang "Pickles for Two," and Pa ground out "Sally in Our Alley" on the organ. The singing and the playing didn't go on very well together, so I told Pa to play and I would dance. Well, that went better. The organ piped out, "Coming through the Rye," and I danced the Highland dance; some swell guys went by and dropped in several silver pieces and some that wasn't so swell did the same. One asked how long I had been in the business, and I told him about a half-hour. I had my automobile veil over my face so they couldn't see me much. Pa had on a false mustache and goggles, so his own mother would not have known him. Well, any way, we had the fun of earning eight dollars for the beggar man. Pa said it wasn't a good example, but I told him we were commanded in the Good Book to help the poor. Pa never objects to do anything when I tell him it's in the Good Book. He says he don't know the Book any too well at best and is always glad to have me remind him when he does anything it says to do. A man tried to steal my purse in New York, but he didn't get it. Pa gave him a cut that changed his mind quick. He picked up his feet and flew. Pa said that was just the way, help a beggar on one corner and be knocked down on the next one. I told Pa, yes, it seemed so, but not to mind, as long as the thief didn't get my purse. Pa said all he minded was because the policeman didn't arrest him and get his dollar commission in court the next morning. I never saw so many pails and pitchers in commission as we saw in New York the three days we were there. Pa says if all the beer was put together, sold those three days, it would cause the Charles River here in Boston to be a Johnstown flood, and if all the cigarettes were put in a line that they smoke over there in a week they would belt the globe. Pa says beer and cigarettes ought to be cut off the map. Pa don't smoke because Ma objects to the odor of tobacco, and Pa says a model husband won't make himself a weed to please some man. Pa says it will count for more in the end to please one's wife—I wouldn't think Pa was half so sweet to kiss if he smoked—Pa is such a darling; I wish every little girl had such a nice Pa as mine. Pa tells such fine stories; Pa says when he was a little boy he lived with his grandma and he went to the edge of the woods to get some berries that grew there and he heard a growl and looked up and saw a big black bear as big as a

horse—he ran like fun for home and told his grandma a bear chased him. He looked out of the window and told his grandma the bear was coming down the road. Well, grandma looked out and said, “Why, my dear boy, that’s Green’s black dog.” Pa says that’s all the bear he ever was chased by, and I guess it was enough as it nearly scared him to death. Pa and I have heaps of fun flying kites. We have had some splendid ones and they go up like the wind. Pa fills them with a new discovery he has, and they go up like a shot. Pa won’t tell what he puts in, and no one can find out. We rented a balloon and we went up till I thought I could see people on Mars, then we came slowly down to earth again—we had a glorious time among the stars, seemed as if they were very near, and we could almost touch them. I am fond of everything Pa is, I guess, and he has splendid taste.

Well, good-bye, little book, it’s time for dinner.

ELSIE.

## LETTER VII

Well, I have been having a very remarkable experience, and not only myself and Pa, but all the United States as well; the excitement spread all over the country. I am going to put this down to tell my grandchildren about, for I hope they never will have such a time as we all have had for the past few weeks. I went with Pa to do a little shopping because my dearest girl friend, Mary Potter, of Brookline, had a birthday, and I did, at last, but such a time. I went to the counter where diamond rings were displayed and selected a beauty—Pa said he could not have picked out a better one for the money himself—and I took my purse, opened it to get the \$200 to pay for my friend’s present, when I found my purse empty but for a few small silver pieces. I gasped for breath and told Pa. He looked at the purse and declared he knew it was clasped tight when he took it from his pocket inside his vest to give me, and I knew I placed three hundred in one hundred dollar bills in the purse before I started. Pa got the three new bills at my bank that very morning, but they were gone, and no sign of how, or when.

Pa said: “Never mind, Elsie, I have some money myself, also I happen to have my check-book, so you can have the ring just the same. I don’t care for the loss of that three hundred dollars so much as the peculiar way of its disappearance, but perhaps you left it at home in your room.” The clerk said I could telephone and ask, which I did. Ma answered the phone and looked in my room and asked the servants, but no money was found, or had been seen. Well, Pa took out his pocketbook and said I could have what bills he had, which was one hundred and fifty dollars, and give a check for the other fifty, so while he was talking he was opening his pocketbook, and he too started, and gasped for breath, for no bills were to be found, nothing but two silver quarters did Pa’s pocketbook contain, and they were as mum as oysters. Pa said: “Elsie, I don’t understand this. Child, we have been robbed since we left home, but I am at a loss how and when; I am also sure I had one hundred and fifty dollars, besides these quarters, in my pocketbook, but they are all that is left to tell the tale, and they don’t tell it.” We both laughed like two kids—I felt like crying, and Pa said the cold shivers were playing up and down his spine. So he wrote a check for the two hundred dollars and I took the ring and we went directly home and told Ma. Poor Ma couldn’t understand it any more than we did.

Pa went to the police station and reported his loss, also my loss, too. The sergeant said it did look queer. However, we looked all over the house, but not a sign of the missing bank-notes. Before twelve o’clock that day the police were nearly wild, for hundreds had reported losses of from five dollars to one thousand in bills, no one had a sign of a bill on his person—people seemed to be going mad, for every one would swear they had so much money in the morning and some time during the day it disappeared like the dew before a hot August sun. The police were at work on the case, so were the newspapers.

Hearst’s “American” got the real first news; said a man in a big house in the suburbs had all the money that had been lost, but not much came to light till some days later, for the house had a high stone wall and was guarded by big men, who said Mr. Worthington, the author, was busy writing a book on his European travels and could not be disturbed, so no one was let into the author’s house. Mr. Worthington was also a clever scientist—although no one knew that except his servants. He was always seeking to find some new hidden power he believed to be attraction, that was yet unsolved, so he spent his life among his books in study, also making experiments and writing when nothing of greater interest came to hand. For a few days he had been operating a peculiar machine that in appearance looked like a telegraph instrument, with the result that had caused all the commotion in town those few days. It seemed he had dreamed that a combination of chemicals, used with the peculiar machine, would attract money to it on account of the silk in the paper money was made of. It would go through everything except a vault; leather was no protection at all, and no one could explain it, and when the servants waited till ten A. M. on the fifth day, not having seen or heard of the author after leaving his food in the dining-room that was eaten always, till the dinner the night before—which was the general cause of alarm—they pushed in the door. Well, they tried. It would not yield much, but it was dark and stuffy, so they got a ladder and went to the window. They could see nothing but one solid mass of green, with now and then a gleam of yellow. What to do they did not know, so they telephoned the police, and they came and saw—what? Why, the poor man actually dead in the middle of a



room crowded, packed down, with greenbacks, of all denominations from one dollar to one thousand dollars. The police said there were millions of bills; some of them went crazy looking at it, and some wondered how it could have been done. No one had an idea. The servants declared that Mr. Worthington had not left his house in ten days, and had not left his room except to go to the dining-room for five days, but he was in the midst of millions, and it had smothered him to death. A man was found who tried to explain how the machine attracted that silk in the money. Some believed him, others said he was a fool. The money was restored, as far as it could be. Pa and I got ours back because we had the first experience, but oh, my! such excitement I never heard or witnessed before. People didn't dare carry any greenbacks in their purses or pockets for weeks after the whole thing was over. Pa said his check-book would be his closest friend for a time; said that infernal machine might go off any minute and make another collection, and he was going, for one, to be on the safe side. I am glad it couldn't attract automobiles, for Pa would have lost his Brass Band and the whole business, and my car might have gone, too, then I would have had a good cry, for I most surely love my dear old Franklin. She is such a flyer, and I have had so much fun touring in that car.

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I am glad, however, to be settled down once more to our normal life, and I feel much better. I, with many more, have had a horrible nightmare. I have related these facts as well as one could expect of a girl fourteen years of age; anything one may wish to know more about, my Pa can tell them, he's a very learned and wise man, and he says he fully understands all about the attraction of the money to that machine—but I am sure I don't and Levey Cohen says he don't see any sense in it at all, and so I don't feel so awfully alone in not understanding all such high science. Pa is way up in science.

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I hear Pa calling for his girlie, so

Good-bye,  
ELSIE.

## LETTER VIII

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I have been very much interested in a Benefit for the Sufferers of the late California Earthquake. It was held in Mechanics Building and twenty thousand dollars was raised. It was all done by the young people of Boston. We had the Salem Cadet Band as a foundation, and then the children gave pretty dances, marches, songs, readings, etc. It was a vaudeville and pop concert show all in one and it lasted two days. Such gay crowds I never saw. Pa said the ladies were lovelier than ever and every one was glad to help, by her presence, and also many brought friends who were strangers here. I think that the Salem Cadet Band is a peach. Every one enjoyed listening to the band and then they made a splendid orchestra for the fancy dancing; so that it all together was a fine success. I have jotted down two of the selections given by children present. David Westfield, six years of age, gave a wonderful selection which I shall put right here; it was called "Esau Buck and the Buck-saw." Pa said how a boy six years old could recite a piece so complicated was a wonder. He said that David Westfield was a live wire, and he should keep track of him to see what end he made. He says he is liable to be a big man some day, and something will drop at City Hall if he got power there. Now for the selection. David made a low bow to the big audience, stood up on the seat of a big automobile that was on the stage as one of the props, and began thus: "An old farmer, way out in Kansas, whose sons had all grown up and left him, hired a young man by the name of Esau Buck to help him on his farm. On the evening of the first day they hauled up a load of poles for wood and unloaded them between the garden and the barnyard. The next morning the old man said to the hired man, 'Esau, I'm going to town this morning, and while I'm gone you may saw up the wood and keep the old Buck out of the garden.' When the old man was gone, Esau went out to saw the wood, but when he saw the saw, he didn't saw it. When Esau saw the saw he saw he couldn't saw with that saw, so he didn't saw it. When the old man came home, he said, 'Esau, did you saw the wood?' and Esau said, 'I saw the wood but I didn't saw it, for when I saw the saw, I saw I couldn't saw with that saw, so I didn't saw it.' Then the old man went out to see the saw, and when he saw the saw, he saw that Esau couldn't saw with that saw. Now when Esau saw that the old man saw that he couldn't saw with that saw, he picked up the ax, and chopped up the wood and made a seesaw. The next day the old man went to town and bought a new Buck-saw for Esau Buck and when he came home he hung the new Buck-saw for Esau Buck on the sawbuck, by the seesaw. At this time Esau Buck saw the old Buck eating cabbage in the garden, and when driving him from the garden Esau Buck stopped to examine the new Buck-saw that hung on the sawbuck, by the seesaw. Now when Esau stopped to examine the new Buck-saw that hung on the sawbuck, by the seesaw, the old Buck made a dive for Esau, missed Esau, hit the seesaw, and knocked the seesaw against Esau Buck, who was getting up with the Buck-saw, which hung on the sawbuck, by the seesaw. Now when the old man saw the old Buck make a dive for Esau Buck, miss Esau, hit the seesaw, and knock Esau over the sawbuck, by the seesaw, he picked up the ax to kill the old Buck, but the old Buck saw him coming, dodged the blow, knocked the old man on to Esau Buck, who fell on the Buck-saw, over the sawbuck by the seesaw. Now, when the old Buck saw Esau Buck knock the old man over the sawbuck, by the seesaw, and break the Buck-saw and the sawbuck, and the seesaw, he went into the garden and ate up the old man's cabbage." You should have heard that crowd cheer that kid; he had a big bouquet of daisies. Pa said he ought to have had a whole field for that piece of work.

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I liked one very much that Millie Green read, it was called "Naughty Zell." Pa said it was the limit for a saucy girl. Pa said it was the best he ever heard, so here it is: "The other day, Kep Elbert, that's my beau, was goin' to go fishing on Soap Creek, and he said I could go long too, if I would be real good, and not scare the fishes, so we got up dest as early. Kep thinks an awful lot of me, so he does, he let me dig all the fish worms. I got mamma's milking-pail half-full of 'em—it's lots of fun to dig fish worms. I heard the old milkman coming and I had to run like everything and put the pail back quick, 'cause he might ask Bridget for a pan and then she wouldn't let us go fishing. Bridget is awful mean—t'other day she just up and slapped me 'cause I put a toad in my grandmother's bed, to see if she wouldn't scream like everything when she saw it. I knew it wouldn't bite her all the time, so I did, but the man poured the milk in the pail all right and I breathed easier again. I had to dig a whole lot more, though, before we went. First thing, we had our breakfast, 'cause we'se awful hungry, then I put the bait on the hook, and Kepie fished. We had to drink water out of Kep's shoe—it didn't have but a teeny, weeny, little hole in the toe—'cause I had to leave the pail at home. Kep was awful cross, though, he wouldn't let me whisper for an hour—guess it was more than two hours. I just had to keep a-biting my tongue, atween my teeth, 'cause I wanted to know so awful bad why he didn't catch any. I was kind of glad when a snake runned over my bare foot, so I had to scream, and then Kep said, 'twas no use a-trying to fish where girls was. I guess Kep had a good time, but I don't think I care for fishin' much, it's too much like Sunday school for me. My mamma tells me when I'm naughty to tell Satan to get behind me, and I did tell him, and he pushed me right into the creek. I don't think I'll tell him that no more, 'cause I had on my best apron and stockings, and when I got home, why, there was a lot of company there, and mam's face got awful red and everybody didn't say nothin' for a long time, an' then pretty soon I heard an old man say, 'H'm, that young one is a regular torment, she needs a rawhide to guide her for awhile;' and I said, 'Oho, ol' man, was that you a-talkin'? You had not better get too smart around here, I'll fire you out bodily. Who do you think you are talkin' to, anyhow, ha? You old crank, you!' You bet I scared him, he never said no more about me, you bet you. I don't care, he's dead now, and I am glad. Would you believe it, my mother sent me to bed without my dinner. Don't you think she did, I don't care, 'cause some day I'm going to die, then she'll wish she had been kinder to me when I was just taking my own part, so she will—she will too. I never stayed up there neither, I run over to Nettie Bell's house, and when I came back, why, the company wasn't gone yet, and I said, 'Mamma says city folks is always coming here three times to her once, and always staying all night, and the boys have to sleep out in the barn,' Then everybody looked funny, and Mrs. Hull said, 'William, children and fools always speak the truth, let's go home at once,' and I says, 'No one wants you here.' Then mamma cried, and papa laughed, and big brother Fred got a big stick, but he didn't catch me 'cause I run awful fast, when I was going to get a licking. I had to run outside into the yard and hid under the rose-bushes, close to the hammock, until they forgot. That's where Mary and Slicer does their sparking, an' they don't 'low us children round there neither, don't you think they do, and I knowed I either had to hide under the rose-bush or skip, and what do you think I did? I bet you can guess. I hid under the rose-bush, so I could take notes, 'cause Kep thinks an awful lot of me, and why, if we'd ever get big, why, an' if we'd ever want to spark any, and if Kep didn't know how, I'd know, but I couldn't hear what they was saying 'cause they never said nothing for a long time, and then pretty soon they would be a-talking just as low, and just as low, and then pretty soon, Slicer said, 'My Precious Darling! I couldn't in the world ever love any one else but you,' and then he gave her a great big kiss, and she never said quit that, or nothing, an' I jumped right out and said, 'That's a great big fib, 'cause I saw you taking another girl out riding on Soap Creek, so I did,' and he said, 'You rattlesnake, where do you spect to go for tellin' such great, big fibs, what ain't so,' and I said, 'I don't expect to go to no place where you are, you old smart crank. I just hate all men and boys except my Dad, and Kep, so I do, that's my mind right now, see?' Say, I know something, something good, about some one. I ain't going to say who said it, but the one that did don't tell lies. 'Twasn't so, though. I was walking t'other day down-town when I heard some one talking about me, and I knew if I didn't go back I'd never know, so I went back, and some one what knows very much said, 'There goes the prettiest and smartest girl in town,' and that was me; just 'cause my Dad's rich is no sign I am smart. Why, my Dad's got ever so much money, he could just throw it away if he wanted to, but he don't want to. This is about the worstest dress I got—'taint the very worstest, I guess it's about the best one I got, tho I can have better dresses than this if I want 'em, but I don't want 'em, 'cause I have got better sense than to want things I can't get. I guess folks think 'cause my ma dresses me up so nice that they can get me to speak every place, but I don't ever want to speak, 'cause I don't guess they want to hear me, all the time. On Kep's birthday he had a great big party to his house, and they got Kep to speak first, 'cause I guess they wanted to save the best for the last, and pretty soon they didn't ask me to speak. I know they wanted to hear me awful bad, but they didn't ask me, so pretty soon I said I guessed I'd speak my piece now, and I did. I guess everybody thought I spoke it awful good. I didn't hear no one say they did, but I guess they did. I'll speak a teeny, weeney little bit of what I spoke at Kep's birthday party. I won't speak all of it 'cause I guess you don't want to hear all of it. (Bows) I know it but I can't think of it—now I know: 'Mary had a little wool,'—no, that isn't it—'Mary had a little lamb, its wool was black as dew'—oh, no—'Mary fleeced a little lamb,' no (not as bad as that), 'Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was wool, and died.' Oh, I don't know what Mary did have, boo-hoo." So ended that. Then a boy gave a monologue called, "Every Little Bit Helps." It was fine, and was received with much applause and laughter.

#### EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS

Did you see that old maid? Holly Gee, isn't she ancient? She belongs to a very old family. Just think she is a cousin to Lydia Pinkham, of Lynn, Mass., and a sister to Josiah Allen's wife. She's looking for a man, and I reckon she will have to look till she gets on two pairs of glasses, and we

have sunsets in the east. Really she must feel like shooting the shoots, when she sees all the summer beaux, in Central Park.

Did you ever go fishing with dried apples for bait? It beats the flies all to smithereens. A boat and a bag of dried apples is all you need. When you find plenty of fish, just throw in a few handfuls of dried apples, and the fish will gobble it up and then the dried apples will swell and they will come up to the surface to see the sun set in the north, and wink at the stars, and you can pick them as fast as strawberries in a cabbage patch.

I went to church last Sunday, and, as they were short of teachers, they asked me to take a class of boys. I tried to tell them about Daniel in the lion's den, and Alexander, the coppersmith, etc., and then a boy began to tell me the biggest lie I ever heard, and I asked him if he didn't know it was awfully wicked to tell lies, and he said, "Didn't you ever tell a lie?" and I said, "No," and he said, "Great Caesar's ghost! Won't you be lonesome, though, when you get up to heaven, with no one but George Washington for company?"

I went to a reception the other night, and was introduced to the great Prof. Bobs. "So glad to meet you, old chap. They tell me, Prof., you have mastered all tongues." "Well, all but my wife's and her mother's."

I met Mr. Dooley on the street the other day and he began to tell me a tale of woe, and I said, "Now see here, cheer up, don't make mountains out of mole-hills." "Well," said he, "that's all right, but I knew a man that made a whole barrel out of a bucket shop."

I went to a school exhibition the other day, and the teacher said, "The class in 'spasms' will recite," so John Jones was asked to tell what a straight was, and he said, "Just the plain stuff with nothing in it." Then the teacher said, "If 32° is freezing-point, what is squeezing-point?" and Johnny said, "2° in the shade." Then the teacher says, "Johnny, how old are you?" and Johnny says, "I ain't but 12, but my pants are marked 16." Then Danny Jones was asked to give the positive, comparative, and superlative of "sick." Danny—Sick, worse, dead.

Oh, say, Prof., what letter would you say if your mother-in-law fell into the ocean? (Prof.) "Well, I don't know." "Why, letter B."

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Pa and Levey said it was a howling success. I had a fine spin in my automobile to-day. I go out every day generally with Pa, unless he wants to have his band along, then I go by myself. Pa says we'll go to the Empire Races later on—I hope so, it's great sport to see a good live race between fine-built autos. Makes one feel one's a live wire, to keep up. Levey Cohen has a new machine, a Sparklet. It's a new make, but Pa says it's the real goods. Ma says Pa always thinks Levey is all right and so he is, bless his dear heart. My birthday is soon coming and I will have a big celebration. Pa says the district attorneys are looking for whiskey within four hundred feet of schoolhouses to get the people to think they are doing something. Pa says that's a rummy way to get a living. I guess Pa don't think much of that kind of popularity. Levey Cohen says a man can find enough that will help the people, and keep them busier, and not have such a bad smell as whiskey. I hear politics discussed nearly every day at dinner when Levey Cohen dines here, that is if it's on the Republican side—Democrats are not allowed to talk in our house. Ma, Levey Cohen, and I are good Republicans, so,

Good night,  
ELSIE.

## LETTER IX

Now, little book, I am going on a trip to Europe and this is my last letter till we come back in October. Pa and Levey Cohen have become personally interested in the queerest boy I ever saw. He is fourteen years of age, and a newsboy, from New York City, and Coney Island. He has bright gleaming red hair, large brown eyes, more freckles than Dr. Woodbridge could ever count, and two front teeth knocked down his throat in a fight in which he says, for once, he got licked by a Chink, which hurts his feelings more than the lickin'. Pa got him a new suit and a hair cut. You couldn't tell where his hair began and his face left off. Pa says, like good whiskey, he will improve with age, and I should hope he might. Up to now he has slept in barrels and boxes mostly and never had a human being kind to him in his life. He's got a common yellow dog named Teddy—he said he wouldn't come unless Pa adopted Teddy, the dog, and Pa said there was room for the dog, so when "Jimmy Jones" got that letter he wired back to Pa saying: "Dear Sir: Your offer accepted, quicker than instantly. I telegraph you my answer, but I expect to get there before the telegram does." He told the telegraph man to collect on the other end, that was the end the money pot was, and he sent the message, also the bill. Pa said he had great hopes of "Jimmy," after he got that telegram. "Jimmy Jones" boards with our gardener, and Pa had a nice room fitted up for him, and when it was shown him he looked at the bed all made up nice, and white, and said: "Hully gee! what's that? a dining-table! Gosh, but ain't it grand?" When told it was a bed he said, "Gosh, I couldn't get on to that, I would soil the top right off." Pa told him after he had a bath and was scrubbed off—which he didn't like at all—he was left to his first night's rest in a bed that he could remember. He told Pa the next day that he could sleep a hundred years and never want to wake

up to the bad world in that bed. He said he wondered why people wanted to go home, but now he said it was clear to his mind that they wanted to just sleep in a nice comfortable bed. He told every policeman he met to come and rest their lamps on his bed, said it was good for sore eyes, etc. Pa took Jimmy to Dr. Atwood on Boylston Street to have two teeth put in on a bridge. Jimmy didn't like the process, but he stood it fine; the gardener says he's a brave boy. Anyway, he looks better with the teeth in. Before he looked for all the world like that yellow kid boy I saw when I was a very little girl, that was before Buster Brown appeared in the Sunday papers. Pa says he will let Jimmy learn to drive his automobile—thinks he can learn in time, all but his slang. I never heard such a string of slang in all my life. The other day he was telling the gardener about his summer at Coney Island; I heard a part of what he said: "Yes, Coney Island is de place where all de swells go to dat tink they are swells. Hullu gee! all that is swell about them is their heads. They are, all told, a rummy lot. Lots of times they steal a paper or a shoe shine. Yes, I blacked the President's boots for him. Naw, not the President of the United States of freedom, but dis was a President of a peanut trust, he gave me Mary a handful of his hot peanuts and I don't forget it, you bet your best hat. I have sold papers to the elete of New York. I can lick any kid on the Row. The policeman never tells me to move on, now, they know I'm de real ting, see? and a live wire. They don't let on they see me, half of de time, 'cause I know a lot of de monkey shines going on and dey let me alone. I gits along wid de push all right. I stand up for all de newsboys, 'cause dey will be all men some day, and may even own a automobile. My! but dey are de live ting, don't dey hum and kick up de dust, though. I sold papers for de sufferers of de Cal earthquake, and I got a heap of money. It would do your old lamps good to have seen de pile I took in. I got ever so much money—too much to count. I never seed so much all to once in my whole life. I most wish I had been killed in an earthquake, bad as it was, and got a handful of dat dough. I never kept a cent for myself, no sirree, I'm honest if I am only 'Jimmy' de newsboy. Dey all knows me in New York. I have found good friends here, just tink, I am going to school at night and git learning, so I can do tings and propel a automobile. Hullu gee! you bet your last year's top hat I'll sit up straight and go like de dickens, no snale creeping for mine. I tink I will be a good driver for that kind of a water wagern. De Governor has a brass band on his wagern and dat takes my blinkers and thinkers, most awfully much. Hullu gee! but the natives of this town will stare when dey sees 'Jimmy' go out for a spin up Tremont Street—dat's de toney street of Boston, ain't it, Cap? Oh, ye don't tell me it's Commonwealth Avenue, dat is de swellest, is it? Well, I've heard of Tremont Street and the Old Howard Theatre and of Austin and Stone's and that's all I know of Boston. I don't read de papers much, you see, 'cause I'se too busy selling 'em, but now I am here and going to become a natural sized sitizen of dis United States of Boston America, why, cos I has to git on to de place wid both feet. Now don't scowl and find fault wid me talk, for I let you say what ye like and I'll do the same, unless de cops git on to me game and shut out me lights. I don't tink I will ever want to vote, 'cause ye have to wait till yers are twenty-one and dat's too long. I can't git old but a year at a leap, and any furreigner can be natural and made a American sitizen here just before each election and vote. Some of dem get to be new natural Americans every voting time, so I will stick to de automobile and de papers, for my daily grub. Well, course, if de Governor says I am to keep shut up tight when I am on de box all right, I can. I can tink and say so to myself, quiet, so no one will hear me express myself only in silence. Well, good-bye, I am goin' to try on me new suit the Governor sent me. I will be a real Tremont Street swell sure's yer live."

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Well, now Jimmy has disappeared and I will just note that I am perfectly shocked at his way of talking, but Pa and Levey Cohen both says he is a diamond in the rough, and I do hope they can polish off some of the rough corners soon. Pa has always wanted to take just such a character and tame him. Now he has got the raw material and I shall be waiting anxiously to see what comes up next. Uncle Smith is coming soon and I expect when he sees the boy Jimmy—well, Uncle Smith will say words I won't write. I can hear that Jimmy talking yet with the gardener, that is, Jimmy is talking and the gardener just listening. I will put down what I can hear: "Say, Harvard College is a swell place I guess. I have read in de papers dis mornin' dat dey want twenty million dollars to make de place solid. Gee whiz! what do dey do wid all de money dey gets? I know a lot of dem Harvard fellows; in New York dey always gives a fellow a few extra pennies and dinner, on holidays. I likes dem Harvard fellows 'cause dey has got a generous vein in der hand. Guess dey are taught to be generous to us kids in college, dat's why dey need so much money to carry dem along. Say, wouldn't you like to get your lamps on twenty million dollars all in one bunch? Don't it make ye faint to think of it? Gives me a hungry pain in de left side of me liver. Say, Mr. Gardner, dat waking suit of yourn (scuse me for saying so) in New York would be called loud enough for a talking machine reckord. Say, I'se got a best girl, I has. She's a cracker jack; she's got the beautifullest hair yer ever saw. It's a high-toned shade; they call it ashes and roses, but I don't see why, but they do. Her eyes are violet, oh, so fine. Hullu gee! but they snap when she gits mad. She boxed my ears one day 'cause I tried to kiss her. She got awful mad and threw a wash-tub at my head, but I dodged it and it went plunk into a big policeman who was stooping down to look into a barroom window. Peg said it served him right for snooping, but she run like anything and so did I, and when de policeman got up we war way off. He took de wash-tub wid him, but no one saw any one fire it, so it was never reclaimed. Peg said the tub cost a dollar and twenty-five cents and if she claimed it, why, she was likely to get pinched, and get thirty days, so she said the policeman was welcome to de tub; said she bet a button de next time dat policeman stooped down to look at anything he would hire a man to watch behind him. Oh, I tell you what, de papers are all de time having excitement. Why don't all de people go to Sunday school and be good? If dey would de papers would be put out of biz. Dey are watching all de time

for de man or womans dat do wicked. All de good ones are never spoken of except when dey die, and den only a few lines way back in de paper in small print, but let a man give a lot of money like some fellows rocks I heard of, and dey will put de heading in capital letters, a little bigger den de common readin', den you notice dat de oil we use to feed our lamps on goes up, perhaps only a quarter of a cent, but if you can get a few billion quarter of cents together all to once it would buy a good many turkeys for Thanksgiving. Say, mister, Christmas and Thanksgiving are de only two days in de year I can git full. Naw, I don't mean full of liquor. (I never drink anyting but milk and cold water.) I mean get full of grub, wid all de good tings de rich people has. Wouldn't I like to be rich? No, I don't tink money is all dare is, but it is a whole lot to fill in wid. A pocket full of greenbacks would make me feel better than a pocket full of emptiness with a big appetite. Say, mister, I can sing and dance to beat the cars. I singed 'De Pride of Newspaper Row,' last winter in New York and I got an applecore to sing another verse. Ought to be encore? They said I did fine. Say, mister, if you saw an automobile coming down the street at sixty miles an hour and a deaf man crossing the street, what's the answer? Not yet, but soon! Did you hear about the new Irishman over to East Boston last week? Well, Mike McCarthy told me about it. He said he and Pat Murphy was working on Mr. Smith's house, the one that married Mary Jones, of Salem, and Pat was working on the roof when all of a sudden the staging broke and Pat slipped and slid, till at the very edge he caught on to the tin gutter and hung in the air, six stories from the ground. Mike and the other yelled to Pat to hold on till they got something to catch him in. In a couple of minutes they had a big canvas sheet by the corners and told Pat to drop into the canvas, and Pat cried: 'How in the devil can I let go when it's all I can do to hold on?' Oh, did yer hear the one about Pat and the ants? Well, Pat, after eating his lunch, lay down under a tree to get forty winks before the whistle for one o'clock blew and he layed on top of an ants' nest, which he didn't dream of, but pretty soon the whole ant family came out to see what kind of a lobster was in their yard, so they crawled all over Pat and bit him to see if he was good eating, etc., and pretty soon Pat brushed them off and went to sleep again as best he could. They all came for another look at Pat, and he brushed them all off again, till bime by a big spider dropped on Pat's bald head and bit him good. That was enough for Pat. He got up and said: 'Now, then, all of yers get off.' Did you hear about Mr. Burbank's Jersey cow? Well, a vishus dog bit off her tail so she looked so funny that Burbank concluded to fat her and sell her for beef, so in four months she was in prime order and he took her to the stock yard to sell her, but when the man saw her he said, 'Mr. Burbank, we don't retail any cows here.' Oh, did you hear the description of Noah's wife? Well, the minister read that Noah took unto himself a wife; her hight was three hundred cubits, her breadth fifty cubits, made of Gopher wood, pitched within and without with pitch. He looked rather surprised as he read on, then paused, and in a solemn voice said, "'Tis true, we are fearfully and wonderfully made.' (Some bad boys had pasted the leaves together, hence the good old man's surprise.) Oh, say, mister, I know a real funny piece about balls. Ever hear it? Well, here it is. I went to the newsboys' ball in New York last spring given by Mr. Frank Ball, of Chicago. I know of several kinds, for instance, there are snow balls, foot balls, rubber balls, rifle balls, base balls, cartridge balls, cannon balls, basket balls, croquet balls, Ping Pong balls, pool balls, fish balls, billiard balls, tennis balls, bowling balls, camphor balls, and some policeman bawls, and if you miss hearing me bawl you will want to eat some raw dough balls to make you remember to go to our ball next year, sir."

Good night, I'm twenty-three for bed.

ELSIE.

## LETTER X

Now, little book, I am feeling a little too proud, I expect, for Pa is going to take us all over to London in his new air-ship. It's called the Margaret, and she looks like a couple of large cigars tied together. Pa made a scientific combination of steel and aluminum, which, with some secret liquid added, makes the lightest and strongest metal ever produced. The whole ship, with all its apparatus for a trip across the ocean, only weighs one thousand pounds and will carry six hundred pounds. We will start at nine o'clock Monday, and we expect to be in London by Wednesday eve, at ten P. M., so I will stop for a little till we are on board. I will write on board if we don't rock too much. I hope we don't go to the bottom of the sea, that's all. We are to have a wireless telegraph to let the people know how we get on. No one knows when we are to start, or where, because it got into the papers that the trip was to be made, and many would gather to see us start, but Pa says no, he wants to be far away before any one knows it, and I guess it is better so, too. Pa is calling, so I must run to see what he wishes.

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4 P. M., Tuesday. My goodness, we are skimming over the top of the ocean like a large white bird. My, but this is the most beautiful trip I ever had. We are sailing about two hundred feet up above the water, Pa thinks; he hasn't asked the captain to be sure, but it is glorious. We have passed several steamers and they saluted with all their power. We waved the Stars and Stripes to them in reply, and sent a message that we were going fine, and without any hitching. We have heard from Boston and will soon have a message from the King. A big reception is to be given to us, but I dread that, for our luggage had to go over by steamer, and although it was sent a week ahead, if it don't arrive when we do I guess we won't be much to be seen. My, how grand the sun

is, and the moon and stars, when you are up above the earth some ways. The ocean is a dream of delight to look upon. Pa planned to come when the moon was full so we could see all the wonderful beauty of sea and sky. No tongue or pen could ever fully describe this journey. We have sailed along as smooth as any one could wish. Ma is delighted. She said she was just frightened to death, but felt it her duty to come if Pa went to kill himself, and Levey Cohen and I—that she Couldn't live without us, so she was willing to die too. I don't think she is bothering much about dying by the way she is laughing with Levey Cohen. I have to write now or when we land I would forget half of the fun we are having. Pa says a big crowd is waiting to meet us in London. I wonder where Pa will keep this machine when we get to London, probably it will be kept on the top of some automobile garage. Pa don't say; I bet he don't have any idea where it will be kept. We seem to be attracting a great deal of attention. Why, I don't think this is such a wonderful thing because Pa did it. Pa is a wonderful man, but when you live with such a wonderful man I guess you forget a good deal about the wonderful part till you hear other people say so. We don't eat as much up here as when we are on earth, because we are nearer heaven, and are looking up and thinking of higher things than material eating. My, how fast we go, the clouds fly by and we go right through them like everything. They seem to fly like the trees and fields in an automobile race. I don't care if we don't ever stop, or come down. I could go on forever like this. Jimmy went over in the steamer with the luggage. Pa says we will land now in a few hours. Pa had a band made by phonographs, so we have had music, and Ma brought the pol parrot. He has heard Jimmy talk and to-day he has shouted several times what Jimmy said when his steamer went out. "Hully gee, don't git drowned." I don't think we will, but it would be an awful drop if we did bust up; however, I don't feel afraid now any more. Huray! we can see London. Pa says it's a fine sight. The stars bright and the moon like a big golden ball in the sky, and all London lighted up. They have sighted our ship, for I can hear their bells ringing.

79

Well, we are on the good earth once more. We had a fine greeting and this afternoon we will look over London a bit. We are to be presented at Court, and I don't know what all. I have seen the Shontworths. They are still here and made much of. We have our trunks and now we can go out and look and feel well groomed. Jimmy was so glad to see us safe and sound he forgot to use slang for once. Pa and Levey was pleased enough, but it didn't last, for soon he got into a fight with a London newsboy and it took a policeman to separate them. Jimmy told the English newsboy that "America was de onliest place fit to live in on earth," and naturally the English boy resented it, so it was a free fight to settle the matter. As the policeman dragged those boys apart Jimmy screamed to the top of his voice, "America ahead, by thunder!" Pa made Jimmy promise to be good else he would send him back on the next ship. I guess he will; he felt cheap to think he was caught in a street fight, as soon as he landed, nearly. Jimmy means all right, but he has a queer way of showing it, his fists seem to be his most familiar mode of expressing internal feelings.

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81

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Well, I have been presented to a real live King and Queen. It was rather a trying thing, after all, so different from home, but we liked it, as it's the fashion. We have been invited to several affairs and Pa delivered a talk before the King and Queen and the Royal House about his air ship. Tomorrow he is to take the King and Queen out for a short sail. It seems strange, to talk about sailing through the air, but it is so, and I reckon air ships will become somewhat popular; but Pa says most people will rather dangle their feet in the water in a boat than take chances in sailing in an air ship. It is majestic to sail through the air like a big bird, I think.

82

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Well, here we are in Spain and we have been presented to Spain's King and Queen. Pa won't display his air ship here. We are to stay only ten days, then return back to London for our homeward trip. We shall stay in Liverpool some weeks, I expect, as Pa has a cousin there who is crazy about air ships, so Pa will stay with them and I expect he and Pa will plan another wonder.

83

## LETTER XI

84

Well, dear little book, nine busy and happy months have passed since I have been able to find you. I have lots more stories to put down when I get time, but I will only record the one that seems to me most wonderful to-day. Pa has had the most wonderful success with his air ship, but I somehow cling pretty strongly to earth and my dear old darling Franklin car. She's a beauty and just as fine as ever, and I like her better every day. She is like a dear friend, the more you know their beautiful traits of character the more you love them, and that's the way with my Franklin—a royal friend, proved solid, true and loyal—what more could one ask of an automobile. Pa says Jimmy is getting on fine in his studies. He is learning to be a valued boy for Pa, and his nameless wonder. The only trouble with Jimmy is that he wants the band going all the time, and he to dance. Pa asked him how he expected to dance and motor both at the same time, but he will; he will dance and hop and keep his hands on the wheel. It's a funny sight.

85

Well, what I started out to say was that "Jimmy Jones" has a newspaper record. His picture was in the paper and he got dozens of them and had them all pinned up all over our private garage last Sunday week. We had an awful, awful thunder-storm and Jimmy was in the garage with

Teddy, the yellow dog. Well, all of a sudden an awful flash of lightning came and the thunder was so loud that we were all most stunned. Jimmy declared it clean knocked him off his pins. A few seconds after the flash and thunder was over Jimmy noticed a ball the size of a large orange and about the same color, bobbing against the window pane, like a grampa longlegs in summer. Jimmy said it crackled and sputtered like anything, as it bobbed against the pane, like a rubber ball. When he opened the window the ball bounced into the room and floated about the room like a balloon. Jimmy grabbed the broom used to sweep the garage, and struck at it. He hit it several times, but it would bound off again, but at last the blow went home and the ball busted, and hundreds of the most beautiful stones I ever saw fell on the floor. Jimmy ran for Pa and we all went out to see the wonder—which was a wonder. A note was found written in French, saying the Ball and Jewels were from the Planet Jupiter; that the people were men very like us, only they were all golden blonds, both men and women, and that they all spoke the French language; that they had had automobiles and air ships for over five thousand years, and that their best speeder was the Franklin touring car; said the roads were smooth and level, and that they were just natural; that they had been watching this world for a long time, and said we were getting on; said Jupiter had many more men than women, and would like to send some of them here, perhaps they could in 2906, also that precious stones were as thick on Jupiter as fleas are here in haying-time; that the ball of jewels sent was shot out of a lightning cannon, which they hoped would shoot far enough to reach this earth; said if it wasn't back in six months, they would know some one got it; said the jewels were the finest, but not so expensive there as here, because there they are very plentiful; said the "Man from Now" once lived in Jupiter and they kicked him out, that's how he was showing around Boston; said there was a man who spent heaps of Jupiter Globe funds and declared he was a brother to Fitzgerald here; said automobiles don't kill the people in Jupiter because they can all fly, and get out of the way; said they would make it very homelike for any Boston schoolmarms that want husbands; said there were no rum-shops up there (some people of Boston would have to get a new job that are saloon hunters); that the Golden Rule was all the religion they needed, and was signed "Weston Franklin," the maker of the noted Franklin Automobile.

When Jimmy was telling the gardener about it he said, "Hully gee, how am I to let dose guys know I got de rocks, de Governor says dey are worth a big pile of dough here and he will sell them and invest de money and I will have to study hard and be a man. Golly, does he tink I am a cow? I don't care. I wouldn't know what to do with de money, so de Governor might des as well keep it for me. I will go up to Jubator myself some day when dey gits de air ships going safe. I didn't ever expect to see de one dat went ober across de pond, a few months ago, but it came down safe and all on board. Yes, I'm getting along fine on de automobile. I can run it all right but I can't keep me feet still when I hear dat band of de Governor's, though. Say, dat's a peach you bet yer boots. It's a hummer. I reckon de Franklin car is de best on de street. Now dey has it on de planet Jubator all de swells will have one here; it will be more de rage dan ever before. Miss Elsie, she says she always felt it was de best one, and she knows what's good. Yes, I will turn in now. Good night."

## LETTER XII

"Jimmy" has been relating more of his troubles to the gardener. Last night it was so unusual that I will record it, as he seems to be a part of our life in a way. Pa and Levey Cohen say he is naturally a good foundation to build on—and they must know. "Say, Mr. Gardner, what you tink, de boys are calling me Mr. Jones, since de Governor sold dem rocks and got fifty thousand dollars for de lump, and I have had my picture in de Boston 'American.' Say Hearst is a pretty good man; he would be all right if he was a Republican, but Dick says he's on de wrong side of de pump in politics. Anyway he treated me white—made a very decent picture of me. It looks a sight better any day, than I does, Peg says, and she has good eyes, she has. Well, as I was saying, fancy me being called Mr. Jones. Hully gee, it made me sick to me stomach. I wonder if de push tinks I am going to swell up and bust 'cause I've got a few dollars now? I ain't seen it, de Governor says I'se got it, all right, but I don't feel no different than I did before, except I have de faith dat if I gets a college ice once a week I won't miss de five cents when I needs a pair of shoes, or a handkerchief. Say, mister, I notices some charge ten cents for dem college ices. I had one what cost ten cents de other week and 'tween you and me I couldn't see a might of difference in de two, except de price. Dick says I'm like de Irishman. Said all de taste I had was in me mouth. I've got on fine at de night school—de teachers say I must drop my slang, but, hully gee! I don't use any slang, much. I told de Professor to go oil his lamps, and he got mad and kept me after school. I be hanged if I notice that I use much slang. Wouldn't it bust de buttons off your vest how perticular some folks be? Hully gee! I don't want to be mean, nor nothing, but I must have time to git my own lamps trimmed, 'cause I'se always had to bump up against it hard, ever since I was born. I would like awful well if I could run up on de silver rays of de moon to dat planet Jubator; it must be a fine place up dare. Just tink, no rivers, and seas, to git drowned in, just deep wells, thick as peas in a pod, but no boats, or ships. Hully gee! only land, land everywhere. I would feel lonesome without de oder of de Charles River here. Sometimes it smells pretty bad, but I could even stand that than no smell at all. Oh, I want to tell yer before I forgit it. I went out in de country last night with Dick, to see his granny what lives out to Salem Willows. Well, they have a little patch of land there behind the house and Dick's granny keeps a few hens, and she had some

nice custards in old cups and we had a feast, let me tell you. Dick's granny keeps a goat, and a male sheep with big horns. He's an awful ugly cuss, and we saw ample proof of his ugliness. Dick went out to feed him and he broke his chain and came for Dick lickety slap bang and bunted Dick all over the yard. He tried to get up, but every time he moved the old he sheep would draw back and knock him down. He kept him there for more than an hour, I guess. Last his granny missed him and went to the door and Dick yelled for me to come out and drive the old he sheep off. I got the poker and went for Mr. Sheep. I gave him a good clip over his nose and he didn't feel like bunting any more; then I turned to Dick and said, 'Button, button, who got the button?' and Dick said, 'Well, if you had been here when I first came out you would have seen plain enough who it was.' Then we came back home and Dick says he's no friend to that he sheep any more. I don't blame him at all. That he sheep ought to have had more sense, but he didn't. Dat he sheep seemed to have a heap of respect for me after I gave him a rap over his nose. I reckon he would have called me Mr. Jones, if he could talk, with the accent on the Mr.

"The Governor told me if I wanted to get ahead I must get the bulldog grip. I told him I never seed one, and he said, 'Jimmy, didn't you ever see an old maid in the country set the bulldog on a tramp and see with what a grip the dog held on to the seat of the tramp's trousers as he tried to get over the fence?' I said I had, and he said that was what a bulldog grip means. Just get a strong, good hold and hang on. He said the Mason's grip wasn't so strong; said I ought to see a Mason ride the lodge goat. He said it was more fun to see the other fellow do it than to ride yourself."

We are planning for the Automobile Magazine Cup race. The cup is a stunner; it cost five thousand dollars, the most unique cup ever offered for a race. Pa says I can enter my Franklin Flyer as I am set on it so much. Levey Cohen says I'll win, so does Jimmy. I hope I do, then folks would have to say a girl can do some things, too, as well as boys and men.

Oct. 15, 1907. Say, but I am excited, for I have won the race. Fifteen hundred miles with not one bad mark—a perfect score for a kid is rather good, I think. I feel more pleased than I can tell. They had a plate made with brilliants that spelled "Franklin, Model G," and put on to the space left for the name in the cup. It's a dandy, let me tell you that. Jimmy Jones yelled himself sick shouting for the Franklin at the end of the tournament when the trophy was awarded. He said it took a live fish to go up stream and the Franklin car was it. I never saw a boy so crazy before. He said he would like to see the maker of the Franklin car President of the United States, but I told him I guessed he would rather turn out fast cars than to be president of anything but his own company. There's only one President ever got rich while sitting in the Presidential chair and he ought to have been in better business, Pa says. Jimmy says we have a bully President now, and I guess that's right, anyway, Pa and Levey Cohen say so, and they know. Jimmy was telling our gardener more yarns and I will write what I can hear: "Say, mister, wouldn't de new style of trousers put a feller on de bum, though? I never seed such big wide trousers. Be gosh, I believe dey are trying to git skirts on to de men. When I put me new suit on de Governor got me last week, I thought it looked mighty queer, yet I never gave it much thought till Peg got her peepers on them. She jest hollowed and she says, 'Git on to de dude, trying to be a womens; almost petticoats,' says she, 'not yet but soon. See de crease warble when ye walks. Hully gee! Jimmy, if yese can walk and keep dat crease straight de cops will pull yese in for talking too much boose. Ye will walk like a streak of greased lightning to keep up wid ye pants, bet ye life, it will be more work for ye than for a womens to keep her hat on straight, see?' Well, I did see, and I asked de Governor to send dem to de dressmakers and git de seam took in, but de Governor said, 'Jimmy, dat's de style,' but I says, 'Scuse me, sir, but I want me pants to look like they were cut for me and not for John L. Sullivan.' Peg says all de swell guys look like a pole wid de cloth draped on to cover up dar slimness. Now what I want to know is what de fat man can do wid all dat extra cloth around his pegs. He will look like he was sent for and didn't come at all. De tailor what made dat style must have been down East somewhere, perhaps down to Wonderland or Lynn, and got too many drinks, so he thought everyting went, even to de cloth for de trousers. I don't know whether he gits his money by de week or per. Oh, I saw dat fine actor, Mr. Edmund Breese, in de 'Lion and de Mouse.' Say, dat Breese man is a peach. He is mighty good actor, mister. I wish you would go and see him. Peg says she wishes I could make love like he can on de stage. She says she saw him at de Castle Square, Boston, and he was de handsomest lover on de stage—so de papers said, but you see I ain't it for polished manners. De Governor says I've got to watch out all de time so not to git throwed down. I am doing the best I can to stand on both me pins at once, but it must be mighty find to be really born a gentleman like Mr. Breese. He bought a paper of me several times when he was at de Park Theatre and he's a good sort, all right. Got lots of good sense in his head, and he's popular. Oh, I say, mister, did you ever hear one of them vaudeville fellows what talks down in his boots and then yer think somebody's under the stage, or in a trunk, or something awful. I mean one of them ventriloquists. Well, mister, I have seen 'em all from Dan Harrington to dat English chap what dey call Charlie Prince, but dey can't any of dem fellows hold a candle to Harry Kane. Kane he styles hisself on de bill at de theatre. He does de best act wid dem dummies I ever seed. Peg says all de others are dead slow, but Kane makes his Irishman mighty mad at de nigger boy he has. Dat Irish doll boy nearly gits alive, really, mister, he is so mad at being near a nigger. Gosh, I never seed such a fight as dey gits into. Makes ye wish you could go right down on de stage and give dat black nigger a big punch in de eye, so if ye wants to see a good A1 ventriloquist see Kane. Say, you will miss me gab 'cause de Governor has given me three weeks' vacation. Me salary goes on just the same. I feel like a bank clerk or a cashier of a swell bank. So long, now, till Christmas, which is not yet, but soon."

I reckon I'll say good night, too, little book, for my eyes are heavy with sleep.

ELSIE.



TESTIMONIAL

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A grateful student,  
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