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WRITES INTERESTING LETTER FROM ENGLAND

VISITS PLACES OF NOTE

Lida Gourley Relates Story of Trip In Letter to Her Brother; Family to Return Soon

The following letter was received by Mr. Lyle Gourley from his sister, Miss Lida Gourley, who is sojourning in Europe:

I will try to tell you what has happened during the past week, but I can't go into detail because it would take forever. Last Monday (August 3) was Bank holiday and it was on a bank holiday 11 years ago that England declared war on Germany.

It seemed as though all London were in the streets. We walked to Kensington Gardens, not far from our hotel. I have drawn a rough plan to show you about where we are located. Our book didn't say what day Kensington Palace was open and we walked there to get in if we could but learned that it is only open on Sundays.

Children's Paradise

Kensington seems to be a children's paradise. Autos are not allowed in the gardens and the broad walk is full of nursemaids and little children. The round pond is a shallow sheet of water made especially for boys to sail boats, and some of the boys are men for many of the boats are handsome and large toys and it is real exciting to see the wind fill the sails and take the small craft across the pond. I do not blame the men for wanting to play. Each man and boy has a stick with a hook and when his boat lands he brings it in and re-sets the sails.

In the afternoon we went to Westminster Abbey to see the royal tombs and the coronation chair. There were many, but the tombs most interesting to me were Oliver Cromwell's and Mary Queen of Scots. A service began to be conducted and everyone was told to move on or take a seat. We took a seat. Many Church of England services are good, but I didn't care for this one. The man who read the Scripture lessons—there is always a first from the Old Testament and a second from the New—read very well. Everything else was cold and formal. After the service we walked across St. James' park to Lancaster House, called the London museum. The house was given to the nation by Lord Leverhulme, the man I told you made so much money manufacturing Sunlight soap and built a model city for his factory workers in Liverpool.

London Museum Interesting

The London museum is a very interesting place. The collection is designed especially to illustrate the history and the social and domestic life of London in all periods. The house itself was regarded as one of the finest residences in London when it was built. It was made for the Duke of York but he died and the Duke of Sutherland purchased it. The grand staircase is especially fine. I can't begin to tell you one tenth of what we saw. In the basement there were some interesting models—little toy buildings illustrating how Caring Cross looked about 1600; how the London bridge of early days looked. A model of old St. Paul's burned in the great fire of London in 1666, the model of old Southwark with Shakespeare's Globe theater, and then a very exciting one of the great fire, a clever illumination giving the effect of flames and even smoke seems to be rising from the buildings.

There is a larger model of the tower and a set of rooms fixed up as they were in Newgate prison cells. The door of Newgate prison's cell for the condemned is there with its big key. There are pictures on the walls of all the famous buildings either standing or destroyed, and many old relics. I saw a bell that was rung by the man who drove the death cart during the plague. They rang the bell and cried "Bring out your dead!" I suppose they didn't care to go into the houses. There are three floors of interesting things. The upstairs has dresses worn by royalty and famous social beauties in different centuries. There are actual dresses worn by Queen Victoria from babyhood to old age, and a fine collection of jewels. After the doors shut we went to the back of St. James' palace. We saw where the Prince of Wales stays when he is in London and where the ambassadors are entertained at the palace.

St. Clement Dances

On Tuesday we went to St. Clement Dances church, the church that Samuel Johnson went to. There is a statue of him in the rear. In the street in front of the church is a Gladstone memorial. Next we visited the royal courts of justice. One of the attendants took us around and showed us the paintings hanging in the central hall, the statues, the court room where the lord chief justice of England sits and one other court, saying "When you see one court room you see them all." He pointed out the box where a murderer stood two or three weeks ago when on trial. He killed a butler in an attempted robbery. He is to be hung in three weeks. We sat in the lord chief justice's chair. I don't care about such things, but he asked us to do it and it is the only thing to do when you are asked. It was to this building that the delegates of the American Bar associ-

ation came last year or the year before last, I can't remember which, but Charles Hughes, former secretary of state Hughes, was the president of the American Bar association and was present. They presented to the London courts a very fine statue of Blackstone. The Royal courts of justice are very fine—the building, exclusive of the site, cost very short of a million pounds.

Not very far from the courts of justice is the Old Curiosity shop. It used to be a regular shop where someone sold postal and curiosities, but it is now a tailor shop. From there we walked to Lincoln's Inn Fields, a big public square with a park in the center. The Royal College of Surgeons is there. The guide said that visitors were admitted on the personal introduction order of a member. I tried and didn't have a bit of trouble, getting in. I suppose there are a great many London visitors who do not care to see it as some of the specimens are gruesome to people not used to such things. I thought it a wonderful collection. The museum was started by Dr. John Hunter and has been added to until now it occupies five large rooms besides a fine new war collection in the basement. There are specimens illustrating the position of arteries, veins, tendons, nerves, bones, muscles, organs, glands, etc. A wonderful collection of bones of men and animals—skulls from every tribe and nation arranged to show the truth of the theory of evolution, I suppose. In the first room the skeleton of Byrne, the Irish giant, 7 ft. 7 in. high, and that of Caroline Crahan, who died when ten years of age, only 20 in. high, are contrasted. There are specimens showing the effect of every known germ and parasite; acute pneumonia, leprosy, syphilis, everything. The specimens came from all over the world. There are arms, legs, organs with carcinoma, sarcoma, tumors, etc. There are specimens of bones that have been broken, some that have healed of themselves and

some that have been set or have had bone grafted into them. There are examples of atrophy, hypertrophy, necrosis from various causes. The war collection consists of wounds to bones, infection from wounds, specimens of trench foot about which I do not know much, but believe me! the feet they have look terrible. As I understand it, the feet were bound and the soldiers stood in water and mud unattended for weeks, maybe months. There were some wonderful "before and after" pictures showing the way the doctors remedied the appearance of disfigured faces. I will not go on with my description. The collection was very fine. We went back into Fleet street from there. It is full of newspaper buildings. I read the names of 40 publications going along it in the bus and that was on the fly so that there must be many more.

Temple Bar Archway

We passed the Griffin, the spot where Temple Bar archway used to stand and went to the Temple buildings which were built by the Knights Templars about 1312. Ever since 1346 it has been the dwelling of doctors and students of law. Some of the buildings are office buildings now. The Inner Temple is within the city boundary (the city is comparatively small) the Outer Temple is outside the boundary and Middle Temple stands between the two.

The Temple church is very interesting. It has a "Round Church" built in 1185—one of the four examples in England of the Norman round church. There are nine tombs of crusaders, recumbent figures in full armor lying there all these years and as perfect as ever—a little dirty, but not even chipped. Just outside the church is the grave of Oliver Goldsmith. Goldsmith, Lamb and Johnson all lived in the Middle Temple buildings. There is a wonderful old banquet hall in Inner Temple where Shakespeare acted "Twelfth Night" in 1602, while Elizabeth watched him from the gallery. On one of the tables in the

room she is said to have signed the death warrant of Mary Queen of Scots. The smaller table in the room was constructed from the timbers of Drake's ship "The Golden Hind."

Visit Johnson's Home

Next we went up Fetter lane and down another lane, very narrow, and arrived at Gough square where stands the house Johnson lived in when he wrote his dictionary. It is now a museum and a very interesting one, but not as interesting as Litchfield, his birthplace, but a great many travelers come to London who haven't time to go to an out of the way place like Litchfield, so that a Johnson museum is a fine thing for London. You get to see the very garret where Dr. Johnson toiled to make the first English dictionary. From here we went to the Old Cheshire Cheese, but didn't get a kidney pie meal as we were in a hurry to get back to Haymarket for letters. From there we went to Selfridge's and had tea. Selfridge's store is very large, but I can't tell you how it compares with Marshall Field in size. It isn't anywhere near as grand and I think the building is only five stories, but it covers a large piece of ground and it is doing a big business.

I must leave off here and finish the rest again. I have gotten behind with my story.

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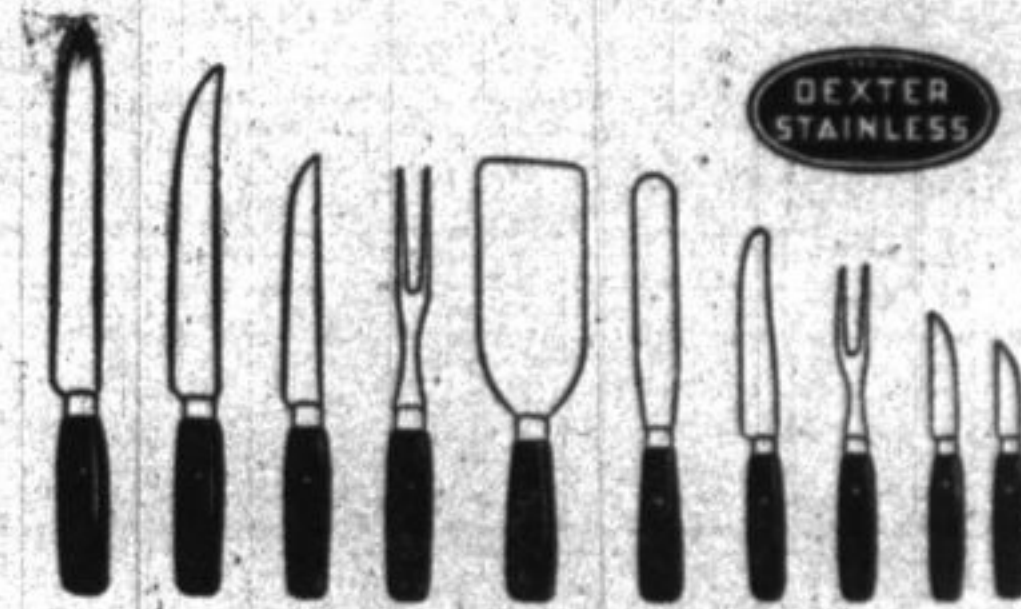
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