ENGLISH LETTERS OF THE SCHOLARS' INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE.

HERAUßGEGEBEN
VON
PROF. DR HEINRICH EHRENTHAL,
LICENTIATE OF THE COLLEGE OF PRECEPTORS, LONDON.

BEILAGE ZUM PROGRAMM
DER
STÄDTISCHE KATHOLISCHEN REALSCHULE
ZU BRESLAU.

BRESLAU.
DRUCK VON GRASS, BARTH & COMP. (W. FRIEDRICH)
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PREFACE.

La Correspondance internationale interscolaire est justement un nouveau moyen sûr et efficace, susceptible d’activer l’étude d’une langue vivante.

A. Tournier.

Two years ago I published a series of Letters: Lettres de la Correspondance scolaire internationale,¹ written by French pupils of colleges and addressed to scholars of the “Städtische Katholische Realschule, Breslau”. Now I want to bring forward a collection of English letters sent by English and American students to my pupils. The beginning of the actual Scholars’ International Correspondence dates from Jan. 15th 1897 ²; hence this correspondence has been carried on for more than eight years. M. Meille, professor at the college of Tarbes, France, Mr. W. Stead, Editor of the Review of Reviews and Miss E. Annie Lawrence, Secretary for International Correspondence, both in London, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street, Strand, and Professor Dr. M. Hartmann at Leipzig-Gohlis have initiated and chiefly promoted the international correspondence.

Although, no doubt, there are adversaries of the Scholars’ International Correspondence, this movement has notwithstanding much increased. “In December 1896, when the idea was mooted in England, only three English teachers, four Scotch, and one Irish approved. The present lists contain the names of seventy-one British teachers who have found the exchange of letters between their pupils admirable as a means of education.” ³

¹) See Review of Reviews, December 1904, p. 691: “This little book of letters may be said to point a very important moral”.
²) See Revue Universitaire No. 7, Douzième Année, 15 juillet 1905.
³) See Review of Reviews, 15 December 1903.
The number of the "Revue Universitaire No. 4, Troisième Année, 15 avril 1904" contains a list of 97 English teachers who make use of the Scholars' International Correspondence. There are mentioned: 52 Secondary Schools, 23 Intermediate Schools Secondary, 14 Higher Grade and Technical Schools for boys and girls, which schools are situated in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, in the United States of America and Canada.

In Germany, Prof. Dr. Karl Markesfeld published, in 1903, a programme: "Der Internationale Schülerbriefwechsel, Weimar, Hofdruckerei 1903, Progr. Nr. 776", in which he gave the rise and history of the Scholars' International Correspondence and to which he added some French and English letters.

Last year, a French gentleman, M. A. Tournier, professeur de Français à l'École Impériale de Commerce, at Moscow, sent me a copy of his voluminous publication: "La Correspondance internationale interscolaire", containing a great many letters that French pupils had written to Russian students at Moscow. Those letters contain geographical and historical descriptions, accounts of religious and popular customs, and explanations of the scholastic institutions of France.

In order to give an idea of what extent this correspondence between Moscow and France has been carried on, I shall give the following statistics:

From the 7th February to the 30th August 1903 — within the space of four months — there had been exchanged between France and Moscow 256 letters — 128 from France and 128 from Moscow — 756 pictorial post-cards, 40 albums and photos. — The letters, post-cards and so on had been sent from 43 French towns to Moscow. 1)

According to the last annual report of Professor Hartmann 2) there have been entered 14,698 applications from German students, boys and girls, demanding addresses for French and English correspondents from the year 1897 until 1904, and, during the last year from 1st July 1903 to June 30th 1904, there were 1953 German applications. The German Central Bureau for International

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1) See Tournier, La Correspondance internationale, Moscow, Konthiereff & Cie., 1903, page 32.

2) See Mitteilungen der Deutschen Centralstelle für Internationalen Briefwechsel. No. 13 Prof. Dr. Hartmann, Marburg.
Correspondence, Leipzig, has, during the last year, given 1748 addresses to German students; 967 French and 781 English. There were 887 schools which asked for correspondents from the Central Bureau during the last 7 years, namely 379 schools in Germany, 285 in France, 124 in North-America, 66 in Great Britain, 24 in Austria, 5 in Belgium, 3 in Switzerland, 1 in Australia.

I cannot help publishing the following letter which a French teacher sent to one of my pupils in order to show how much this Scholars' international correspondence may be esteemed by a teacher:

Étrépilly, le 10 juillet 1904.

Mon jeune ami,

J'ai lu avec le plus grand plaisir les missives que vous avez envoyées à mon fils Charles; vous ne pouvez que gagner tous deux par cette correspondance interscolaire malheureusement encore trop rare entre élèves d'établissements universitaires.

Je remarque que vous écrivez plus correctement le français que beaucoup de mes élèves âgés d'une douzaine d'années; pour cela, je vous adresse mes sincères félicitations ainsi qu'à vos maîtres qui vous enseignent, j'en suis sûr, la grammaire par la langue et non la langue par la grammaire. Je désire bien vivement que vous continuiez cette correspondance entre vous et mon fils; ce dernier vous corrigera votre français et même je m'engage à l'aider dans cette tâche s'il est nécessaire pour donner à votre style des tournures élégantes.

C'est en entretenant de cordiales relations que les peuples se rapprocheront les uns des autres, apprendront à mieux se connaître et par cela même à s'estimer mutuellement.

Veuillez agréer, mon jeune ami ainsi que vos parents, l'assurance de mes meilleurs sentiments.

Instituteur.

To this judgement of a French teacher I shall add the following few lines written by English Schoolmasters 1):

1. "Will you permit me to thank you for your efforts in organising such a scheme? It will be difficult to praise it too much, its advantages being so many-sided, both immediate and prospective. There is quite a stir in the school when a foreign letter arrives; a bit of romance seems imported in the prose of school-life, and such an innovation is the more

1) See Comrades All, No. 1, p. 27, 1901. London, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street, W. C.
welcome there, for unless the teachers are especially resourceful, enterprising, and devoted to their work, a monotonous routine prevails which is not favourable to the development of intelligence in the pupils."

2. "The interest of the scholar is awakened, horizon widened, knowledge of foreign tongues indubitably promoted, and impressions made which, always stimulating and interesting, are not, when his school-days are over, entirely lost, but may possibly become useful."

3. "Most of our correspondents remain faithful, and those who are not yet allowed to join are looking forward eagerly to the time when they will be sufficiently advanced. I consider the scheme a splendid one, and calculated to do good in more ways than one."

In the following I shall publish first the English, secondly the Scotch, and thirdly the American letters. All these letters have been written by Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Americans. The names I have changed.

I am indebted to Director Koch, Dr. Schwarz, and Mr. Heaton for having revised this publication.

Before closing I wish that all those who will take part in the international correspondence may have real benefit in doing so, that they may thereby extend their knowledge of each other's language, customs, and manners, and that the great works of the writers of the ten tontic countries may be the household-works of Germany, Great Britain, and the United States of America.

Breslau, March 1905.

Heinrich Ehrenthal.
PART FIRST.
English Letters.

   Surrey.

Dear Charles,

I am sorry I have not been able to answer your letter before now, but I have been very busy just lately, so you must please excuse me. I am preparing for an Examination to be held on the 5th, 6th, 7th of June, so I do not get much spare time. I was not aware that I was to be put into correspondence with a German boy, so your letter arrived quite unexpectedly. I was very pleased to receive your letter and I hope our little correspondence will be beneficial to both of us. But now I will tell you a little about myself. I am the only boy in the family. I have one sister who studies at the Girls' Grammar School, Farnham.

I had the good fortune to win a scholarship at the Grammar School; that is the reason why I am studying there.

It is a curious fact that you and I were both born in the same year 1886 within about a month of one another, your birthday being on the 6th of December 1886 and mine being on the 14th of October 1886. Are you still at school in Breslau? and have you passed any examinations?

I think in your letter you asked me whether you should write to me in Latin letters. I do not mind at all, but write to me in the way that is most convenient to you. I am writing this letter as you see all in English, but if you wish I will correspond with you half in German and half in English.

I will now try to tell you a little about Farnham (Surrey). It is a very pretty little town and surrounded by some of the finest scenery in England. It has a very ancient castle which has been and is the residence of the Bishops of Winchester. Do you collect postage-stamps? If so I will put some different kinds on to each letter. I collect them, so perhaps you will do the same for me. Do not put on stamps above the value of the letter, but put on different kinds at different times and I will do the same to you if you wish. Do you take photographs? I do and will send you some over some time.

I must close now,

with kind regards,

George Andrews.

Dear Charles,

I was pleased to receive a post-card and a letter from you. I am sending you a letter in return as you see. I have corrected your English letter for you. It is not very full of mistakes and I only hope I shall write my German part as well as you have written your English part.

It is the custom in English to begin your letters with the word "I", but you are not compelled to do so.

Now to tell you a little news and answer a few of your questions. I am in the sixth Form at school. This form is the highest in the school. I, like you, learn two languages, German and French, and I have learned both of these for about 2 years. I know the book that you mention, but I have never read it. We are constantly having examinations. I learn the German language 5 times a week. Each lesson occupies about half an hour. I like it much better than French, but I have not done any German for 4 months owing to examinations. I am afraid I cannot send you any older postage-stamps because they are out of issue. As you probably know we have a new King of England and consequently all the postage-stamps have been changed and the older ones have been used up and no fresh ones issued. I collect post-cards as you do, but I have not sent one to you yet, but I will do so soon. As you probably know the King’s Coronation is to take place this month and I will try and send you some photos of the Coronation doings in Farnham.

I remain your friend,

George Andrews.

P. S. Please excuse the bad writing as I have cut my thumb and it makes it a bit awkward to write with it.

3. Post-Card.

July 10th, 02.

Dear Charles,

Sorry I have not written before, but I’m busy. I will write a long letter soon and give you news. The King is better and the Coronation will probably take place soon; when it does, I will tell you about it.

I remain your friend,

George Andrews.

4. Dear Charles,

July 25th, 02.

I see you wonder at my silence, well no wonder, but I am very busy now. But we break up on July 30th for 7 weeks and I will write you a long letter then. So will you please, excuse
me until then. Have you enjoyed your holidays at Schreiberhau? I hope you have. The Coronation will take place on August 9th and I will write and tell you about it afterwards.

I remain your friend,

George Andrews.

Farnham, Nov. 1st 02,

5.

Dear Charles,

I am writing you the long promised letter at last. I hope I have not offended you through keeping you waiting so long for this letter, but I have not been in very good health lately and I have been very busy at school this term preparing for another examination next year. I have received the last post-card you sent me and I think it is very nice. I am saving up all the pictorial post-cards which I receive and am going to get an album for them and fix them into that. I suppose you are still at school. I am still at the Grammar School here. I am sending you some photographs in this letter and I will tell you what they are on the back of them. I took these photographs myself. I am glad you enjoyed your holidays. I enjoyed mine very much. I went to a lecture in the hall at Farnham Castle on Wednesday night with the Head-Master and some other members of my form. I don't think I have told you anything about our school (the Farnham Grammar School), have I? Well, I will tell you something about it. It was first founded about the year 1610 by the then Bishop of Winchester, William Morley. The old school flourished well and several gentlemen when they died left grants to it. In 1894 the old buildings which were then standing were pulled down and the school was rebuilt in modern style. The school has grown in numbers considerably, so that now this year there is some talk of enlarging it. It is a fine looking building and faces one of the principal streets of Farnham which run right through the town. It also has a large garden and playing grounds at the back of the school buildings together with a chemical laboratory. The garden and playing ground run right back to the river Wey, the river on which Farnham stands.

With kind regards

I remain

Your friend,

George Andrews.

6.

Hull, Jan. 10th, 1903.

Dear Charles,

I only got your post-card this morning as I am away from home and you sent it to Farnham. I am very sorry I have not written, but I will not try to excuse myself. I have been away from Farnham since December 22nd and have been staying at the above address. I shall be here until Jan. 19th, so if you write to
me after that date, please send them to Farnham as usual. I am
staying as you see at the same place as I did in the summer. I left
Farnham on December 22nd 1902 and came to Hull after passing
through London. I will tell you a little about London if you like. It is a
large city of about 6,000,000 inhabitants on the bank of the River Thames.
When you approach it you begin to think what a foggy and black place
it is. When you get in the middle of the city, it is not so foggy and
black. London is simply a network of railways. I will tell you the names
of a few: Great Northern, Great Eastern, Great Western, London
and South Western, London and North Western, Great Central,
London Brighton and S. Coast, London Chatham and Dover, South
Eastern, Twopenny Tube, Underground, North London, Midland.
When I came to Hull this time, I travelled by the Great Northern
but when I came in the summer, I came by the Great Central.
Farnham is on the London and South Western main line. There are
several places of interest in London such as the Zoo, where all sorts
of animals are kept, the Houses of Parliament, the Tower, the
Crystal Palace, the Royal Aquarium, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul’s
Cathedral and etc. London is also a large port, well in fact it is
the largest port in England and the centre of trade.

I expect you have your holidays now, haven’t you? I have
got mine. I tried to get you some newspapers with an account of
the Kaiser’s visit and send to you. I got your Christmas post-card
alright and thought it was very nice. I intended to send you a
New Year’s card, but somehow I didn’t manage to get it off. I have
started collecting pictorial post-cards, so I shall be pleased to receive
some from you as you usually send me. I will send you some in
return. Post-cards seem to be all the rage in England now.

I have been enjoying myself very much here lately. I have been
to entertainments and I have been quite gay. We have been having very
bad weather in England lately, frost, snow, wind, thunder and
lightning, hail and so on. Hull is the 3rd seaport in England as you
know. It is the port from which the Wilson lines sail. This is the
largest private line in the world. I went to see all over the offices
the other day. They are splendidly fitted up and very comfortable
and convenient. There are some very large ships in Hull at present,
the largest being a Chinese steamer of 10,000 tons. It is manned
by a crew of 54 Chinamen and has been bringing over grain.

With kind regards

Your friend,

George Andrews.

63, Broad Street, Worcester,
Feb. 17th, 1903.

Dear Friend,

I was very pleased to receive your post-card. Worcester
is a city situated on the River Severn, about 60 miles from its mouth;
the population thereof is nearly 50,000. It has a very fine cathedral, one of the finest in England. Worcester is within seven miles from the beautiful Malvern Hills, and is noted for Gloves, Hops, China, Carpets, and Railways Signals. It has not many public buildings, the chief are: "The Shire Hall, The Guild Hall, The Public Hall, and The Victorian Institute", where there is a free library and a free museum. We have electric lamps in our streets and we shall have electric tram-cars in the near future.

My father is a draper by trade and I am in his business. It is two years since I left school, but I learnt Geography, Chemistry, Physics, Trigonometry, Statics, Dynamics, Latin, French, Greek, German, History, Euclid, Algebra and Arithmetic. I learnt German for 6 months and then I left school.

One of my hobbies is to take photographs, and enclosed in this letter is a photograph of the Chemistry laboratory at our school (Royal Grammar School). Next time I write to you I will send a picture of our school and the late head-master. Hope to soon receive a letter from you.

I am

Your sincere (though distant) friend,

Thomas Gray.

8.

Dear Friend,

Many thanks for your nice letter. This time I am sending you a picture of our school and the late head-master and his wife. Behind the school we have a large recreation ground, where we play football and cricket; here we have also our sports once a year. Our German master's name is Herr O. from Westphalia (Osnabruk) (!). We have 7 masters altogether. School hours are from 9 till 12—30, 2—30 till 4—30. Wednesday and Saturday we finish at 12—30. Boys who have left the school are called Old Johnstons, because the school was built and endowed by Johnstons. I went to the "Old Johnstons" dinner, at the Star Hotel last January, where I met many old boys and masters, whom I had not seen for a long time. One of my favourite pastimes is Horse-riding and I shall ride to-morrow. Last Thursday I got on my cycle and rode to Ledbury, a small town about 16 miles from Worcester. Half of my next letter will be written in German, if with the help of my

1) Several times the writer of these letters has used different words having almost the same meaning, no doubt, in order that his German correspondent might learn those various expressions.
brother I can manage it. Will send you a few unused English stamps in my next letter. I shall also send a magazine soon.

The mistakes in your last letter were:

\[ \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \]

It is now after eleven o'clock and I must say

Good night

from your sincere friend

Thomas Gray.

P. S.

**Time Table.**

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9.

Warwick House, New St., 30. 3. 03.
Birmingham.

Dear Friend,

Many thanks for your letter. I am now living at B’ham, a large town, the population thereof is 530,000, and it is noted for its hardware manufactures. The house I am at, is a large drapery establishment; they employ 500 people. I am here in order to learn my trade, and then I shall go back to join my father in his business. In B’ham we have electric, cable, steam and horse trams which run in all directions. Last week I went to Wolverhampton, a town 12 miles from B’ham, where I stayed for the day and my friends were kind enough to invite me over any time I feel inclined. I went home yesterday (Sunday) and my parents send their kindest regards to you and your parents. I shall send you some post-cards of B’ham, in the course of a few days, also another news-paper, which I hope will interest you.
I am very sorry but I shall not be able to correspond in German, without the great help of my brother. I must thank you for your kind invitation which I hope to accept next year.

I am

Your sincere friend,

Thomas Gray.

Warwick House, New St., May 1st 1903.

B’ham.

Dear Friend,

Should have written to you before, but I have been ill for a week, and was confined to my room for four days. I have now completely recovered. In your last letter you asked me to explain the difference between “to have” and “to get”. “To have” a thing, is to have it at the present time (now). “To get” a thing is “to win” it, or obtain it at some future time. “I have a book” is the same as “I have got a book”.

The words “in” and “at” mean the same. “in” means the interior; “at” means either inside or outside a place.

If you cannot understand this, I will try to explain more fully in my next letter.

To-morrow I shall cycle to Worcester in order to see my relations and friends. I bought a new cycle last week which I think is very nice, it is called the “Rover”. I hope you have had a nice time lately.

Next Saturday I am going to Stratford-on-Avon, the birthplace of the great poet Shakespeare.

I have no space or time to write any more. I will write sooner next time. Kind regards to Herr S. and yourself.

I remain

Your very sincere friend,

Thomas Gray.

Birmingham, June 16th, 03.

Dear Friend,

I have been expecting a letter from you, but as you have not written, I conclude you have been ill, or had too much to occupy your time.

I spent my Whitsuntide in Bournemouth, a very beautiful sea-side resort, about 150 miles south of Birmingham. A friend and myself bathed off the pier several times, also off the beach. We had lovely weather thus allowing us a most enjoyable time. Last week I went
Malvern, a very pretty spa \(^1\); there I saw Shakespeare's "As you it"; it was very good. During my short stay at Malvern I met a German gentleman, his name was Hoffmann.

We have had miserable weather here lately so that I have been unable to cycle.

My brother sends kind regards to you. I hope to hear from you soon.

Regards to you and your English master.

I am

Your sincere friend,

Thomas Gray.

Worcester, July 13th, 1903.

12.

Dear Friend,

I was very pleased to receive your post-card; at the same time I am very sorry for you, and you have my deepest sympathy in your great trouble, but we must remember these things are for the best. I no longer live in Birmingham, but am now at home with my father.

Last Thursday we had our \(\text{annual}\) \(\text{yearly}\) regatta, which was very interesting. I shall continue to send newspapers etc. When you write to me, kindly send to me a newspaper, as I wish to try and read it with the help of my brother. Next time I write to you, it will be a longer letter, I am now very busy.

I am

Your very sincere friend,

Thomas Gray.

P. S. I should be delighted to receive a photograph of yourself. I shall send you my photograph, when I have it taken.

Kind regards to your worthy parents.

Worcester, Aug. 17th, 03.

Dear Friend,

This is my first opportunity to write, since I received your nice letter. I suppose you are pleased to begin school again, after a long holiday. Since August 3rd I have been on the river Severn every day, because the weather has been \(\text{beautiful}\) \(\text{favorable}\) \(\text{lovely}\). Yesterday I rode in a French motor-car a distance of nearly 150 miles, I wish you could have been with us, for you would have seen some lovely English scenery.

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\(^1\) Spa, \(\text{Spaw}\) n. a place where there is a mineral spring of water. [From Spa, a town in Belgium.] (Chamber's Etymological Dictionary.)
I was delighted with the illustrated paper you sent me, for which I must thank you. Shortly I shall send you an English book, which I think may be a very great help to you in the study of our language. Shall also send some post-cards. I have now got 180.

"Good-bye".

I remain

Your very sincere friend,

Thomas Gray.

P. S. Kind regards to your mother and sister, also your English master.

% Matthews & Co., 54, High St.
Ashford, Kent, Nov. 18th, 03.

Dear Friend,

[The first part of this letter is written in German.] 1)

You asked me to give you a little description of Ashford. You are right in saying that Ashford has a population of 12500 inhabitants, it is the centre of the corn trade of Kent, and of the South Eastern and Chatham Railway. It is a small town as you see by the population, but it is very pretty and within a short distance of several interesting places, such as Canterbury, Folkstone, Dover, Hythe, Hastings etc. This morning I went for a walk as far as Eastwell Tower (4 1/2 miles from Ashford). We went right up to the top of the tower which is very beautiful, it is built with small flints which came from Rome (each flint costs 2 1/2 pence).

Ashford is 178 miles from home, and it takes 4 1/2 hrs by railway to reach here. You ask when does one write "Master", "Mr", and "Esq." 2) One writes "Master" to a boy, "Mr." to a man, and generally to a youth, and "Esq." is mostly used in business correspondence. I have enclosed a picture of the shop I am at.

I will now conclude with kind regards to yourself, your brothers and sisters, and your worthy parents, hoping you will excuse me writing so late.

I remain

Your sincere friend,

Thomas Gray.

1) In the following letters I shall leave out the above remark whenever it should take place.

2) I want to give the following explanation of the use of Esq. as I find it in Beeton's Letter-Writer, page VI: "Formerly the style Esq. was only given to persons of acknowledged position, but it has become common to attach it to the name of everybody one is acquainted with. Those, however, who have a right to it are members of parliament, landed proprietors, and professional men."
Dear Friend,

I have given up the engineering, as I did not like it, the work was too rough. I shall soon start in the drapery, I have got to serve my apprenticeship in the retail drapery which I expect will be 4 years, then I shall go to London in the wholesale drapery, and after a few years there, I hope to be a commercial traveller. I do not think that I shall serve my apprenticeship here, I think I shall go to Bristol, a town 66 miles from home.

It is difficult to distinguish between “printed matter” and “book post”; English people generally write “printed matter” on a circular, or any printed matter that is sent unsealed. “Book post” is when a book is sent with the ends left open, if sent with the ends closed it costs much more.

You are quite right in what you say about the London fire brigade. The Worcester fire brigade have now got a motor fire engine, but it is not so sure as the horse engine. The first fire it went to, it stopped about 200 yards from it and they had to get horses to pull it to the fire, but since then several improvements have been made.

I like boating very much; a stranger would be astonished to see the number of people who indulge here in this kind of sport.

Kind regards to yourself, your parents, brothers and sisters.

I remain
Your sincere friend,
Thomas Gray.

High Bank, Palmerston Road,
Southsea, Dec. 15th, 03.

Dear Friend,

Many thanks for your nice post-card. My reason for not writing before is — I no longer live with my Parents, but am living at Southsea, a portion of Portsmouth 1), a naval port on the south coast of England.

My brother has gone to Kent, a county south-east of England, a distance 200 miles from home.

Southsea is a very fashionable sea-side resort and is most healthy. The population of Portsmouth is about 180,000. There are stationed here many battle-ships. I was fortunate enough to see the King of Italy when he visited England two weeks ago, I should very much like to see your Emperor. Now I will wish you good-bye.

I remain
Your very sincere friend,
Thomas Gray.

1) Portsmouth really consists of four towns, Portsmouth proper, Portsea, Landport, and Southsea. Southsea is a pleasant watering-place. (Geographical Readers. England and Wales, Cassell, London.)
Dear Friend,

I am nearly 16 years old, I was born in 1887, on the 31st of August. My father is a draper and has a shop in one of the most principal streets of Worcester (Broad St.) where we live. I have 3 brothers and one sister. My eldest brother is 17 years old, and is following the same trade as my father, in Birmingham. My next brother is 13 years old, and my youngest brother is 11 years old, my sister is only 5 years old, they go to school. I shall soon be leaving school now, and I am going to be an electrical engineer. I may come some time to Breslau for a holiday, as I should very much like to come, and I hope you will be able to come here some time.

I have been at the Royal Grammar School for 5 years, and have learnt German for 3 years.

I am very sorry to hear that your brother has lost sight, but I hope that he will soon be better. In my next letter I will tell you about my home city and I shall be pleased if you will tell me about Breslau. We had 4 weeks holiday at Easter which are not over yet, we return to school next Wednesday. I will now write the mistakes which you made in your last letter:

I must now close with kind regards to yourself, your parents, and your brothers.

I am

Your true friend,

William Gray.


Dear Friend,

I was very pleased to receive your letter. Our annual athletic sports are next Thursday afternoon when I expect there will be a great number of people on our cricket ground to see them. All the school boys whether they are entering for the sports or not are expected to go down on the field. I will try and send you a programme.

At Worcester on a very large piece of ground called Pitchcroft there is going to be a very great Agricultural Show on June 15th, 16th, 17th. It is 10 years since this show was in our city. On Whit Monday I expect I shall go and see a first class cricket match on the county cricket ground. The match is between Worcester and Warwickshire, and thousands of people go to see this match. On Tuesday I think I shall go for a row on the River Severn as far as Holt Fleet which is a very pretty village about 7 miles from here. On the Post-Card I sent you yesterday there was a view of Holt Fleet bridge.
It has been very hot for the last week and the weather has been very fine. My brother rode over on his bicycle from Birmingham last Saturday and went back last night with a friend of his. I shall now write you as much German as I have time for.

\[\ldots\] \[\ldots\] \[\ldots\]

Yours truly,

William Gray.

Worcester, July 2nd, 1903.

19.

Dear Friend,

We have got to work very much this week, because the Oxford Local Examinations begin next Monday and last until the end of the week. These examinations come every year in July and are the principal examinations at our school. I am leaving school this term, so I especially wish to pass it this time. I have this examination for three years now, we take a more advanced paper each year. As I think I have told you the cables for the electric tramways in our city were being laid, they are now putting the posts in the streets, for we are having the over-head system; it will not be long now before they are completed.

Yesterday morning, about 11.30 a.m., a fire broke out at a tobacconist's shop next door to our shop. I was upstairs and discovered the fire and raised the alarm; the fire engine was quickly on the scene, and they had three hoses at work. The fire was extinguished in about an hour, but not until it had done much damage to our house and the next shop. Much of our stock was destroyed by water, but it is all covered by insurance. Had the fire happened at night instead of in the day time, it is supposed it would have done several thousand pounds damage.

I am sending you a newspaper to-night.

With kind regards

I remain

Your sincere friend,

William Gray.

Worcester, August 21st 1903.

20.

Dear Friend,

Last Thursday week I went with a friend up the river Severn on a steamboat as far as Holt Fleet, which is 6 miles from here. We had tea there and went through the flower gardens and back to the steamboat to come home. My friend and I enjoyed it immensely as the river is very pretty from Worcester to Holt, but it is so short a trip. My eldest brother and I have been for a row together in a small boat several times during the last fortnight, but my brother does not have much time, so we have only been able to get as far as Holt twice, but have been as far as Camp several
times. Camp is midway between Holt and Worcester, 3 miles from each. Last Thursday I took a friend on the river in a small boat to teach him to row, but he nearly upset the boat and I cannot swim.

Last Monday I went to the theatre, the play being "His Majesty's Guests"; it was very good, but I do not care a lot for the theatre at all, unless it is "Shakespeare", that I think is splendid; I suppose you have seen some of Shakespeare's plays, if not, I strongly advise you to see them, when you have a chance.

With kind regards
I remain
ever your true friend,
William Gray.

Worcester, Sept. 7th, 1903.

Dear Friend,

Many thanks for your nice cards and letters which I have received. Please excuse that I am so late in writing, that it is so short, and that I write no German, but truly, I have hardly any time to spare now. I have started work as I have told you before, I begin at 6 o'clock in the morning and do not finish until 5 o'clock at night, and then I have to attend evening classes at the "Victoria Institute" at 7 o'clock.

As regards the pronunciation of the word "not", which you asked me about in your last letter, it is very difficult to tell you how to pronounce the word "not" as I do not know any German spelling which has the same pronunciation. "Not" is pronounced with a short "o", the "n" and "t" come together quickly, the "o" hardly being heard. I am sending you two papers to-day which I hope will please you.

I have heard of the terrible misfortune in the tunnel on the underground railway in Paris, but I have not read particulars of it, and your description of it interested me very much; it was a terrible accident indeed, and must have been an awful sight to those who witnessed it.

I will now write your mistakes in your last letter: —

Your English is certainly improving very much.
I remain with kind regards
Your sincere friend,
William Gray.


Dear Friend,

I am not sure that I am going to Bristol now, perhaps I shall go to London in a large drapery establishment there. I have had several answers to applications for an apprentice-ship and several are willing to take me.
There is one in Kent, another in Bristol and the rest in London, but I have not made up my mind yet which to go to.

When I leave home I shall most certainly not give up our correspondence, as I am very pleased to be able to correspond with you, and should be exceedingly sorry to give it up. I have got 28 post-cards and 11 letters from you and I must thank you very much for them.

I agree with you as I think most people do that the works of Sir Walter Scott are very tedious, it is, as you say, he writes too much on the description of a person or a landscape. I rather like Dickens' works, one or two of his best are "David Copperfield", "Oliver Twist", "The Tale of two Cities", and "The Old Curiosity Shop". Of course, I know that Germany is far before England in literature and music. I have read pretty well about Goethe and Schiller, and Herr H. has often told us what great poets they are. I have read part of Lessing's famous work "Minna von Barnhelm", the part which I read being in our German books at school.

Last week I went to the theatre to see the musical comedy "Florodora", the book is by Owen Hall, and the music by Leslie Stuart. I enjoyed it very much, the music being very pretty. Next Thursday I am going to see the drama "The Eternal City" by Hall Caine, I have never seen it before, but have heard it is one of the best dramas on the English stage. Englishmen know that Germany has produced the finest composers of music in the world. I have heard some of the works of Händel, Mozart, Mendelssohn and Schubert, which were exceedingly grand. I learnt to play the piano for 6 years, but I do not care to play myself, but I am very fond of hearing good music.

I will now conclude with kind regards to yourself, your parents, and your brothers and sisters. I am

Your sincere friend,

William Gray.
PART SECOND.
Scotch Letters.

1.  28, Mill St., Alloa, February 28th, 04.
Dear Friend,

Alloa is a town of about 16000 inhabitants, situated on
the river Forth.

We have no soldiers here, and also no horse or electric cars, as
this is a small town. — However we have several large buildings;
— a magnificent town-hall, (of which I am sending you a Post-
card), also splendid public Baths, and a fine Gymnasium.

Alloa is also a shipping-port, and has a large harbour, as you
will see on the Post-card I am sending you.

Of course, Edinburgh is the most beautiful town in Scotland.
It is often called the "Modern Athens". There is also a castle there,
and soldiers.

King Edward sometimes goes there, he was there last year.

But now I must finish. Hoping to hear from you soon,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Henry Mackenzie.

P. S. Please write your German larger. Please send me a letter
soon and a Post-card.

2.  28, Mill Street, Alloa, March 9th, 04.
Dear Friend,

Now I will give you a short description of my native
country, Scotland.

Scotland is a very old country, and during earlier periods was
engaged in many civil wars. But now the country is peaceful and
is rich in trade and commerce.

Scotland is divided into two portions, called the Highlands and
the Lowlands. Until the last century the Highlands were inhabited
by a warlike people called Highlanders, who still wear a peculiar
dress called a "kilt". They now compose a great part of our
army. Scotland is noted for its magnificent scenery, and its beauti-
ful towns. — Of these Edinburgh is the prettiest. Scotland is united
to England, and is ruled over by our noble King "Edward VII."

But now I will close, hoping to hear from you soon.

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

Henry Mackenzie.
Dear Friend,

My school is called the Academy, and is divided into two portions, "Elementary," and "Secondary." I am now in the "Secondary" Department. The "Secondary" is divided into three classes. I am now in the III. Class, and I am leaving school this year. We enter school at 9 o'clock in the morning and we get our

Mathematics from 9,00 to 9,45
Arithmetic " 9,45 " 10,30
Shorthand " 10,30 " 11,20
Latin " 11,20 " 12,10,
English " 12,10 till 1 p.m.

Then we disperse for dinner for an hour. We enter at 2.
Drawing from 2 till 3.
German from 3 till 4.

My chief hobby is music. I play the piano and the pipe organ. I have lately passed an organ exam., of which I send you a paper.

I am very glad to hear that you like music. I like it very much indeed, and it is notable to notice how many of the greatest musicians and composers are Germans: Wagner, Schumann, Mendelssohn, and many others.

I also cycle a great deal. I now possess a bicycle of my own. — In a few days I shall send you my photograph, and I hope you will send me yours.

With kind regards to your parents, your sisters, and yourself.

I remain,

Yours very faithfully,

Henry Mackenzie.
PART THIRD.
American Letters.

Moorestown, May 18, 1901.
New Jersey U. S. A.

My dear friend,

I will tell you something about the country in which I live and I shall expect you to tell me something about your country.

I live about eight miles from the city of Philadelphia which is one of the largest cities in the United States. There is a railroad about a mile from our house which connects the two cities of Philadelphia and New York. We take all the truck\(^1\) \text{ we raise on the farm to Philadelphia to sell.}

We have our commencement exercises on the 13th of June 1901. One of the songs which we have to sing is a German song. I will tell you more about our school some other time, and I want you to tell me something about yours. How do you like English? I like German pretty well and am becoming fairly proficient in speaking it. Well, I suppose I had better close. I wish that you would answer this as quickly as possible, as it takes a long time for a letter to reach here. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

Your Friend,
Washington Irving.

2.

Moorestown, May 24th, 1901.

My new found friend,

In this way I address you because I hope we may continue to be friends, though separated by many miles of land and sea. I am glad you suggested that we correct each other's mistakes. I am sure this will be a help to both. You will want to know something about the boy to whom you are writing and also something about his school life and the place in which he lives.

On the third of July I will be sixteen years old. I am five feet ten inches in height, have brown eyes, light complexion and medium light hair. Now I think you can understand me a little better. I am fond of music, can play the mandolin and am going to take lessons on the piano next year. In my next letter I will tell

\(^1\) truck is a familiar Americanism for vegetables.
you about my school. — I suppose you will correct my German and I will try to correct your English.

Hoping to receive your letter and picture soon

I remain

Your new friend,

John Chester.

Elwood, Ind., May 31st, 1901.

Sir,

Yesterday was a great holiday throughout the United States. It was decoration day, the day on which we honor 1) the soldiers who fought in the civil war of 1861—65.

I must tell you something about my home city. It is a beautiful city of 15,000 inhabitants and is second the largest city in Madison County. It is a great manufacturing town.

The reason it is such a great manufacturing town is because of the abundance of cheap fuel, which is natural gas. This gas is obtained by drilling far into the earth where it is found in abundance. The country near the city of Elwood is very level and mostly cleared of timber, thus making a great farming country. In the city there are many German people.

I have a father and a married sister living, while my mother and brother are dead. I am a barber and work at my trade on Saturdays. I will send you a picture of our school building as soon as I get one. I must tell you before I forget it that the German script on the first page is my first attempt at writing in the German script.

One of my class friends received a postal card from one of the boys of your school, and I suppose you know him. Well I guess I will have to close for this time. I hope to receive an early answer from you; in the meanwhile I remain

Your sincere Friend,

Horace S. Davis.

Manlius, N.Y., May 14, 1902.

4. Dear Friend Rudolf,

I received your letter the 10th, but have been so busy with my school-work that I have not had time to reply till now. I was very glad to hear from you, your letter being the first German letter I have ever received.

Your writing being in the German script, I had a little trouble in making it out because when our German class studied we did not pay much attention to it. However I like the script. If it would not hinder you any, I wish you would use the Latin, for that will

1) American spelling.
not take me so long to read. There are one or two places in your letter which I cannot make out, but had no trouble in getting the sense of the rest. I think that half German and half English will be all right for a time and then perhaps you write yours all in English and I will write mine all in "Dutch".

I am sixteen years old and have attended the high-school for five years. I graduate this year and then I expect to enter college preparatory for Yale. Please explain in your next about "Secunda" and "Abiturium", for they are terms entirely new to me. I have two brothers, one older and one younger, but no sisters. My father runs an iron foundry in this village, and he employs about three hundred men. There is also another smaller shop here which makes faucets and molasses gates etc. Manlius is my native town and is somewhat smaller than Breslau, having only about 2000 inhabitants. (?) The village is situated in a valley, which runs east and west, and we live on the north side of the valley. There is a small stream running through the place, but it cannot compare with your "Oder".

When Prince Henry visited America he passed within four miles of Manlius, but I did not see him at all.

I wish in your next letter you would tell me all about your school and some of your sports. Here we play baseball and tennis principally in summer and football and basket-ball in winter. I will describe these games to you later if you do not know what they are.

The addresses which you sent me, I have distributed among some of my friends who study German and they will soon reply to them.

Do you play chess? Recently I purchased a set of chess men and learned to play. Really I think it is a great sport.

In our 3rd German class we have read a number of Schiller's Works, among them "Wilhelm Tell", "Jungfrau of Orleans", "Maria Stuart" and now we are reading Lessing's "Minna von Barnhelm". What English works do you read?

Hoping you will be able to read this "Brief" without any trouble and that you will write as soon as possible.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Henry P. Hawley.

Manlius, N.-Y., July 19, 03.

My dear Rudolf:

I received your letter of June 4th some time ago, and although my schoolwork has been finished now for some time, I have still neglected to write.

You say your school-term begins at Easter and ends at Easter. Mine does not. Here in America, the school year almost everywhere begins about the middle of September and lasts through the
winter months till about the middle of June, — in all about 40 weeks. Of course we have a Christmas vacation of two weeks and generally a spring vacation of a week or so.

I think you must have very good schools in Germany from your description of the ways in which you study. I do not know whether you ever heard of Harvard, or Yale, or Princeton, or Columbia, or not. These are the more famous and largest colleges in the United States. I am intending to take a mechanical engineering course in Yale at New Haven, Conn. To this end I tried several entrance or preliminary examinations a short time ago. I send in this letter my German examination, which I consider quite easy.

Recently I have gotten 1) two books, entitled "The Rhine" by Karl Stieler, H. Wachenhusen and J. W. Hackländer. They describe your noble river from its source to the sea in the most beautiful way, which must make one love your country even if he knows nothing about it. Living as you do, at some distance from the Rhine, perhaps you are not so familiar with it. But this edition gives all the legends and history of each place which it describes. Below are some of your cities or towns included in the index: Basle, Schaffhausen, Baden-Baden, Strasburg, Worms, Bonn etc.

You say you have no brothers, but three sisters. You ought to be happy. I have no sisters, but two brothers.

Below is a proof of the Pythagoreum.

The sum of the squares of the two legs of a triangle is equal to the square of the hypotenuse.

To prove $AB^2 + BC^2 = AC^2$
Proof. Draw $BF \perp$ to $AC$
Then $AB^2 = AC \times AF$
(each leg of the rt. $\Delta$ is mean proportional between the hypotenuse and its adjacent segment.)
and $BC^2 = AC \times CF$
By adding $AB^2 + BB^2 = AC(AF + CF) = AC^2$.
q. e. d.

I remain,

Yours truly,

Henry P. Hawley.

1) This form is obsolete.
6. Dear Friend,

I can write English much easier than I can the German script, but I hope to be able to write it better soon. I can form an idea of your native city from the description you give and the picture on the postal. Manlius is a small town of about 12,000 inhabitants. I think I gave you a short description of it in my other letter. Syracuse, only 10 miles from here, is a large city and has one regiment of troops located there. We have 45 States in the United States, but New York ranks first in wealth and population. It is called the “Empire State”. I hope you are enjoying your summer vacation as well as I am. I am living in the country now and seem to have better health than I did when in school. Which is the highest in your country: the Gymnasium or the Realschule? We go to a grammar school first, to a high school second and then to the college or University? How long before you go to a University? I am prepared now and will go next year if I go to school anywhere. You must not forget to give my best respects to your brother and sister and to correct my many mistakes.

With best compliments
Your friend,
Irving Parker.

7. Dear friend,

Time slipped so quickly I did not notice that two weeks had passed, and since then there has been sickness in the family.

Boston is the largest city in that part of the United States called New England. It is commercially important on account of its position on the coast. Boston contains two large railroad stations, the largest having twenty-seven tracks.

Have you a bicycle? I bought mine two years ago. Last summer I took a ride of sixty miles to my cousin’s. When I went it rained, and on coming back the roads were so dusty; it was almost impossible to keep on the seat.

Do you swim? Yes, certainly you must, but you have fresh water don’t you? Almost every day in the summer time when it is fine weather, we go down to the bay and enjoy a salt water swim.

I have about nine hundred stamps in my collection and it does not contain any of the present issue of German stamps except those you sent. If there are any United States stamps you would like, I will try and get them for you. What kind of games do you have in your school? We have football, basket-ball, base-ball and tennis. If there was more time and paper I could tell you about them.

I remain
Your friend,
Richard Walker.
Bay City, February 8th, 1904.

Dear Friend,

In your last letter you asked me about the different tenses and when to use them. I will give them to you as they are found in my English grammar. There are six tenses: 1. The present, past and future; 2. The present perfect, past perfect and future perfect.

1. The Present tense represents an action or event as taking place in present time: thus I go to school.
2. The Present Perfect tense represents an action as completed at the present time: thus I have gone to school.
3. The Past tense (or preterite) represents that an action or event took place in time wholly past; thus Columbus discovered America.
4. The Past Perfect tense represents a past action or event as completed at or before a certain past time: thus I had left (or gone) before the mail arrived.
5. The Future tense represents an action or event as yet to take place: as I shall write you again.
6. The Future Perfect tense represents that an action will be completed at or before a certain time yet future: thus — I shall have finished my letter by night.

Hoping that you will get a clear understanding of the several tenses I remain,

Yours truly,

William White.

613, Harrison St.
Bay City,
U. S. A. Mich.

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POST CARDS.

1. Many thanks for your most interesting letter and newspaper.
Yours truly
James Thomson,

2. With the season's greeting and all good wishes for Christmas
From William Gray.

3. From James Thomson
Wishing you
a Merry Xmas
and
a happy New Year.

The End.