

*Facsimile of a Letter Written by Mr. Rudyard Kipling for
a Wounded Soldier.*



LANCE-CORPORAL GEORGE HARRIS.
From a Photo. by F. H. Robinson,
Chichester.

This is a very interesting letter. It was written by Mr. Rudyard Kipling at the dictation of the gallant soldier whose portrait appears above, when the latter, who had lost his arm in the fight at Paardeberg, was a patient in the hospital train, in which Mr. Kipling was also a passenger. George Harris was naturally anxious to write home, and as Mr. Kipling offered to act as his secretary, the wounded soldier's mother had the two-fold satisfaction of receiving a letter from her son written by the hand of the distinguished author, between whom and Tommy Atkins there are so many links of strong regard. This treasure she would not part with at any price, but we obtained the right to reproduce it here, the sum paid for so doing being devoted to the War Fund. The above portrait of Lance-Corporal Harris, who belongs to the Essex Regiment, was taken only a day or two before his departure for the front.

Feb. 24. 1900
Hospital Train going to Cape Town.
Dear Mother
Just a note to let you know I
am getting on famous. I hope to be home
soon. I was hit by a bullet in the right
fore-arm at Paardeberg where we were
fighting Cronje on Sunday the 18th, and
they had to take it off below the elbow
They have made a famous job of it
I have no pain and I am
eating heartily. It will be quite easy
to strap a hand on to the stump
we had three days in bullock-carts
after we were wounded, coming in 30
miles to Modder river where the Hospital
train picked us up yesterday evening
we are all very comfortable and hope
to be on the way home before long
You must not worry about me as I
am really all right. I am sleeping

in bed smoking a cigar and
dictating this letter
With much love I am your
affectionate son
George

(Dictated)
R.K. The above statements are
true. Your son is coming
on very well.
Rudyard Kipling -