Then I searched for help in every clime,  
For peace had fled from my dwelling now,  
Till I finally thought of old Father Time, 
And low before him I made my bow.  
"Will thou deliver me out of his hand,  
This bald-headed tyrant from No-man's-land?"  

Old Time he looked with a puzzled stare,  
And a smile came over his features grim.  
"I'll take the tyrant under my care;  
Watch what my hour-glass does to him.  
The veriest humbug that ever was planned  
Is this same baldhead from No-man's-land."

Old Time is doing his work full well—  
Much less of might does the tyrant wield;  
But, ah! with sorrow my heart will swell  
And sad tears fall as I see him yield.  
Could I stay the touch of that shriveled hand,  
I would keep the baldhead from No-man's-land.

For the loss of Peace I have ceased to care;  
Like other vassals, I've learned, forsooth,  
To love the wretch who forgot his hair  
And hurried along without a tooth.  
And he rules me too with his tiny hand,  
This bald-headed tyrant from No-man's-land.

SOME HINTS ON LETTER-WRITING.

There are few things which give a greater insight into character than letter-writing. Semphina's gold-edged, scented billets-doux and Mr. Strumming Brown's stiff soliloquies are exactly symbolical of their different tastes and ideas; romantic, soul-stirring tendencies are apparent in the former, stern, business-like qualities in the latter.

Letter-writing should form an important branch of education; its power is immense, its solace considerable, and it can form one of the most delightful or one of the most irksome occupations in the world, both to the writer and to the recipient.

Very often have I asked and heard asked: "What rules should one carry out in order to write a good letter?" The same answer has been invariably given: "Write as you speak." Now though this is an excellent piece of advice (in so far as one should write simply and easily), practically it is not perfect, for one should write better than one speaks. Inaccuracies, obscurities, useless repetitions and all those negligence which one easily forgives in conversation are unpardonable in a letter, because the writer has had time to reflect, to choose her ideas and expressions, to give them a more agreeable turn, and to re-read what she has written. Improvements are above all things inexcusable in a letter, for what one says can be lived down, what one writes remains.

Two excesses to be guarded against in letter-writing are:—Firstly, the writing with too much art, that is to say, with the idea of showing off one's knowledge and style. Ultra-refined thoughts, big sonorous words, pompous descriptions, sparkling figures and, in fact anything that savours of affectation or self-importance should be avoided, as also should the negligent or careless style which is little better. Secondly, the language in one's letter should be plain and simple, but one should never descend to mere triviality or vulgarity.

Grammatical errors are unpardonable. They prove a profound ignorance, a neglected education, and give a decidedly unfavourable impression of the writer.

When writing a letter never forget who you are and to whom you address yourself. Let the pen talk freely but discreetly. To write a good letter demands tact, sentiment, facility, and above all unselfishness. One should never lose from the view the age, the sex and the rank of the person to whom one writes. Like Racine, one should always have the talent not to show people how clever you are but to make them feel how clever and interesting they themselves are.

A WELCOME LETTER.
Never relate episodes which are not worth knowing.

Spell correctly.

Write legibly.

Never use slang.

Never use long or uncommon words when shorter ones do as well.

Maketh dreams to destroy the letters written to you until answered, then, however interesting the news you may have to impart about yourself leave it to the end. Fill at least the first page of your letter with answering questions which may have been asked you, touching on points of interest in the letter written to you, and remarking on the news imparted. Then, and not till then, say what you would to wit, and, consequently, things this always please because they show an interest in one's correspondent, and the sender is always flattered to know that news imparted has been noticed and commented upon by the recipient.

Always, then, guard against egotism. The crying fault of most letters is the overflowing in them of one's selfishness, expressions of envy, sayings and doings, and the utter unconcernfulness of those topics which interest the person whom one is addressing. How often one meets a letter who, never for a moment, thinks or speaks of anyone or anything but themselves! They are so full of themselves, so interested and so fond of themselves, that they never for a moment mention anyone else or anything interesting. They doubtless imagine in their ardent simplicity that everyone else finds them as entralling and fascinating as they do themselves.

Never be long-winded in your letters. Say what you have to say as shortly and precisely as possible. Never charge your letter with useless details. Remember that brevity is the soul of wit, and, consequently, things said too lengthily lose all piquancy and become insipid and insupportable.

"He who doesn't know how to limit himself, doesn't know how to write," says a well-known author, and there is certainly a great amount of truth in the remark.

Well-written letters are always full of human interest, and the present writer, with a good deal of good sense, says: "A well-written letter is a monument of the writer's knowledge of human nature and refinement. Madame de Sévigné, whose letters are so justly famous, might serve as a model of simplicity. Her letters to the Comte de Bussy she begins thus:"

"You see me where I am, how I am, and how I amuse myself. I am in Paris, I am well and happy; and I write to you with love.""

Of course she immediately afterwards enlarges upon this rather laconic style, and I think this prompt way of answering questions asked, and elaborating upon them afterwards, is an excellent plan.

Dr. Blair in his remarks on letter-writing says:""Its first and fundamental requisite is to be natural and simple; for a stiff and laboured manner is as bad in a letter as it is in conversation. This does not banish straightforwardness and wit. They are graceful in letters just as they are in conversation when they flow easily and without being studied, when employed so as to season, not to cloy. One who either in conversation or in letters affords to shine and to sparkle always will not please long. The style of letters should not be too highly polished. It ought to be neat and correct, but no more. The best letters are commonly such as the authors have written with the most facility.

What the heart or the imagination dictates, always flows readily, but where there is no subject to warm or interest these, constraint appears.

There are many different classes of letters. There are the letters of thanks, of reproach, of condolence, of excuse, of counsel, of demand, invitations, acceptance, all which require a special style of writing. The more usual divisions of letters, however, are the heads of friendly, formal, and love-letters.

How to begin love-letters. Those charming epistles written between friends or the members of one's family. Letters which are sure to be understood, sure to receive a warm response, and which, consequently, the writer has no reason to be critical of either the author or the recipient. Letters which are written carefully and thoughtfully, with a sense of the importance of the writer, and the care with which the author has written. Letters which are full of tenderness and affection, and which are meant to touch the heart of the person to whom they are addressed.

In general, letters should be written with care and attention to detail, and should be free from errors of grammar and spelling. It is important to be polite and courteous in one's writing, and to show a genuine interest in the person to whom one is writing. Letters should be written in a clear and legible handwriting, and should be signed with a full name and address.