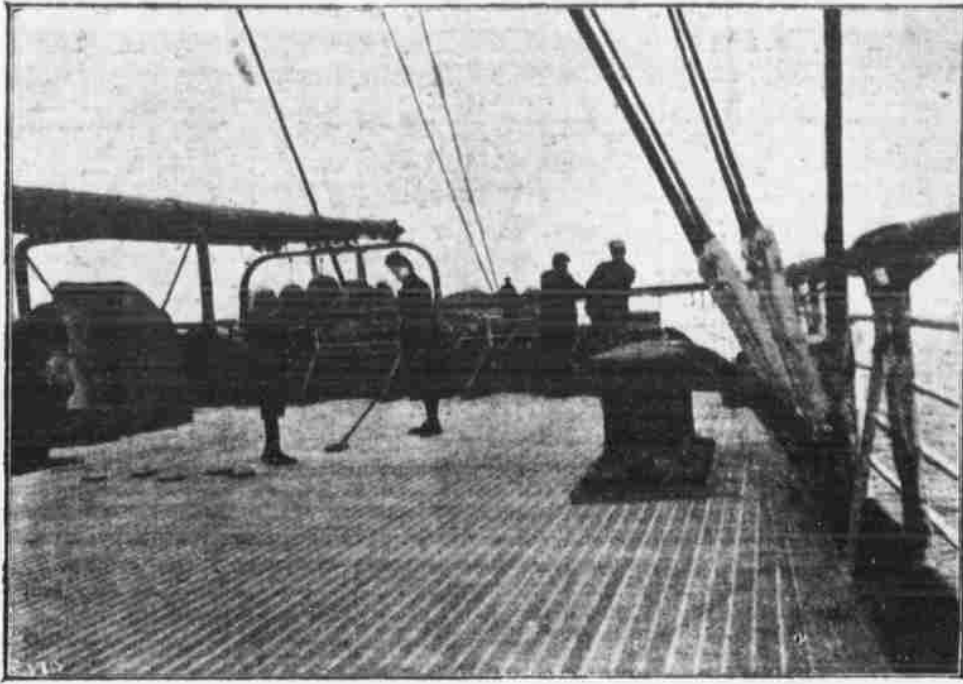


A Child's Letter from a Castle on the Sea



"A TRIP ON A FLOATING CASTLE IS A REAL HOLIDAY."



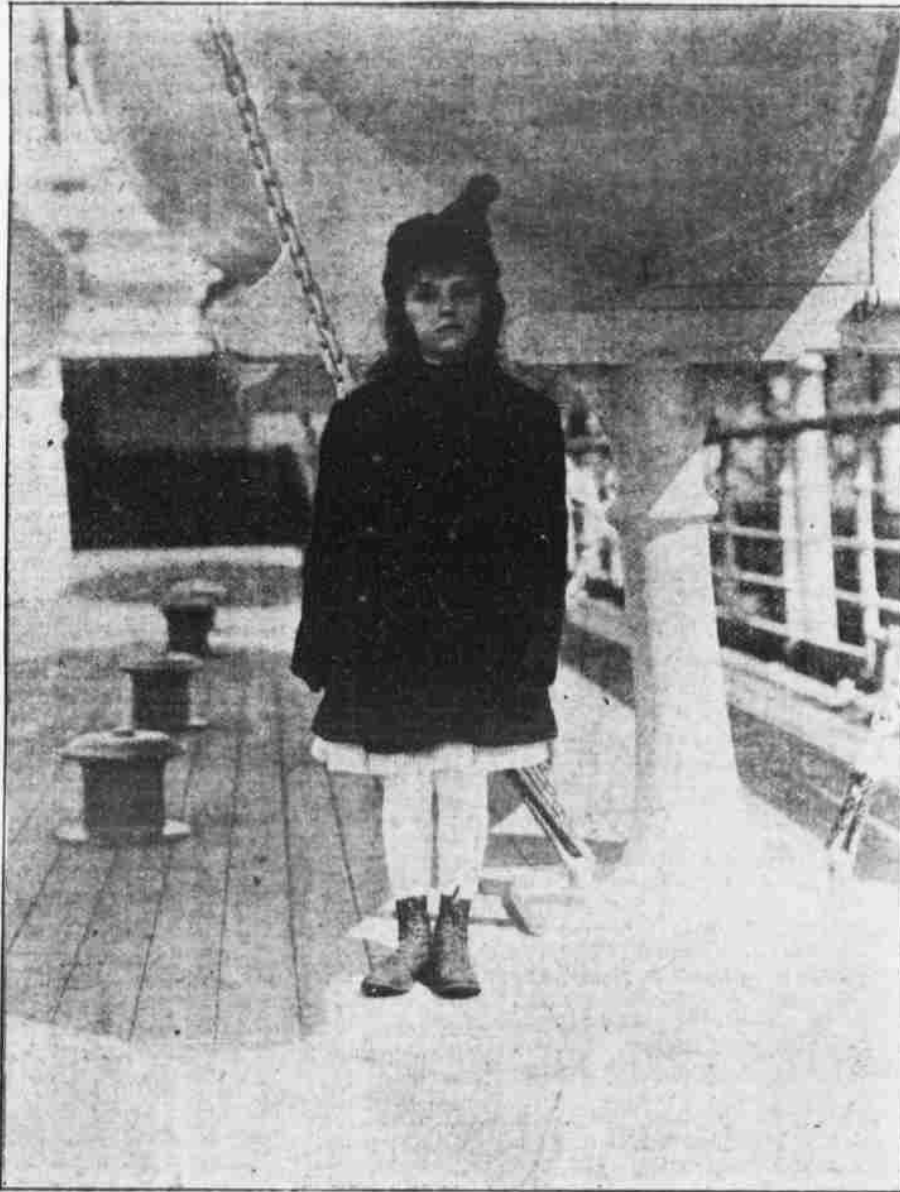
"LAST DAY OF THE KNIGHTS ON THE FLOATING CASTLE."

FIFTH DAY Out—My Dear Sir Launcelot: My letter will have to be shorter tonight because I spent my quiet time watching the water and the flying-fishes and the porpoises and we saw a fountain out in the ocean and all the grown-up people said, "There she blows," and mother said it was a whale. Mother says you were never so far out in the ocean as I am now. I am sorry you were not. It is fine. It is very big and I like the moon and stars, and the water is blue and green in the day time and very black at night, and sometimes there is white on top. There is a great deal of it. More than 1,000,000,000 gallons.

Today mother told me that when boys were learning how to be knights they played games that taught them how to throw very straight so they would always hit the mark. So today the Knights of the White Star played games—ring-toss, tetherball and shuffle-board. They are great and awfully jolly. We are going to play all day tomorrow and the next day and every day until we have to leave this castle. I almost wish we would never have to leave it, only I do want to see your country, of course, and get a picture of Joan of Arc for Isobel and go home to see Tom and Isobel and father again and tell them all the good times we have had.

I think Aunt Caroline will be glad to get home. She has cried every day since we left and when I asked mother what was the matter she said Aunt Caroline was just feeling badly because she did not have Tom and Isobel along. I am glad she is sorry, because perhaps she will bring them next time. Good-night. Written by the hand of RICHARD WORTHINGTON.

Sixth Day Out—My Dear Sir Launcelot: Hooray! Tom and Isobel are coming too! Mother says there are ever so many of these floating castles and you can get one every week in America and Tom and Isobel are coming on one of them. Aunt Caroline wants to see them so much, and to have them have the trip, that she is going to send a message clear across the water for Uncle William to bring them over right away and before two more weeks have gone they will be here, and then we can all see your country together after all, and



"ISOBEL."

Isobel can see Joan's statue herself and London bridge and London tower and castles and kings and everything. Good-night. RICHARD WORTHINGTON.

Seventh Day Out—My Dear Sir Launcelot: This is the last day the Knights of the White Star will have on this sea castle. I would like to go back to get Tom and Isobel and then come over again with them in another castle, but mother says I can't. I hope when we do go back all the Knights of the White Star will be on the same boat. If they are all there I will write you and let you know. Good-by, Sir Launcelot. I am glad I wrote to you. RICHARD WORTHINGTON.

GOING HOME—My Dear Sir Launcelot: We are going back home again, Tom and Isobel and I, and some of the Knights of the White Star, and some other children. And there are some other children still on the third-class deck. Some of them are like the little children we saw in Europe, and some wear little red caps and are Turks, and they are going over to America to live. They are having a good time, too. They don't play knights, but they play hide-and-seek, and follow my leader, and all sorts of games, and the little girls knit and play dolls. Mother says they can't understand each other when they talk because they all talk different languages. But they can play games just the same, and mother says this trip in the floating castle is a real holiday for them and she wishes they could take it often; and so do I wish I could, and so do Tom and Isobel.

We had a lovely time seeing real castles and towers and everything. We saw a real king and a real queen, and a real prince and a real princess. And we have pictures of everything. And Isobel saw Joan of Arc's statue and has her picture. But most of all we all like the floating castle and wish we might always be Knights of the White Star.

And Aunt Caroline does not cry any more and is very glad she sent for Uncle William and Tom and Isobel, and so am I. Good-bye, Sir Launcelot.

RICHARD WORTHINGTON,
Knight of the White Star.

Devices to Reduce Ice Bills

THE question of the hour with the average housekeeper is, "How to keep down the ice bill?" After relaxing from the demands of the gas and the coal companies, she finds herself face to face with the problem of keeping down the consumption of ice, and here she finds that carelessness on the part of her servant will add materially to her account with the ice man.

A simple device for protecting the ice supply is, to all appearances, a pad of felt between sheets of coarsely woven wire. It should measure an inch less than the refrigerator, all the way round, to permit circulation. Before laying it under the ice it is dipped in cold water.

Directly the pad becomes damp from contact with the ice it throws out a blast of cold air, which completely envelops the ice and reduces the rate of melting. It should be cleaned and aired every time the refrigerator is cleaned.

For keeping the refrigerator sweet-smelling, employ charcoal in lumps. Nothing is so efficacious. A little bit goes a long way.

The daily cleaning of the refrigerator is often done in a slovenly manner and is disastrous to the supply of ice. Some servants mix this task in with their dish-washing and morning work, prolonging it unnecessarily. In reality it should be done with dispatch and system. These directions from the buyer of a department store are worth considering:

"Before cleaning the refrigerator re-

move all articles of food to a table or shelf within easy reach. Have ready in the stationary tubs or an ordinary washtub plenty of hot water, softened with a dash of household ammonia and good white soap which is free from odor. Plunge into this all the shelves and movable fixtures, including the tray on which the ice rests. The ice should be wrapped in newspaper and set in the coolest spot available. When the fixtures are washed, set them out in the sun to air and sweeten.

"With the same suds wash the walls of the refrigerator, rinsing thoroughly the last few times with cold water. Bring in the fixtures, dip them in cold water, fit them into the refrigerator, remove the paper from the ice, return it to the proper compartment, lay a newspaper over it and shut the door. Then, as quickly as possible, return all food to its proper place and shut up the refrigerator.

"If food is put away carefully in clean receptacles a refrigerator should not be cleaned more than twice a week."

Medium priced refrigerators are in ash or oak, the dark woods no longer finding favor. The newest fittings do not show zinc or galvanized iron, but even the broad shelves for holding heavy food supplies are made from stout wire, criss-crossed.

For the refrigerator which is not connected with a sewer or outdoor drainage one may buy a new and cleanly trap for carrying the water into the waste pan.

This trap is attached to the wastepipe from the ice compartment, and is cone-shaped. Inside the cone-shaped piece is a corrugated center of metal, not unlike a half-open umbrella, which comes to a sharp closed point. The water from the ice runs into this corrugated piece and, finding no outlet at the point, is forced upward again and pushes its way through tiny openings with a pressure first downward and then upward.

All odors pass out through the little windows and not upward into the ice chest proper. The trap can be removed and cleaned daily.

Many families who take a summer cottage for a month or so do not wish to move out good furniture, including a well made refrigerator. For the short stay a galvanized iron tub can be made to serve all purposes and it will not waste the ice if properly cared for.

It should be lined with newspapers, and the ice, placed in the center of the tub, should be wrapped first in newspaper and then in a heavy piece of old blanket. Between the ice and the wall of the tub tiers such as are seen in egg cases should stand, so that the food will be raised above the water which will naturally accumulate.

It is a mistake to think that milk bottles, butter jars, etc., must sit directly against the ice. Between the wrapped ice and the lined walls of the tub there will be a current of air sufficient to keep the perishable

food in good condition; and if over all is laid more newspapers and a heavy piece of wool or carpet, less ice will be consumed than in the average refrigerator.

Found Wanting

"I've had so much bad luck," said the gloomy man, "that I lie awake half the night thinking about my troubles."

"The cure for that," they told him, "is to quit thinking of your own troubles. Think of other people's."

"I'll try it," he said.

Three months later they met him again. "Well, how did it work?" they asked him.

"Didn't do any good," he replied. "I lie awake all night now, thinking of other people's troubles."—Chicago Tribune.

His Week Off

"Bill," said the Billville postmaster to a citizen who was lounging about, "here's a letter from yer aunt, 'nuther one from yer uncle, an' I reckon here's one with the bill fer that lumber you bought; an' now I want to axe you—air you a'lookin' fer any more this week? Kaze ef you air, you won't git 'em, not out o' this office!"

"An' why not?"

"Kaze I close tonight fer one week. In plain English, Bill—I'm a-goin' a-fishin'!"—Atlanta Constitution.