



HEADMASTER :

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BRISTOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

COTHAM SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

COTHAM LAWN ROAD,

BRISTOL, 6.

May 5th.1933.

This is to certify that the essay of P.G.Powesland, age 12 years 3 months,
for the Empire Society's Competition 1933 is his own unaided work.

T. V. T. Baxter
Headmaster.

(Commended last year's a.m.)
P. G. Powesland.
Elm Cottage,
Henbury,
Nr Bristol.
2nd Prize
School: Cotham Secondary. X
Informative, but a little prosaic
(d-)

I am, I can, I ought, I will.

a+

1.

Elm Cottage,
Henbury
Bristol.

23.4.33.

Dear Uncle John,

How lovely it will be to see you once more! I could hardly believe my own eyes when I read your letter, and I do not know how to thank you for the wonderful invitation which you sent me.

I should like especially to visit our own possessions, as they will remind us of what our ancestors won by working in unison for the sake of their country. We shall also be able to see how conditions have improved since British influence has been present.

Commencing the trip from Bristol, and sailing down the river Avon to Avonmouth, with its busy docks, we shall voyage on to Gibraltar, the fine promontory which guards the narrow entrance to the Mediterranean Sea. After inspecting the fine harbours and massive rock defences, I propose to continue the voyage through the Mediterranean, passing Malta on the way to the entrance to the Suez Canal, a great feat of engineering, Port Said. It will be interesting to note the many kinds of vessels which enter the canal.

Perhaps we could fly from Port Said to Cairo, in Egypt, by aeroplane. From here, we shall explore some of the wonderful land of Egypt, so much read of in the Bible. The famous pyramids, the first of "The Seven Wonders of the World," I am very eager to see.

Then there is the wonderful river Nile, whose banks are lined with cotton plants at certain times of the year, and we shall see a network of canals

irrigating the surrounding land.

§B.

Passing over the Sudan, still by air, we shall visit Uganda with its vast impenetrable jungles, and wild animals, which we shall be able to see from above. I think that it will be rather exciting, Uncle!

From Uganda, we shall fly over the colony of Kenya and the Tanganyika Territory to Northern Rhodesia.

I particularly want to break the journey here, so that we can see how the natives differ from ourselves, to compare their countryside with that of my homeland, England, and to visit the famous Victoria Falls. It must be wonderful to see the foaming torrents which these Falls make.

We shall continue our flight over the southern portion of Rhodesia, where I should like to visit one of the numerous gold mines, as it will be very interesting to see the mining operations in progress, especially as I have never visited a mine.

§C

Heading for Cape Town, I propose to fly on to Kimberley, the town which is surrounded by priceless diamond mines. Of course, we must not forget the "Cape to Cairo" Railway, so if it will be convenient for you, Uncle, we shall travel by it from Kimberley to Cape Town. When we arrive at the latter, we shall have passed an endless variety of scenery; barren deserts, dense tropical forests, swirling rapids, diamond mines, vineyards and apple-orchards, and clear blue skies.

§D

After having had a good rest at Cape Town, we shall commence the voyage to India, another of Britain's possessions. I think that Bombay will be the best place to land. It is like a dream to think of seeing Bombay with its gaily decorated streets, thronged with people of many different lands, speaking in various tongues,

the water-carriers and oxen-carts.

3B We shall travel to Agra, famous for its temple and snow-white tomb. On our way we shall pass through endless beauty; waving bamboo canes and wild animals. We shall be able to eat plenty of fruit in this country as innumerable plants grow there.

After having visited the wonders of Agra, and seen the relics of ancient times near Delhi, (I am very keen on old remains and ruins, Uncle), we shall journey across India to Madras, passing many picturesque scenes on the way.

I propose to sail from Madras to Colombo, in Ceylon, and then we shall probably see pearl-seekers, fishing for oysters, and further inland tea plantations, as well as many other interesting things. I think that Ceylon is a lovely island from what I have read of it.

After satisfying ourselves with the tour of this beautiful land, we shall travel by water across the North of the Indian Ocean and through the Malacca Strait to Singapore. We shall not be able to stay very long here, but I should like to see the wonderful docks and harbours, probably full of ships, containing products from all parts of the world.

Voyaging on in a southerly direction, through the Sunda and Banda Seas, we shall sail down the East coast of Australia to Sydney. I should like to see the new Sydney Harbour bridge very much, and to visit the surrounding country in the hope that I shall be able to see some of Australia's curious birds and plants which I have read about.

3B When we have given New Zealand a visit, and have seen some of its enormous sheep-farms and cattle-ranches, we shall commence our voyage across the Pacific Ocean from Wellington, probably passing many islands on the way.

Having sailed through the Panama Canal, we shall travel up the coast of America to Quebec. After climbing its famous rock, and exploring this terraced city, we shall continue our journey up the river Saint Lawrence, passing Montreal and Ottawa on our way to Toronto, where, I am sure, we shall both be pleased to visit Auntie once more. It will be great fun to go for rambles together, and to see the many interesting sights there.

We shall be near our last voyage now, and, sailing from Halifax, I hope that we shall arrive safely in England. I should like to sail from Bristol as soon as it is convenient. Good-bye, Uncle!

From your affectionate nephew,
Philip. J. Rowesland.

The books which I have used are, "The World and its People," (1909 edition), "The British Empire Since 1783," and Phillips' Atlas.