

### On to London

It was near the last week in July when we got our tickets from Paris to London. It was fine comfortable weather in this region around 50° north, but when we got on the rather small ferry boat that ran between Calais and Dover we found there was enough wind to make the English Channel rather rough, and though it took only about two hours to cross this narrow channel, people who were "poor sailors" found themselves sea sick before we reached Dover.

By American standards, it is not a long journey by train from Dover to London, some two or three hours, and thus we arrived at a London station in plenty of time to get located in a comfortable economical pension in the high lands of Western London before the evening twilight. When some new tourists were known to have entered the pension, almost immediately there were men with bagpipes in the street below ~~one~~<sup>our</sup> window serenading us with tunes of Scotland. Perhaps it was the first time for us to see and hear the bagpipes, but it sounded good and we felt welcomed.

The maiden English lady that kept the pension and her guests were friendly and we soon joined the family circle. We would plan our day of sight seeing and start after breakfast to get back by the evening meal.

Buckingham Palace was the home of King George and Queen Mary and we didn't fail to be in front of the Palace at the changing of the guard somewhere about noon. They were on fine horses and had

the big "ten gallon" fur head-dress on. This was near Hyde Park too, and we would plan to be there about 4 p.m. to hear the political speeches, witness the big Sufragette Parade, and whatever was on for that day. The hecklers were usually out to challenge the speakers. "The Government is making fools of us". "They couldn't make a fool of you," "The women are slaves in England"— "Amen" etc.

We spent two Sundays in London. One Sunday we went to Spurgeon's Tabernacle and heard Dr. Shields of Toronto. The other Sunday we went to a church near us because we learned that Dr. Elliott Griffis was going to speak. We had read many books by Dr. Griffis: The Mikado's Empire, Verbeck of Japan, etc, etc. He was in Japan in 1872 helping Japan to launch her big Educational system. He was a good experienced speaker when we heard him. One sentence I remember, "If there is any race among the races of men that is smarter than others, I have never been keen enough to find it out."

We took only one trip outside of London just for sight seeing: To Warwick Castle and Shakespeare's Country. I suppose anywhere in England would be lovely the last week in July. Certainly this trip was worth while. Warwick Castle is not too far from London and it must be one of the more famous ones that are still kept in good repair.

And who wouldn't like to go to Stratford on Avon? Shakespeare's house is kept in good condition and can always be seen by visitors. On a window upstairs we were shown a pane of glass with "Walter Scott" written, they said, with the diamond Sir Walter had in his possession.

They showed us the ~~Al~~<sup>23</sup> Hathaway cottage where the poet-dramatist is said to have courted his wife. There was the old settee, comfortable enough for two young people to sit, but neither young nor old are supposed to sit on it now.

In the British Museum one can see books old and new, some of the oldest manuscripts in the world, and a Greek Bible which was bought for the museum for half a million dollars.

St. Paul's is the most famous church in London and any people could be proud of its building.

Westminster Abbey is where the kings and queens are married and crowned, and where the great poets are buried.

Walk along the bank of the Thames and look at the parliament buildings down to the water's edge on the other side of the river. This is the home of the Mother of Parliaments.

Shops that sell books, and those that sell linen are just samples of shops that anybody would like to visit. Maggie Lee bought some warm blankets, and some table linen in St. Paul's Churchyard that have lasted us these 49 years.

We went to Trafalgar Square and saw the Nelson Monument and all the sights therabouts and I guess it was about that time and place that we were walking on the sidewalk and seemed to notice some kind of signal and when we looked around King George and Queen Mary were just passing us in an open carriage and we were only a few feet from them.

I can still see the big hat with a broad brim that the Queen was wearing. We were glad to be there and we are still glad to think that "There will always be an England."

### Now it's Liverpool and Then Boston

When we left the Steamship B U L O W at port Said we gave instructions that our heavy baggage should be left with Thomas Cook and Company at Southampton, the port south of London. Then we got passage from Liverpool to Boston sailing the first week in August. Then we instructed Cook to have our baggage at Liverpool and on the S.S. Laconia when she sails for Boston.

We got on a good train from London to Liverpool that would give us two days in Liverpool before the sailing date of the Laconia. Everything worked out beautifully and we went flying across the lovely island on a fine day about August 1. The ~~ride~~<sup>ride</sup> of four or five hours seemed like riding through a park all the way.

Maybe it was a holiday when we arrived at Liverpool, for the docks and streets were swarming with working people who seemingly had been by boat on holiday somewhere.

But we had no trouble in getting a place to stay and in due time we were in a good second class cabin with all our baggage aboard after having been separated from most of our things for about fifty days. The liner Laconia was a good ship of the Cunard Line and our tickets to Boston cost us \$52.50 for each of us. Will it ever be that cheap again?