



I am certainly safe in assuming that little that goes on around you escapes your bright eyes and sharp ears, and that most of you know that I have come to you from a land three thousand miles away, across the stormy, wintry sea; bringing for your delight, and practical good as well, the exhibition whose attractions are so elegantly illustrated in this pretty book. In America I am on famously friendly terms with all the Little Folks, and their affection, happiness, and good is to me the most precious thing in all the world. It is the one great object of my life to deserve their love and contribute to their innocent amusement, for, as I have repeatedly said, I would rather be called the children's friend than the world's king. At home they daily come in thousands to see the odd and comical entertainments I am continually collecting and devising for their special benefit, and it is to me a matter of heartfelt pride and satisfaction that I come to you blessed with their earnest wishes for my success; but without your goodwill, howseever great the success of my hazardous and costly venture might be, to me personally it would prove a most distressing failure. I want a world of child-friends in Great Britain the same as in America. I shall try with all an enthusiastic Grandfather's energy to secure and deserve them, and I hope you will, one and all, second my efforts, and regard me both as a genuine friend and playfellow. It will be truly the proudest and happiest moment of my life when I shall be permitted to return to my millions of Little Friends in the New World, bearing with me to them the assurance of your esteem.

Affectionately yours, January



























