

Mary Pickford Gets Bushels of Mail

Behind The Scenes With "America's Little Sweetheart"

Charming Little Actress Takes Great Pleasure In Handling Correspondence

Picture, if you can, a rainy afternoon early in May, and a prosaic, everyday business office, the window of which looks out on humdrum Twenty-sixth street. In the center of the room is a good-sized drawer filled to the limit with letters postmarked from every corner of the world—from as far away as Australia. On her knees in childlike freedom in front of this great mass of correspondence is the young



Mary Pickford (America's Little Sweetheart) seeking diversion and recreation in the perusal of a few of the myriad of letters that are continually addressed to her.

Sees Herself in the "Movies" and Is Amused With Comments of the Audience

"Yes, I do get some letters asking for money. One man wanted \$1500. I wrote him and explained he was only one; that I had people of my own who had prior claim to any surplus possessions. Do you know he wrote again? This is what he wrote: 'I have no desire to be selfish, but could you not make an exception in my case and give me \$650? If you want to you can give it in your own name so you can get it later, because I only want a home; and the land will be very valuable in a few years. Do your best and you will not be sorry.' This man,

woman to whom all these messages of admiration and encouragement have been addressed. "America's Little Sweetheart" is the striking title applied to her by Manager Samuel Blair of the Popular, when he announces to his patrons the coming of a picture in which is starred Little Mary. "America's Little Sweetheart" in all truth she seems to be in the minds of many others when we are permitted to get a peek at the contents of these letters sent by writers ranging in age from seven to 70. Few of them are from men, and of these a majority are unsigned, thereby more perfectly testifying to the sincerity of the authors. The great mass are: from children and women. Some cranks there are, to be sure, but of flirts there are not any.

playing, when the actress' taxicab was held up by the crowd awaiting her, and the child planted a kiss on her face as she leaned out of the window. "I am so sorry to hear you were sick in the hospital," writes another little girl. "What side did you have your appendicitis on, because my left side is hurting me."

however, was moderate compared to the one who wrote: "My mother's ambition is to own a beautiful home, well furnished. If you have a generous heart you will send me ten thousand dollars in the next mail."

We had gone to the studio by appointment for a chat with Miss Pickford. This is a good place to say that to attempt to put into cold type an adequate description of the personal charm of this young woman requires a better pen than this one. She is all you see on the screen, multiplied many times. Simple in manner as a child; wholesome, unspoiled, saying just the thing that comes first to her lips and never hesitating a second or giving evidence of any internal effort to utter something impressive or bristling with great wisdom; absolutely contented with being Mary Pickford the woman (how strangely extravagant this expression sounds; for girl she seems to be), sincerely unable to comprehend why anything she has done should be the occasion for anyone to make a fuss about.

From a more mature admirer came the advice: "Take care of your upper lip. It is your fortune." From Denver came a compliment greater perhaps than its author realized. "Your acting does not seem like acting," it said. "I enjoy your work," says another correspondent similarly impressed. "I won't call it acting because it's not acting."

Miss Pickford returned to her letters. Her face became grave as she read a note from a childish hand. "I remember you every night in my prayers," was the simple but eloquent message. "Who wouldn't be happy to get a letter like that?" she said. Then there was a message in the chirography of an elderly woman. "My husband says sometimes, 'I wonder if there will be a picture of my little girl tonight.'" It ran, "He always calls you his little girl."

Mary Gets Lots of Letters. "Yes," said Miss Pickford, in answer to a question, "I get quite a lot of letters. Just wait a moment, if you will—I have some that have come to me in the last few months." When the little actress returned from her quest she carried a receptacle containing hundreds of missives. They were arranged in pecks and tied with the care that might have been bestowed on love letters. "How many of these do I get in a day? Why," answered Little Mary, "my record is 63. Which I think is quite enough, don't you? Of course, when I have been traveling there are accumulations. Here's the kind of letter that especially appeals to me." The handwriting was of a child—a very young girl. "I have chosen you for my favorite actress," it said. There was another from a little girl in Baltimore, identifying herself by reminding Miss Pickford of the day in the Oriole City, where "A Good Little Devil" was then

Letter Reading as Recreation. It was about this time that Jim Kirkwood, Miss Pickford's director, then putting on his first Famous Players picture, strode into the room and looked real hard at his leading woman. Miss Pickford glanced up. "Oh, you're in for a lot of trouble," she said mischievously. "I am going to be a real prima donna—temperamental eccentricity and all that sort of thing, you know." Mr. Kirkwood smiled a grim smile, but it was not one of fear. Miss Pickford did not by her manner betray the knowledge that a large company awaited her appearance in the studio, which, days later we learned was the fact.

Miss Pickford laughed outright. "Yes, I get a few," she admitted. "There was a boy in England who seemed very much in love. He assured me he would be 18 years old in nine months. Then there was a man in Vancouver who was anxious to know what I did with my money. He told me he was a religious man, that he sang in the choir, and that he would marry me and would make a good husband. But these letters are very few."

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It has been several years now that I have known of Little Mary by that name. The origin of the appellation Miss Pickford ascribes to her fellow-players in the Biograph studio. Later the Imp Company advertised the appearance of Little Mary in its subjects. When Miss Pickford was asked if she knew how many pictures she had appeared in she admitted she did not know. "I wish I did," she added. Just one more letter. It was one of the hundreds. Like many of the others, it was written in a hand that denoted education, as its phraseology indicated the finer feelings that impelled its utterance. It was from a woman, and she lived in Manchester, N. H.: "After seeing you play in 'Caprice' I simply had to write to tell you how much I admire both you and your work in the pictures. Really, Miss Pickford, your position is an enviable one. Think of having people whom you never saw or even heard of love you. You must be the happiest person in the world."

And the beautifully garbed vision crowned with masses of brown curls hair that faded into the noisy studio seemed to be just that.

With **R. W. Jenkins** PHOTOGRAPHER
Sittings by appointment

JAPANESE STUDENTS CAPTURED BY GERMANS
[By Latest Mail]
LONDON.—A despatch to the Central News from Copenhagen says: "Information has reached here that 600 Japanese students from German universities have been captured on the Dutch-German frontier and imprisoned."

Whistler and Oscar Wilde did not love each other overmuch, and as they constantly met in London drawing

REDUCTION In Price of Tires

The Pennsylvania Vacuum Cup Automobile Tires are conceded to be the Blue Ribbon Product of the rubber makers' art, yet regardless of their reputation we decided to bank only on our own experience and know for sure of their adaptability to our Hawaiian conditions. This we did for eighteen months and our knowledge is the knowledge also of our many customers. Among them the Marconi Wireless Co., who have run 12,000 miles on their Cadillac between the city, Kahuku and Koko Head; M. A. Gunst & Co., 8000 miles and running in good shape yet; Mutual Telephone Co., 8000 and in active

service, besides livery cars around the island for 10,000 miles.

The Automobile Club of America have just completed an impartial cross-road test of vacuum cup tires equipped on two 1914 four-cylinder Lozier cars, the result being: One tire 6428 miles, one tire 8245 miles, one tire 8606 miles, one tire 9880 miles, or excess mileage over our 4500 miles guaranteed of 1928, 3745, 4106 and 5360 miles respectively. We could enumerate many others, but all would be a repetition of this record.

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The Pittsburg Taxicab Co., operating 55 cars, after being under a three year contract with other manufacturers, have decided by unanimous vote of

all their drivers to throw out all others and adopt the Vacuum Cup successively.

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30x3	17.25	10.80	3.00	42x4	44.50	7.05
32x3	18.15	11.55	3.15	32x4 1/2
34x3	19.00	12.25	3.40	33x4 1/2
36x3	19.80	.....	.....	34x4 1/2	43.38	30.70	7.15
28x3 1/2	.....	.....	.....	35x4 1/2	44.85	31.65	7.40
29x3 1/2	.....	.....	.....	36x4 1/2	46.90	32.55	7.60
30x3 1/2	23.95	.....	3.95	37x4 1/2	47.40	33.50	7.80
31x3 1/2	24.80	15.20	4.10	38x4 1/2	47.85	.....	7.95
32x3 1/2	25.70	15.60	4.20	40x4 1/2	51.25	.....	.....
33x3 1/2	26.05	.....	4.40	41x4 1/2	.....	.....	.....
34x3 1/2	26.55	16.50	4.50	42x4 1/2	.....	.....	.....
36x3 1/2	28.10	17.45	4.70	43x4 1/2	.....	.....	.....
30x4	28.65	20.20	5.20	34x5	.....	.....	.....
31x4	31.50	20.90	5.40	35x5	.....	34.55	8.00
32x4	32.40	21.70	5.50	36x5	52.90	35.90	8.55
33x4	33.40	22.40	5.65	37x5	56.05	37.10	9.20
34x4	34.40	23.20	5.75	38x5	.....	.....	9.55
35x4	35.35	24.00	6.00	36x5 1/2	62.00	44.10	10.15
36x4	36.05	24.70	6.10	37x5 1/2	64.05	45.30	10.30
37x4	37.00	25.50	6.25	38x5 1/2	66.10	46.50	10.60

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rooms their sparring was pretty dead-ly. On one occasion Whistler made a remark so brilliant as to provoke applause even from Wilde. "By Jove," Whistler, he exclaimed, "I wish I had said that." "Never mind," replied Whistler, "you will."



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