

CORRESPONDENCE

This department is provided for the publication of informal communications and for discussion of controversial matters.

THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM MISS HELEN KELLER IS REPRINTED WITH THE PERMISSION OF MR. PERRY BURGESS.

Arcan Ridge
Westport, Conn.
July 10, 1944

Dear Mr. Burgess:

Out of a deeply moved heart I thank you for a faith-inspiring book and for the tribute of inscribing it to me as your friend.

Since my childhood, when I read about Father Damien at Molokai, and even more since I spoke to the sufferers at the Kaishun Hospital and the Home of Mount Unsen in Japan, I have felt a tender friendship towards them. So they did not seem strangers to me but rather a kindred of strong souls defying the cruellest limitations as I took a mental journey through *Culion in WHO WALK ALONE*, which I have just finished reading in Braille.

Thinking of their prolonged endurance, and resistance to an environment which saps everything natural that is meant to bring joy, I ache all over, but their proud man-and womanhood rebuke my tears. Ned Langford translates for me more sublimely than anything I have seen the power of mind over obstacles beside which mine are nothing. Overcoming the bleakest loneliness, pain, exhaustion, the sense of death, and creating fruitful fellowship and beauty as the background of his tragic disaster, he challenges us well people—and wonderingly I realize how many others there are with a message like his own. Reverently I bow my head as I picture them advancing further than the rest of the handicapped, giving a blessing for ashes with every art they can exercise, turning each denial into opportunity and generously pushing forward the rehabilitation of those who are fortunate enough to return to normal society.

With cordial greetings, and with a faith in God and His beloved Son—mankind—always strong, but lifted yet higher by your book, I am

Appreciatively your friend,

HELEN KELLER

MR. PERRY BURGESS RECEIVED RECENTLY THE FOLLOWING INTERESTING LETTER FROM A NATIONAL WORKER WHO IS ATTACHED TO MAHATMA GANDHI'S ASHRAM AT WARDHA. IT WAS FORWARDED WITH A COVERING NOTE FROM DR. R. G. COCKRANE AND IS REPRINTED WITH MR. BURGESS' PERMISSION.

Sevagram, via WARDHA (C. P.)
India
February 15, 1945

Mr. Perry Burgess
U. S. A.

Dear Friend:

My senior colleague, Kaka Kalelkar, and myself during our detention in jail as political prisoners some time ago happily came across your book "Who Walk Alone." As we were even before interested in leprosy work, the book appealed to us very deeply and we decided to translate it immediately into Gujarati, which is our provincial language. The book is now ready for the press, and on behalf of my senior (who is still in detention) and myself, I seek your permission to publish it.

For ourselves, it will be sufficient for us to say that we are life associates of Mahatma Gandhi, and the publication of this work is not meant to bring any pecuniary profit to us. The Publishing House is also a charitable trust founded by Gandhi, its object is to publish Gandhian and other literature of public service as cheaply as possible, and the profits, if any accrue, under the terms of the trust are to be used for public service. We shall see that whatever net profit is gained on this book will be used on leprosy work in India. We expect therefore that you will please give your permission freely.

I had been long wanting to write to you about this, but did not know your address. Fortunately, I have just found a new friend, who is co-worker with Dr. R. G. Cochrane of Leprosy Sanatorium, Chingleput (Madras), and through him I have requested the Doctor to forward my request to you.

I hope that you will grant the necessary permission.

K. G. MASHRUWALA