Long letter from H.R.H. Prince Arthur to his father, the Duke of Connaught, for his Japanese mission to the Mikado

1906.
Dear Papa,

We have left Japan nearly a week now and are well on our way to Canada.

I have written a long letter to Mama, trying to describe some incidents of our trip, so I will not refer to it here. However, it is quite impossible, short of writing a book, to make any attempt to go into details. I think I may safely say, from what we hear and see, that the "Koina" has been a success. But of course you know how difficult it is to get anything out of a Japanese.

The thing, however, is quite certain, that the entire
people have been determined to show their friendship to England and we felt obliged to come in handy. The Emperor coming in person to the station, deplored my health, and gave an official banquet, not to mention other smaller things, as all quite without precedent in Japan.

But apparently the Japanese consider the fact of his柔性 but as my submission and stay with his own hands, to be the greatest honour of all. He has never before, in conformity on order, it appears, taken the initiative out of the box. The weather, to a certain extent, rather spoil the sight seen part of our journey. Even the most beautiful places lose their attraction, when seen how under a dripping umbrella on a cold rainy day. One must have
would have made all the difference to us, as we arrived in the middle of one of the hardest winter's we ever had. I feel I ought to be an expert on Japanese naval matters, as I have seen the chief naval port, not at all the admiral's and have been connected with Japanese fleet for a week. The navy is to all intents and purposes English. Most of the officers speak it and over all their nautical terms are English, so much so that at the naval college it is the only foreign language taught. As one of them said to me "English is our second mother tongue." We have been unfortunate in seeing so little of the Army. Beyond the troops lining the streets and a small show at Hiroshima, we have not had chance to see anything. As far as we can see, the Japanese army (with regard to dress) is entirely modelled on Germany. They have a modified form of the "prussia" and apparently have the same love of decoration. They handle their guns smartly and are very well set up and steady in the
rents. I never noticed a man looking round or shifting about while standing to attention. The military bands we heard at Tientsin were all very fine, but rather weak. A great many shantytowns have started, studied in Germany, but now they have a "school" of their own.

My sister to Relen Heli. Uniform is worn a great deal by officers; they have evidently written Germany in this respect and do not possess a man-dress. None of the officers of my aunt even wore anything but uniform. — I shall be very curious to hear your impressions of South Africa and what you think of it as a military station. I wonder if you saw our friends the Bays. They were at Victoria when last I heard of them. You must have been very interested to see the battlefields. — The defibrilator shadow of Sir Hamilton's battles hark has been live with us in Japan. They are perfectly serious about it and one distinguished general told Davison "Il est l'audace imprévue de m'engager en telle guise..."!

I must stop now, as it is just dinner time. Hoping that you will have a good young home.

Ever so loving, Arthur.