

17. Jan. 96

My dear Mrs Reggs:

It didn't come by "the next post" nor yet the next after that but it has come in a most unexpected way get-up and I thank you heartily for it. Tom o' the Blueberry Plains is an old friend of mine: the others I think are new to me and best of them I like the "fore-worn regg" which goes to the heart, but why overwhelm me with inscriptions? I can't write one to match yours anyway: the gift is not in me. I believe Polly Oliver's problem to be your best - because I liked that even more than a Cathedral Courtship: It seemed sweeter and fresher (in the English sense of the word) than anything I'd come across in a long day - as I believe I told you at the time. However, I have done my little best overleaf: there aint no charge: we being of the profesh. I do hope and pray that with your sales you have a good sound business eye overlooking the contracts.

Ever sincerely yours

Rudyard Kipling.

RUDYARD KIPLING, A. L. S., 17 January 1896, to
MRS. KATE DOUGLAS WIGGIN RIGGS.

[diagonal top left, engraved:]

TELEGRAMS AND EXPRESS,
BRATTLEBORO'.

[top right, engraved
except for date:]

NAULAKHA,
WAITE,
VERMONT
17. Jan. 96

My dear Mr.^s. Riggs:

It didn't come by "the next post" nor yet the next after that but it has come in a most sumptuous get-up and I thank you heartily for it. *Tom o' the Blueberry Plains* is an old friend of mine: the others I think are new to me and best of them I like the "Fore-room rug" which goes to the heart, but why overwhelm one with inscriptions? I cant write one to match yourn anyway: the gift is not in me. I believe *Polly Oliver's problem* to be your best—because I liked that even more than a *Cathedral Courtship*: it seemed sweeter and fresher (in the English sense of the word) than anything I'd come across in a long day—as I believe I told you at the time. However, I have done my little best overleaf. There aint no charge: we being of the profesh. I do hope and pray that with your sales you have a good sound business eye overlooking the contracts.

Ever sincerely yours
Rudyard Kipling.

ALS, 1 page. Single sheet, 17.5 x 11 cm.

Laid paper. No watermark.

Provenance: As for Mrs. Kipling's letter to Mrs. Riggs.

Unpublished.