

the dikes in Holland and was no longer able to buy his children skates such as their neighbors had. When at last the story was printed in book form its popularity was overwhelming.

The story of Hans Brinker has been translated into five languages. In its first thirty years one hundred editions were printed. Although Mrs. Dodge had never been in Holland she had gained such accurate knowledge of this little lowland nation from her reading and from her Dutch neighbors, with whom she discussed her work as she progressed, that the book was accepted by the Dutch people themselves as a true picture of their nation and its life.

Some years later Mrs. Dodge was traveling in Europe with her son. One day she sent him into a store for a book about Holland. To her amazement, he came out with a copy of Hans Brinker, quoting the dealer as saying it was positively the best book that had ever been written about his people.

Mrs. Dodge wrote many other stories and verses for children, but her outstanding service to juvenile literature was her editorship of the popular magazine, St. Nicholas. She was given charge of it shortly after it was founded in 1873, and credit is due her for its name. She could have thought of no name dearer to the heart of childhood than that of the good old saint. It was she who planned the department contributed by its young readers which became one of the most popular features of the magazine. She numbered some of the leading writers of the country among her personal friends and so was able to secure contributions from such famous people as Whittier and Longfellow.

The magazine achieved such outstanding success that it was considered a privilege to write for its pages. When Kipling, then a very young man, offered the services of his pen, Mrs. Dodge asked him if he thought he was equal to it. The story of Little Lord Fauntleroy by Frances Hodgson Burnett, which has recently been made more popular than ever in its screen version, was first written for serial publication in St. Nicholas, and it was for the pages of St. Nicholas that Mark Twain wrote Tom Sawyer Abroad and Louisa May Alcott wrote Under the Lilacs.

This department of contributions by its young readers has always been known as the St. Nicholas League, and many artists and writers known far and wide entered upon their