Being an Eskimo wasn’t nearly as much fun as being a Red Indian, but it was still better than being white and civilised all of the time.

The winter evenings were long and cold and at such times I was glad to be civilised and have a decent home with warm fires where I could eat my mother’s wonderfully cooked meals and hear my father tell stories of the days when he was a little boy. Sometimes we would all gather round the family organ and sing songs until it was time to go to bed. Then we would all kneel down and thank God for His goodness to us before we crawled between sheets that had been warmed by hot coals in a big copper thing that looked like a frying pan with a lid.

Yes, it’s fun to make believe you are someone you are not; and it’s fun to talk to animals and birds and to pretend that they understand and answer you; but a little boy can get very tired of eating grey squirrels and frogs’ hind legs like a Red Indian; and the tallow candles they make in Pennsylvania, just can’t possibly be the same as those the real Eskimos eat.

Would you like to be somebody or something you are not? If you would, just try pretending you are and get as near to it as you can. It makes it easier to change your way of life, if you want to, when you become a man or a woman.

But just one word of warning: Don’t try being too real a cow-boy or gunman. I drilled a hole through my ankle with a rifle bullet when I was ten years old and set my pants alight firing a pistol from my pocket when I was fourteen. It hurts terribly, and you can easily get killed. And it is not fun being a dead cowboy or a dead gunman.

(Next month, I’ll take you to a big town in America, where I went to High School and became interested in negroes and gaols.)