

Auchencairn

24 Sept 1910

My Dear friend,

Many thanks for your care about the Everyman. I am busy with my new book and working hard so I have not needed the set. Now I am going to London to place my work and make arrangements for next year and about my boys – one in the Navy and the other going in for Journalism with a future eye on his father's profession of author (?)

But my old housekeeper (and my two uncles) Mary McConnachie will receive and arrange the books on the shelves – also I will leave an acknowledgement note; for Mary, very ready in the tongue is 'no juist say gleg wi' the pen'

I shall (when I get back) be glad of the catalogues of any other series (not being novels) wherewith to supplement the Everyman.

My ?Uncles Robert and William had about 2000 volumes, chiefly of religious tales and the kind of thing Robert used to buy. So I decided to keep only the Galloway and standard books and give the rest to the Village library here and to the two Sunday School Libraries Parish (Mr Henderson's) and free (Mr Thomson's) in equal parts*

So these are now out of my hands and the bookcases empty, swept and only waiting (Devils dilatory permission to be garnished.)

I was looking over some lists of books I bought from you (and J.R. Murdoch) in my early days and I wonder where on earth I got the money to pay for them. Yet I did not steal, so far as I am aware, and must have paid – sometime.

But books were always a hunger to me and many a time I went pretty poor that my head might be famished. I don't now see the boys, certainly not my own boys, beset with that keenness for knowledge, but then they had a library of 30 or 40,000 volumes to pick and choose from.

Hearty congratulations on all your well deserved success. I have known many booksellers (and many people who call themselves so) but never one so universally kindly, wise in counsel, and wholly intelligent as (well we will name no names) the gentleman whom I have the honour and pleasure of calling 'old friend.'

Ever yours

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