

Bank House

Dec 21st

My dear Friend,

I am ashamed to have been so long in writing to you but you know how I am driven, and since you have been here I have done an immense deal of work. I do not know how many places I have been. I was in Manchester speaking and a week with Mr Ruskin, and I have been in Dundee and a week with Lang in St Andrews. I see there is no chance for me getting away till the week either before or the week after the 17th of January when I shall go to lecture in Glasgow. I shall let you know in time at any rate before, and appoint John to meet me in Ayr if he will come and be my guest for a few days gallivanting, then we will take our course as soon as we have seen the places for the Glen. I should think that two or three big days would do the thing. I have got all the permissions so I shall want a rest by that time badly. I have much to do before that – finish the ‘Men of the Moss hags’ which is still in process of being recast and corrected.

I rejoice to think of our beautiful time at the Glen. The wonderful mornings, the happy days, the delicious evenings. It was a Quiet Isle of Bliss in my life’s busy sea. And so I would like to keep it. And so I look forward to coming to you again before long. It is like a dream to think that I shall again be driving up the long Glen and through the woods to the Lodge. Perhaps some day I shall live nearer you and so see you oftener. We keep well happily here, although there is still much sickness. It needs a long frost to set us right.

I have a phonograph now and find it of great use for my letters and for sketches of stories.

I wonder if John is busy now and what time he gets off to the hill. Has it been a good backend among the sheep? You will be glad to hear that the whole first edition of the ‘Play actress’ has been sold already and it was a large one, while all the Illustrated Stickit are sold out and it will become a very scarce book.

We have had any number of interviewers. The latest one was in last week’s Black and White. It was exceedingly well written. I have not a copy or I should send it, Mr Jolly would get you one.

Dear people at the Glen. You keep a good part of my heart up with you. I send you my love and hope to come and look for it soon myself.

Don’t quite forget

Your affectionate friend

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