

Laureston, Castle Douglas

Aug 17<sup>th</sup> [1893]

Dear Glenhead,

I do not forget the great kindness that you and the Mistress showed a couple of tramps of rather disreputable appearance, and I wish to thank you again for all the splendid hospitality we received. When I got home the wife was in a great state till she heard where we had been and that we had not inconvenienced you to any terrible extent – I gave assurance on this point, and I hope that I spoke the truth.

Indeed we were so happy that at least one of the tramps hopes to revisit the hospitable home of Glenhead and see the mistress and master thereof before very long. The wife would come too but she is not going very far this weather; but another year if all goes well perhaps we may bring her up to see the marvels of Loch Valley at least.

I have been firing her mind with Loch Enoch and its marvels and she hopes to see these too some day. I hope that it won't be long till I see them again either, for it would take a whole day to do anything like justice to that glorious loch, circled by its granite hills.

I am going to get on with my record of the impressions of my two days and send them to my excellent critic among the hills for correction and suggestion. That was a never to be forgotten walk that we had over the moors, but someday we must start early in the morning and spend the whole day there. I would like to swim across to the island and see Loch in Loch – if that is the way to spell it

I am sending to you the 'Stickit Minister' – *puir laddie* you will treat him kindly and gie him a place by the fire side, a *gude horn spune an' a sonsy cogfu' o' brose*. The author has had some buttermilk since he cam doon here, but it's *gye an' wersh* stuff to the grand meat an' drink o' the Mistress o' Glenhead.

Tell her that my wife sends her kindest regards and very best wishes for her car of her large incumbrance. I have another of my books with some pictures in it by MacGeorge and also Geikie's Picturesque Geology of Scotland, which I shall send, the one to keep and the other to read as long as she likes – when I get back to Penicuik.

We made good time yesterday. The roads were good and we got on very quickly – 35 minutes to Eschequhan, 1 hour to House of the Hill, and the whole family to Newtown Stewart in two hours exactly – which we thought very good considering the heat of the day. We were settling in at tea in Sunnyside, Laurieston at 5.45 – only three hours and three quarters out from Glenhead.

We are busy at journalistic work today – dictating and typing. So it is *wit the 'hamm is frizzlin' I' the pan'* that I write this. Mr Brown sends his kindest regards. And I shake you and the good kind wife by the hand. I wish I had some Glenhead buttermilk!

Always cordially yours,

S.R.Crockett

The 'Minister' who hopes that some day he will be 'stickit' at Glenhead for a day or two. He would not mind a providential thunderstorm at all.