

Undated but after 16th April and sometime before June 1910.

Frontier of Spain

Wednesday

My dear John and Marion

I got your letters last night and came up here to send some directions to Philip and an answer to you. I feel your kindness deeply, and the very affectionate tone of all you say. I see your difficulties and certainly had no idea of adding to them, when writing about Philip. Indeed, just the contrary.

I think that it will be wise to send him down to Galloway to look round. You know Sproat, now an extensive 'factor' married Alice Milner and he might be able to advise him.

I will give him various introductions and he will see what farming is before deciding. I am not anxious for him to be about Peebles if I can help it. I have asked him if he goes to Galloway to turn up on his cycle from Newton Stewart and you could have a look at him. He is a very good, quiet, straight boy, well read and exceedingly intelligent, but no good at examinations – or so at least it seems now.

He has taken a disgust at cramming for them, and I think particularly at Mathematics. But a year or two's hard work and the plainest fare would set him up. He is discouraged too, and needs a change. If you are full up then he can ride down to the town again in the long summer evening. But any way, I should like you to see him. If you can suggest any farmer who would be likely to take him, I should be glad of the advice, (or you can tell him when he comes)

I am truly sorry that you have both been so poorly this spring. I did not know before that John had been poorly at all. Characteristically when he wrote last he said nothing about his former illness.

I cannot write more. I must write Philip and the train from Madrid for Paris passes in an hour.

But thanking you for your affectionate sympathy, and wishing both of you the best of health and the happiest and most prosperous things.

I am, ever your old and true friend

SRC

PS I wonder if the new Raider named Philip will find a Lilac Sunbonnet on the path up to the door as the first one did?