

To John Austin Esq.
Honorary Secretary Dalbeattie General Improvement Committee
Town Clerk's Office
Dalbeattie N.B.

Private
Tontine Hotel
Peebles

7 June 1906

Dear Sir,

I quite understand about the matter and will be at your service the last week in August or the first of September. I suppose there is no need to make the date more exact than that at present, if that will suit the Committee.

Please say that I am much pleased to be considered as part of the "Common Good" of Dalbeattie - present and future. If Castle Douglas is to be considered I would like the following to be asked to be present - if not to be on the Committee. I would like them to be in a manner my guests and would be your debtor to the amount of their expenses.

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| 1. John Payne Esq. | Douglas Arms, Castle Douglas |
| 2. Major Malcolm Harper | British Linen Bank |
| 3. Reverend George Laurie | Queen Street Manse |
| 4. Henry Maclellan | late manager Bank of Scotland |
| 5. W.S. Mr George A.R.S.A. | Artist, 11, Melville Place, Edinburgh |
| 6. Andrew C Penman Esq. | Carriage Works, Dumfries |
| 7. William Sproat Esq. | Barend, Lauriston, Castle Douglas |

These were the props and friends of my boyhood and if it is agreeable to the Committee I should like to have them now - at least at the banquet.

I wish it to be understood that the Committee will allow me to pay (privately) for the dining expenses of these gentlemen, or as many of them as accept.

I shall assuredly do all I can to make the gathering a success.

Malcolm Harper should be asked either to propose or reply to the toast of Galloway Literature. His excellent work deserves that recognition.

Of course I only suggest to the Committee who in the main know so much more and so much better than I.

Yours faithfully,

S.R. Crockett

p.s. I send copy of Mr Turner's letter to Mr Copland. SRC