

Torwood, Peebles.

29th May 1906

Dear Sir,

I beg you to thank the Committee of the Dalbeattie General Improvements Committee for the very kind and flattering invitation to entertain me to a banquet, and for the appreciative form in which that wish was put before me by you.

Of course my first impression was the simple one of gratitude to those who had thought so kindly of me. And that still remains my feeling. But at the same time I would not like to have it appear that I think "more highly of myself than I ought to think," or that I had so contributed to the "General Improvement" of my native province as to deserve a banquet such as you propose.

I am sure the Committee and you yourself will see my difficulty. Your kindness might look to ourselves as if I were advertising myself.

If the Committee in charge were not specially created for the purpose of making one part of Galloway known, I would feel no scruple whatever. If it were representative of Galloway, or even of the district, the most censorious could find no fault.

Personally I have always shunned publicity rather than courted it, and now I do honestly think myself unworthy of the honour you propose.

But if you can see your way to put the kind and generous offer on such a footing that the stigma of self advertisement can be avoided for all of us – why, as a Galloway man, I can only say that I shall be glad and proud to "claw my [] wi' ye."

I shall be most probably staying with my good old uncle (a former porter at Castle Douglas Station for many years) down at Auchencairn during the latter part of August, and any arrangements - if you think it worth while proceeding - can easily be made from there.

Again thanking you, and with every good wish for your town's happiness and prosperity, I am

Faithfully yours,

Dear Mr Austin,

S.R.Crockett