

Re
Autobiography,8, GERALD ROAD,
EATON SQUARE.Jan^y 7. 12. 1900

Dear George,

In my thanks
for your long letter.
In spite of what you
say, or perhaps because
of what you say, it seems
to me that my original
opinion, expressed 2 or 3
weeks ago, still holds
good. It so is, I think, be

2/ an autobiography, ○

as far as possible a mere reproduction of what he has himself written & left for the purpose. No doubt to a certain extent the MS is self-centred & even egotistical. All autobiographies are so! It will not be the less interesting on that account to those who care to read ^{at all.} any life history. Of course any portions that appear to be of no public interest at

3/ all mat. of 1st be shortened

or cut out - Anything

too of interest, such as
obituary notices or the
contents of the little memorial
book (of wh. I have copies)

could easily be added as an
appendix or supplement -

This wd put on record all
the facts of the case, as he
wished them to be recorded
& wd I think cover all the
necessary ground -

of course I know that any
man, with literary talents,

5) a large extent succeeded,
other men, especially
professional men, live
to a large extent for and
with clients or patients.
They intentionally efface
themselves & devote their
time, interest & thoughts to
the lives of those with whom
they have to deal & whose
interests they are entrusted
with. This was never Father's
wish or idea. Everything
had to take a second place
(even the welfare of his own
family) where it interfered

in any way with the
perfecting of his own life &
work. I do not say that
this was not necessary or
wise, - but in any case
it was the fact.

No doubt his autobiography
brings this out in a marked
way. It is right that it
sh^d. It was characteristic
& he wished it to be so -

His own idea of the
biographical note he made
was, that it w^d be a
completion & rounding off
of his own life's work.

2/ He had no wish or
intention of simply supply-
ing material for someone
to make a biography of -
This 5^d, I think, apart from
other considerations, practically
settles the matter -

After all, such a little
volume as I suggest &
advise, will not in
any way interfere with
other biographies (5^d the Spirit
move someone to undertake
such), but will on the
contrary furnish useful
material to work with.

As you see I have
said much more than I
intended. I repeat, that
if you think I can be of any
use I shall willingly help
in any way I can.

You are not serious, I hope,
in suggesting giving up your
own invaluable work, for
any such merely transitory
reason as this wd furnish.

As to present Gov^t, their
days I think are very limited.
Next election will be English
versus French, & the latter will be
left nowhere -

All very good wishes for the
New Year - Yours sincerely,
Pantkine