

(Aug. 23, '08)

(Letter to Mrs. Robt. Brewster)
(handwriting)

Patmaul Preston

21st

August

LOGAN'S LOW WOOD HOTEL, WINDERMERE.

Dear Mabel

A week in this glorious country - & no rain - has made me feel that I should like to stay here for ever. We have had such a happy time - our first long motor trip. We went up the great north road to Scotland. Revere had been promised trout fishing in the Fleet in ~~Kirkendright~~ which took us into the Guy Mannering & Crockett country. It was most interesting. I did not know that the Highlands came so low in Scotland - i.e. (to explain an Irishism) so far south. We had glorious weather not a drop of rain for two weeks. The river was so low & clear that the trout winked at Revere & passed the time of day with his flies. We made excursions all about the country - & saw all that is left of Ellangowan & peeped into ~~Dick's~~ ^{Dick's} cave - I have got him (R.) interested in Scott & it was most instructive to visit the places mentioned in the novels. We have been for a week at the English Lakes. I send you a p.c. of Wordsworth's cottage at Grassmere and a sprig of heather from the mound in the garden of his house at Rydal Mount. His granddaughter most kindly showed us all the treasures of the house and allowed us to roam about the garden & enjoy the wonderful views. I am not surprised that he & nature were akin. Such surroundings! We have seen them under most favorable circumstances - beautiful clear skies and everything so fresh and green.

Yesterday we saw the great Northern Olympia at Grassmere wherethe Westmorland & Cumberland men have their famous wrestling matches. It is held in a natural amphetheatre amid the hills & one famous feature is the ~~guides~~ ^{guides} race up one of the mountains - the 25 men could be seen scrambling up the rocks. We return via North Wales.

I have decided not to come out, this year - we have about settled upon a winter abroad & I shall hope to finish my long holiday in America in the spring. It is a great disappointment to me. I had looked forward with such pleasure to a visit at Lennox. I hope Sylvia is all right again - give her a kiss for me. By the way I do not approve of the summer house on Long Island - it would be very much better for you all to be on the Dorset coast within easy motoring distance of Oxford. We lunched today at a charming house high up on the hills near Ambleside which a sensible American woman has had for 3 summers in succession. She moves in June 15 - leaves Sept 15. Servants all there & no ordering, no worries. Her husband tramps the moors all day with the children, while she stores up energy enough to carry her thro nine months of active life at home.

Love to all your people - & to R.B.

Affectionately yours,
WM OSLER

Hatterwick

[#] Dick Hatterwick the Emigler,
of Guy Mannering

[#] Castle
The ~~house~~ of Ellangowan
of Guy Mannering