

Glasgow -

1893. r 1874

Rideau Club,
Ottawa.

Nov. 8. 93

My dear Mother,

I return enclosed

R's letter received from you this morning. It is the same old story, but if he is utterly averse to going on with medical work, or as he puts it, unable to do so, he had better much drop it & recognize the situation. If he has any small certain incomes from his directorship in the B.C. mine he would require to cut down his expenditure so as to live on it for the present & look out for something more or some other employment to add to it.

If he thinks this cannot be done, then he had better give it up & return to Canada, where at least we can offer him means of subsistence — I should be glad to do so myself, on a moderate scale. Here he can surely find some employment, clerical or otherwise which does not need special knowledge & by which he can make an honest living. His idea of staying in London & existing pennilessly there seems to me absurd, for while he is very economical in some things he is extravagant in others & is a born speculator. If he had \$5000 today the chance is he would at once launch out into some "perfectly safe" thing which would leave

him the same amount in debt
 after a few weeks. I must
 confess that I am quite hopeless
 about him. If he had strength
 of mind to cut off his Club &
 other connections & drive a cab
 it would be much more promising,
 but he seems to prefer to endeavor
 to make an appearance on nothing
 & naturally finds it very hard to
 do so. Supplying him with money
 seems like like pouring water
 into a sieve, but if it must be
 done it would seem to be better
 to send him a weekly allowance
 or a quarterly, payable at stated
 intervals. In this I should be
 very glad to join & can afford to

do so. as long as he remains
 in his present frame of mind, he is
 as he says himself, one of a numerous
 class, who, when their friends find
 they will not do anything at home,
 ship them off to the furthest place they
 can think of, usually New Zealand or
 South Africa, sending a remittance from
 time to time & always hoping that they
 may eventually get into something in a
 new country. Some of them do, when
 they get down to hard rock & hard
 manual labour. If R. feels as he
 writes that to practise his medical
 profession would be none or less of a
 fraud I should never urge him to
 do so, but at times he speaks &
 writes hopefully of it - & if he joins it
 up he will afterwards make it
 a new cause of regret. It is quite

Certain that his present lonely
 mode of life is a most unchristian
 one & leads to his expending all
 his troubles. It is not right or fair
 that you should have to bear the
 responsibility for him, nor just that
 you should supply him with money
 from your own resources. It may
 not be advisable to show his private
 letters to Doctor, but I think you
 should at least consult with him
 as to R. If I can be of any help
 to you, I shall be very glad
 & quite willing to contribute, but I
 do not wish to encourage R. to contract
 liabilities which he is or may be
 unable to meet. Please write &
 let me know what you think.

Yours

Garys