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Oct. 29th

greetings to Sir William
Always to Sir William
very affectionately
Sybil Wilson

My dear Lady Dawson

I had just posted
a long letter to Anna with all
our news one day, when the next
brought me one from her, which
she told me to answer to you,
& this I gladly do, for I have been
longing to hold some communion
with you - I am sorry however, that
it cannot be face to face - Papa
desires me to thank you & Sir William
for your kind invitation to both of us
but it is quite impossible for him to
accept it. He is so extremely busy,
there are such endless committee meetings,
& then the loss of all his notes for lectures

gives him a great deal of extra work for his classes. He really rarely has a moment to himself, it quite vexes me that at his age, he should toil as he does. So you can understand how unwilling, I should be to have him take a long railway journey one day, & then back again the next, although time to be, even could he spare the evening which is more than doubtful. Anna did not mention the date; but Scout meetings & extra business meetings turn up so unexpectedly, that it is very difficult for him to be away at all.

How dear Lady Dawson, I am sure you will understand about it, from your own cares about Sir William; as for me, Anna's description of its delights makes me think that I should enjoy it immensely, besides the great pleasure of seeing you; but of course I could not come without the dear Father & besides that my own hands are very full -

Since I have been writing, a note has been handed in, asking me to give a bible lesson somewhere on Monday, which would certainly complete next week, as I have to give one at a Missionary meeting on Tuesday, one at my mother's meeting on Wed. & after it to address the Coll. Y. W. C. A. & on Thursday to do the same at the M. Coll. Mission & somehow I never can make the same thing do for any. I shall decline for Monday. Of course I am really glad to work for Christ, when He gives me the opportunity & He will, I know give me His message to deliver. Perhaps you could & would remember to ask for me a special blessing next week - please do if you remember -

I hear of you, in stray ways, now & then, & it is always connected with your missing Eva so dreadfully, I know how you must, ^{since} her clever practical help, & her delightfully easy soothing ways & interesting companionship

Eva was one to be missed, if you had a hundred daughters - I don't know whether it's best to speak thus; but I do so realise your loss & how you will feel it & one can only write as one feels, & all the trite remarks about its being good for her, & England but far away & so on, you know as well as I do - & still better than I do, you know that God is ordering all your way, so that you may learn His lessons in this training school of life -

Don't ever let a letter to me be a burden on your mind, I do not expect you to write to me at all, if one comes from you, it's much prized; but I am glad to write to you, when I can, & will be quite content with messages thro' William on his occasional visits or Anna's notes. I hope Rankin's news is good -

With much love & thanks from us both for your kind invitation & with our kindest