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RIDEAU CLUB

OTTAWA.

Sept. 23. 1901.

My dear Anna,

I was glad to get  
your kind letter of the 20th  
& glad to know that Bernard  
is able to be about again, for  
his illness must have been  
very trying to him.

It does not seem to me that  
I could very well visit Montreal  
at present, although I should  
much like to do anything  
that would give pleasure to  
Mother. I have tried to induce

W. to go, but he called yesterday  
 evening to say that he could not  
 do so, but would go next week.  
 He told us that R. had answered  
 his letter of remonstrance by  
 telling him that he was 'expressly  
 excluded' etc, that he had no  
 right to criticize a work that  
 he (R.) had given so much  
 time to etc. W. remarked, <sup>620</sup> that  
 he had not criticized the work,  
 which he had not seen, but had  
 objected to R's method of  
 dealing with it, but that R.  
 had ignored this essential  
 difference. He thought of  
 writing R. to explain this, but

I said - what is the use, you cannot convince him that his point of view is wrong.

I do not think, as you suggest possible, that he has parted with the biography for a lump sum. No English publisher would give anything for a biography of the kind. The only people who might make something out of it, because of their special connections, would be Hodder & Stoughton. What I think is that he has had it printed by Ballantynes on some private agreement, he becoming responsible for

the cost. That it has not been, technically speaking, "published" in England, & that its mention among "books of the week" in a late Times, may have been a mistake in form on the part of the printers. I have not seen it referred to in any other papers or reviews, not even named, & this makes me think that it has not been generally placed on sale.

I further think, that he may have planned to impart the printed sheets or plates & publish in Canada & that he has met with difficulties he did not foresee in the Canadian copyright law, which I think calls for printing in Canada. Very

Possibly he is struggling  
 with these difficulties before  
 launching the book here. It  
 would certainly be necessary for  
 him to place the matter, whether  
 assembling imported sheets or  
 printing anew, in the hands  
 of some Canadian firm —  
 otherwise, if published in  
 England he would shortly  
 lose the control of the copyright  
 in Canada.  
 Does it not seem an outrage  
 that he should be dealing with  
 the matter in this way over all  
<sup>or saves</sup>

our heads & without  
consulting anyone - writing  
to W. that he is "expressly  
excluded" & acting as if  
Father's Career & life was in  
some way his forgoist & in  
his peculiar keeping. -

Yours  
Geyl.

P.S. I have thought again seriously  
about taking legal steps, but fear it  
wd. not do. The MS undoubtedly belongs to  
Mother as Eccentric & this wd. bring her  
into the Case. Then, for all I know,  
R. might be able to show from letters written  
previously, or from illustrations supplied  
or something of the kind, at least an  
implied or tacit assent to publication  
G.