

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
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RIDEAU CLUB  
OTTAWA.

Feb. 9. 1901

My dear Anna,

I have to thank  
you for your kind letter  
of the 7th, written & known under  
great stress of domestic  
difficulties & giving an  
account of Mother's interview  
with R. It is a mistake  
I think to try to argue  
with him. He is inaccessible  
to argument & besides Mother  
cannot argue a question of the  
kind with any advantage.

The only thing she can do now is to tell R., or better to write him a note saying that for family reasons she insists upon his withholding or recalling as far as possible the biography.

I do not think that the matter has yet gone beyond recall & I do not think that he would proceed in direct defiance of her ruling as head of the family.

Mother scarcely understands, I fear, how strong the family reasons are. If this thing

proceeds as if parent & son  
 & son son not only to suffer it  
 but to pretend to like it. I cannot  
 do that as if R. is to have his  
 way & still to remain a  
persona grata, I am practically  
 debarred for the future from  
 all family fetterings, whether at  
 Quainton or Metis. In other  
 words, as you say I have  
 been deprived of valuables, <sup>but I</sup>  
 am <sup>also</sup> likely to be regarded by  
 all our friends as the party  
 responsible for the wrong, & either  
 sulking, or expelled by the rest  
 of the family.  
 You report R as expressing

himself as pleased to meet  
 us in a friendly spirit, but  
 not to discuss the matter itself.  
 He is evidently beginning to wheel  
 into a magnificent position,  
 upon which he will probably be  
 congratulating himself highly  
 in the course of a short time.

Unless Mother can stop it in  
 the way I suggest, the only thing  
 I can do now is to take some  
 legal steps. I am doubtful  
 about this for several reasons,  
 but will consider it carefully  
 tomorrow. I am endorsing a  
 note to Mother, in the sense of  
 my suggestion. You might give  
 it to her in the morning.  
 Yours  
 Leafe