

THE MAPLES,
EGERTON PARK,
ROCK FERRY.

Jan 31st 1901.

My dear George.

I was exceedingly surprised on receiving your letter to-day to hear of the trouble in reference to the publication of the autobiographical notes left by Papa. No one has mentioned the subject to me before - I suppose Mother thought that there was no use in telling me as I was so far away. Perhaps this may have been a mistake, for had I known your views about it, I might have spoken differently.

to Rankine, on the only occasion upon which I have seen him lately, i. e. when he stayed with us for two nights when he sailed from Liverpool. I spoke to him about the book as I wondered that I had heard no more about it, & he said that there was some talk of its being enlarged into a full "life" but that he could not undertake such a thing & thought Papa wished his writing to appear at once & as he had left it, & that it was better to publish this than nothing. In this I agreed with him, as the difficulty of getting anyone suitable to write a biography seemed to put it off indefinitely. But I had no idea that he was acting against the wishes of the other members of the family. It certainly was very wrong

of him not to inform you as to what he was doing. I see no excuse for that, nor for his answer to your cable. But personally, at the time, I was so glad to find that Rankine was working at anything, I thought that in reading & correcting what Papa had written that he might himself derive a useful lesson from his life of useful & self-sacrificing labour for the benefit of those around him. Rankine certainly is a very difficult fellow to understand for he pays so little attention to other peoples views or feelings & yet expects everyone to think of his. Still I did think that he had improved upon the two last occasions upon which I have seen him & he spoke as if he was going to Montreal to work: he surely

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Cannot realize how strongly you feel about this for why should he go to Canada at all, if not because the other members of the family are there -

I was greatly surprised to receive a copy of the book & no doubt you will have seen it by this time. Before receiving your letter I had read about half of it, & I was surprised to find how connected & readable it was & it certainly in style & thought, brings Papa very clearly before one's mind. It is of course in complete & not a permanent record either of what he was or did, but personally I do not think that it is anything to be ashamed of. I do sincerely trust that it may not grieve dear Mother, or cause a break in the family circle. Poor Papa never for a

moment could have contemplated such
 a result & would be ^{THE MAPLES,} deeply grieved at it.
 I really believe that ^{EGERTON PARK,} Rankin's own
^{ROCK FERRY.} views about things are so strong, that he
 does not allow anyone's criticisms to
 enter his mind - he puts them aside as
 worthless & really has no idea either
 that he is rude or one sided. It is this
 that I fear has on many occasions
 stood in his way & given him the im-
 pression that people were against him.
 I have written hastily & on first impulses
 as the whole trouble has come to my
 knowledge so suddenly. I would like
 to add that a few days ago & before
 I knew what I do now, I wrote to Rankin
 thanking him for the copy which he sent me
 & saying that I considered it a readable,

interesting little book & nice in the manner
 in which it was printed & I wrote I think
 last Monday & cannot now recall all
 I said, but I know I asked how it was
 being paid for & asked if the family was
 dividing the cost & if I could be included
 as one member. I did this, thinking that
 as Ballantyne & Co had not published
 any of Papa's other writings, they were
 not likely to take the risk themselves.
 I thought possibly it was printed for private
 circulation.

I do not know what more to say - I would
 do much if this trouble could be overcome
 or any good come of it - Had R. been in
 England still I might have attempted
 something but now I can only trust &
 pray that some reconciliation or

explanation will come about? Privately
 I have sometimes wondered whether P's
 judgement was not partly unbalanced
 years ago, when he was lost in the woods
 on one of his visits to the west, & for this
 reason I have always tried not to notice
 his peculiarities of manner & ways, but
 I have never before mentioned this thought
 & hesitate to write it now. But to me, who
 was so much his companion during our
 earlier years he has seemed an entirely
 different character ever since then.

As Mother has not spoken to me about
 this trouble I think it best not to do
 so on my side, in writing home & I will
 treat what you say as private. But of
 course you must know how deeply &

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Sympathetic with you in this matter & how
much I also feel for Mother. I fear that
her sorrow over her disappointment in
regard of the book, will be only doubled if it
leads to a break in the family -

I fear you will be tired of this long
letter - We are all so pleased with the
stories by Seaton-Thompson & thank you
for sending us the book.

With sincere sympathy & love
from Ed.

