

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
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Rideau Club,
Ottawa.

May 21. 99.

Dear Rankine,

I have not heard much
from you of late, directly, but have
to thank you for various papers etc.
I hope that you may now have fully
recovered from that pushing foot, & shall
be glad to know what your plans
are for the summer when you have
decided on them - do you still
think of visiting Montreal some
time?

The spring here is pretty well advanced
for the season, though somewhat late in
beginning & for the last few days with
rather wet & cool weather. Leaves almost

fully developed in some sorts of
trees & lilacs beginning to bloom.

My own time is spent much as usual
in trying to keep things so that
others may work & not always with
any particular appreciation on the
part of those others, who often show
a disposition rather to discuss & dispute
them to occupy their opportunity for
doing work.

Session of parliament unluckily
brings to a long one, with much
disputable matter - The redistribution
or 'ferrymander' bill brought down the
other day will lead to much discussion
from several points of view - particularly
as to its constitutionality apart from
Census data & because it seems
intended to "live the Tories".

What is happening to England? Is it
 not strange to see G. B. the only power
 having some apparent belief in the Czar's
 peace congress at the very time that
 Russia is dropping Finland &
 increasing its naval & military & railway
 force everywhere. Is it not strange too to
 note that scarcely a voice is raised in
 England against the outrageous treatment of
 the Philippine people by the U.S. Govt.,
 although its better papers in the U.S. itself
 are full of indignation about it? Not only
 these larger matters, but the deplorably
 selfish attitude of the U.S. in refusing
 any fair arbitration of the Canada-Alaska
 boundary matter - closing any chance of
 progress in the Commission lately sitting.
 No particular criticism of this, but
 chorus of invitations to U.S. volunteers
 to visit England & participate in reunions.

Then the West Indian Islands. — The inevitable ruin which anyone might fore-
 foresee for the British Islands has begun
 to close in, in consequence of the resolutions
 adopted or about to be adopted in
 regard to Cuba & Porto Rico by the U.S.
 Any other power would have made terms
 before practically existing the U.S. to
 acquire these islands, in favour of its
 own trade & territory.

It really looks as if the English policy
 now is merely to be friends with the stronger
 party, no matter how he treats his
 friend or how he acts toward any one
 else. Where is the non-conformist
 conscience & what would have been said
 of the recent Lynchings in the South if
 they had occurred anywhere else than
 in the U.S.?

Yours truly
 George W. Adams