

Canadian Institute of Speech

336 West 2nd Ave.
Prince Rupert, B.C.,
16 December 1953

Dear Mrs. Raddall:

I looked up from my books to note that it was 10:15 (PST) and flicked on my radio....

While I missed the intro and your opening sentence, it didn't take long to know who was speaking. I was delighted to hear your voice again - recalled, as I have frequently on seeing notices of a new book or some other of your activities, the summer afternoon visit with you in 1941 and took some satisfaction in having got you in front of a microphone.

I was delighted with your beautifully-turned epigram in condemnation of the half-truths of history, one of the fundamental causes of Canada's problem of unity, or lack of it, if not of most of the world's international problems. With an ex-American teacher as mother and first teacher, I grew up in a confusion of historical conflict, particularly centered around the American Revolution. I did not realize until you expressed it so clearly just now just how precariously the future of Canada turned upon Nova Scotian loyalties at that time. That we have a degree of "puritanism" in our bosom has been increasingly apparent to me as I have enlarged the scope of my "foreign" acquaintances, but it was news to me that we had a fifth column of Plymouth Brethren in our midst.

If you will forgive me for a personal

comment - this letter-head, my hobby, explains my interest in this connection - I was struck by the excellence of your reading: good voice quality, good pacing, excellent articulation - it is not for me to comment on your diction, but I shall in the next paragraph.

My name was on the list and I was the first to read Tidefall when it came to our Pub. Library at the beginning of November. On page one and in a few instances throughout the book, I found myself re-reading sentences or paragraphs to admire the care with which you had chosen your words and packed them in. I imagined you re-writing the first page, replacing words and then tamping them into a well-packed load! But perhaps I do you a disservice by implying that you must slave to the same procedures as those who have not attained your skill.

While I came to feel that I was geographically misplaced, I never quite got away from picturing the Nova Scotia venue of Tidefall as Briar Island and your village as Westport - possibly Timerton on Long Island. I felt a trifle let down by the Deus ex Machina ending, but it was a darn good book and I enjoyed it.

Please don't forget that there is a story to be done on Nova Scotia Indians. It will be lost forever if you don't do it. In spite of the considerable work done by Marius Barbeau, the same thing is beginning to happen here as far as the ancient lords are concerned.

I am very busy here as C.C. station manager and get time to write only the occasional article.

The Greetings of the Season to you and your family

Sincerely,
Wm. Parkinson