

[for original see Crackington, Leonard W.]

1949

Dear Mr Raddall,

I was delighted to get your letter of December 16 and delayed replying to it until the books arrived as they did this morning. It is exceedingly good of you to present me with a copy of your book "Halifax, Hero of the North", which I rate as a book of the highest merit, so richly historically, teeming with vivid pictures of personalities and events and written in a refreshingly original style. Its value as an addition to my library will be touched by your autograph. So I am very grateful to you for such a welcome gift.

I am sure Lady Tweedsmuir will be equally grateful when she receives the book which I will send off today and in writing to her I will include your tribute to her husband, whom I knew first about 1908. Tweedsmuir's youngest brother and my own were very intimate friends; in the first world war they served together as lieutenants in the same company of the Royal Scots Fusiliers and were killed in the same month on the Somme. Tweedsmuir was a very generous supporter of young literary men and women but he was a very curious and complicated

character and his bizarre accent, a mixture of Glasgow and Orkney, always irritated me as it did many other Scots. I first made your literary acquaintance through "The Piper of Dipper Creek" in Blackwood's and I have derived much enjoyment from your writings ever since. So I feel in debt to your Lieutenant-Governor, who is a great friend of mine for his happy role in bringing me into personal contact with you. I will take this opportunity of wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and again with many thanks,

I am,

yours very sincerely

*John A. Stewart*