



February 18, 1958

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.
Liverpool, Nova Scotia

Dear Tom:

The horrible realization has just come to me that I never did write to you to thank you for the best wishes to me in your autographed copy of *THE PATH OF DESTINY*, or to tell you what an excellent and vivid job you've done in the book. Please forgive me. My own novel coming out plus a heavy University year plus my attempt to get ahead with my own segment of the Doubleday history seems to have made me guilty of a number of sins of omission.

In any case, belated though they are, herewith are my most sincere congratulations on the job you've done. Your organization of your material is masterly, your writing is vivid and has the "fresh approach" I like so much, and, best of all, the story of Canada flows so smoothly and so interestingly that it's a pleasure to read it. I only hope I can do half as well.

Thanks again and my most cordial of regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George".

W.G. Hardy, M.A., Ph.D.
Department of Classics

WGH:TVS

March 2, 1958

Dear George,

Thanks for a heart-warming letter. Most of the reviews of *PATH OF DESTINY* have been favorable. Chief criticism is that the book contains so much war, but that is the fault of the period, not the book. It was a problem that gave me a lot of anxious study, for I wanted to write my way around the wars and rebellions if I could. But the more I studied, the more I realized how much the course of Canadian destiny was decided by these very things, and that a history that skimmed through them would be no history at all.

The point was that, unlike the Americans, most of the Canadian population lived along the border, and these affairs involved them all. This was especially notable during the War of 1812, when the fighting flared along the whole border, and every small battle drew into the struggle the local Canadian militia, which meant every able-bodied man and boy. It also involved their families and homes. It was important to show this in considerable detail, because this very fact set the Canadian attitude towards the United States which still exists as a suspicion popping up from time to time.

Well, you know all this. I was glad when the *Wall Street Journal*, in its editorial on the present Canadian uneasiness, referred to my book as a good account of the historical reasons behind it.

Throughout my job I kept clearly in mind the need for continuity in our Series, and I hope I have left the right threads for the opening of your own tremendous period. I know you will give a fine account of it.

With my best regards,

Mr. W.G.Hardy