

Ans'd
May 26/53

6 Whitney Avenue
Toronto

21st. May
1953

My dear Mr. Raddall:-

This evening, for the third time, I have been reading "Warden of the North" and, as usual, I am simply entranced with it. So I feel impelled to drop you a line and tell you how very grateful I am for all the hours of pleasure and profit which have come to me through this remarkable book.

I am the minister of Roxdale United Church in Toronto but I grew up in Nova Scotia - lived in Middleton, Yarmouth and Halifax, graduated from Dalhousie and had a cottage on the LaHave river for 10 years. I am a first cousin of Bob Dawson of Bridgewater whom you may know. Dr. Sam Marcus is an old friend. I also know John Wicksons of Liverpool. My grandfather, a Presbyterian minister named Peter MacGregor came to Halifax in 1850 and my mother lived there continuously until her marriage in 1902. She knew a good deal

about Halifax traditions and was full of stories about the city as she knew it in her childhood. Consequently, I grew up with a love of Halifax and an interest in its storied past which I have never lost.

You may imagine then how much "Warden of the North" has meant to me. I was a student of Archie MacMechan's. I know D.C. Harvey and Will Bird. I have poked around the archives and read Dyott's Diary. But no one I have met has told the story of Halifax half so skillfully or delightfully as you have done.

I am amazed by the wealth and variety of your research. How intriguing to know that Sir John Moore lived on Hall's Street and that a naval surgeon who assisted at his burial also lived in Halifax. And I love that remark of the dying Rufus Choate: "If a schooner or sloop goes by, don't disturb me; but if there is a square-rigged ship, wake me up."

You have the rare gift of being able to make the past, vivid and life like. Reading "Warden of the North" one actually hears the officers shouting out their orders on the Grand Parade and sees

the Press Gangs pouncing on their luckless victims. Those lusty turbulent days are here reproduced with all the clarity and dramatic effect of a movie screen. With the additional charm of your dry humor and apt comments. As for your beautiful diction and magnificent style, it leaves me fairly green with envy.

I am sure you toiled like a galley slave on "Warden of the North" and that endless hours of labour lie behind these polished phrases. But your reward will be the gratitude of thousands of discriminating readers who regard you as one of the finest writers of our day.

I have been a fan of yours ever since you began to write in Blackwoods. I should have written before to say a very warm "Thank you". This note of appreciation is sadly belated but it is none the less deeply felt. More power to you and may more books flow out of Liverpool to delight your admirers and to enhance the pride of every Nova Scotian in their distinguished fellow-Bluenose.

Yours sincerely
G. MacGregor Grant