



HALIFAX, N. S.
October 28th, 1957.

Dr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Dr. Raddall:

Please accept my belated congratulations on the publication of "The Path of Destiny". I think you have succeeded admirably in capturing the essence of Canadian history from the end of the Seven Years' War to the Winning of Responsible Government, and I have some appreciation of how much reading and how much thinking it takes for a task of this kind.

Naturally, I had a particular interest in your chapters about Nova Scotia, but I liked especially your brief character sketches of men such as Ethan Allen and Guy Carleton, Lord Selkirk and Robert Nelson. I have a much more vivid picture of the soldiers in the British army, now that I have read your description of Burgoyne's soldiers marching through the woods to Lake Champlain.

Several people have told me how much they enjoyed reading this latest book of yours, and how they hoped you would do another in the series. Are you still planning a trip to England to collect material on Lady Wentworth?

Sincerely,
Phyllis R. Blakeley
(Miss) Phyllis R. Blakeley,
Research Assistant.

October 30th '57

Dear Miss Blakely,

It was most kind of you to write, and I value your praise for the book, for you are one of the comparatively few people who are equipped to see what I was trying to do and to appreciate the intense labour of two years that went into it -- plus the hobby-study of half a lifetime.

I had long observed in high school and college students (including my own son and daughter) an indifference to the history of their own country because they found it "dull". You have observed this attitude yourself, I know, because your own portrayal of Nova Scotian history shows that like myself you know it is anything but dull.

When Costain asked me to do a book in this series I chose the third volume, because the period 1763-1850 has always seemed to me the most interesting as well as the most significant in Canadian history, and because the book could stand by itself as a study of "Manifest Destiny" seen from the Canadian point of view. It was written for laymen like myself, as you see, and for Americans as much as Canadians. As the book has been published in New York, and by pure chance at a time when suddenly the Americans have begun to examine carefully their relations with Canada, it has aroused much comment there. Not all of the comment is happy, because I have set forth bluntly and in deliberate detail the chronicle of such matters as the War of 1812, of which the American student is taught little, and of which the American layman knows nothing except the burning of Washington and the battle of New Orleans.

I have done quite a lot of research in New Hampshire for my Wentworth book and am still assembling these and my Nova Scotia notes, which I gathered many years ago when the notion of telling the story of the Wentworths first occurred to me. I still plan to go to England in the spring; but from my correspondence I know that I shall not find there enough of Lady W's. correspondence and so on to write a satisfactory straight biography, which is what I should like to do. So the book will have to be a tale drawn about John and Frances and based upon the facts I've been able to find.

Sincerely,