

Halifax, N.S.
Friday the 13th Nov 42

Dear Mr. Reddall,

Thank you so much for my
very special copy of His Majesty's Yankees,
which arrived to day. Needless to say, I
was delighted to receive it. Quite apart from
its supremely attractive content, the book is
A fine-looking production - end-papers
particularly, and the neat little soldiers on
the cover. Cheers for Doubleday, Doran & Co!

It is a real pleasure to see the actuality,
and have it in the hand - the first of
A long series of historic historical novels, I hope!

We have been scanning the papers for
notices of the book's appearance - it will
catch the Christmas trade, of course. May it
sell a million copies! I have been telling people
about it for so long - now I shall hardly
dare flourish my copy under their noses, since
they won't be buying the book complete
with photograph. However, that would be
giving much too much for their money.

With very many thanks for your generous
words of appreciation, as well as the gift
of your first large-scale masterpiece,

And best regards
from

Margaret Eke

13 Oct. 1943

Dear Tom, Thanks so much for sending me the copy of Collier's with "By Tellygraph" in it - you made very ingenious use of that old contraption of H.P.H.! The story elucidated several points about the construction and method of using the towers, for me. I hope you wrote Collier's a piece of your mind for butchering it. I can imagine some of what they took out, such as the events leading up to the change of heart of the O.M. (Miss Celia, was it?) who gave the signal that saved the hero.

It's great news that H.M.V. is to be produced in England - and so soon! Did you know that Oliver Wiswall came out only recently there? The reviews of it were out at the end of August, I think. It will be interesting to see what the English reviewers have to say about H.M.V., they are usually so much more penetrating and careful than those of the high-pressure-selling U.S.A.

I hope you are deserting Roger in favour of the woods when the days are as glorious as this one. Marian Gibroy and I are taking up the art (?) of the bike and may be seen, almost any night between 5.15 and supper-time, wending our grapevine way to and around Pt. Pleasant Park. We are not yet complete masters of the vehicle, but we are progressing - you'll probably see us in Liverpool next summer during our province-wide tour. "The only way

to travel - as Mr Toad would say. One feels
like starting off for the other side of the world
on a day like this. Hoping it is the same
with you,

Sincerely

Margaret

(MARGARET ELLS)

2
to confirm, rather than impel,
their decision of July 3rd to
deal with the Acadians.

On p. 8 you speak of Sir
John Harrold as "in the Lords" -
if he was a knight or baronet,
he couldn't sit in the House of
Lords, could he? I think a
man must be at least a baron
which gives him the title of "Lord"
before he can be a member.

If I might make a sugges-
tion which has nothing whatever
to do with historical accuracy,
it's that you cut down to a
few words your description of
Johnstone's appearance in the
interview with Roger and Mary.
The details of his uniform, filled
shirt, powdered wig, lace etc.
seemed to me to obstruct at
an important point the swift
movement towards the climax -
I felt slightly impatient at
having to read it!

410 Tower Rd.
Halifax N.S.
21 March/44

Dear Tom,

It was very kind of the
Fates to arrange for me to have
Roger Sudden to brighten my
bed of affliction! It is a fast-
moving, finished tale and very
easy to read; naturally, I en-
joyed it no end. I am amazed
at the extent of ground and the
number of incidents you cover easily
in such small compass. The
Public will like that.

So far as I know there are
no historical errors - but my
knowledge of Louisbourg is slight.
A point, rather of emphasis than
fact if I remember rightly, which
might be changed is that since
the news of Braddock's defeat
did not reach Halifax until
the end of July, (see Murdoch)
it must have served merely

You drew a convincing picture
of the beginnings of Halifax.

If I were feeling better and
could get into a position where
writing would be easier - both
for you and me! - I'd go
on and on! When you come
to Npc next, I hope will be
able to go into it. I was
so glad you killed him off -
it would have been hairbreadth
Harry if the fall of Louisbourg
had saved him.

Thanks for letting me read
it.

With every good wish for
Roger's best selling success

Sincerely
Margaret

CANADA POST CARD



T. H. Raddall Esq.

Liverpool

Queens Co, N.S.

Barrington Passage
Sat. p.m.

Greetings!

We are doing quite well since our historical push-off at Spaot. To-morrow we hope to go & return by bus to Shelburne, though I daresay we shan't know the historic sites when we see them.

If only we had a guide such as we had for Simcoe Perkins' town! We are still enjoying that delicious supper - in retrospect it does nothing to reduce the appetite!

Thanks and au revoir

M & M
Bicycle Queens



PUBLIC ARCHIVES
NOVA SCOTIA

Halifax

18 May, 1944

Dear Tom,

My face is red, my ears are magenta-- and why? Because we have Dallas' History of the Maroons and Edward's History of the West Indies right here in the Akins' Library! I discovered them this morning, after Jim told me that the Legislative Library had recently bought Dallas and another book on Jamaica and the Maroons. It never dawned on my benighted intelligence that Akins might have got them until then.

I've been looking them over, and you will be pleased to know that there is quite a lot of dope in Edwards' book about the "magic" that the Maroons, in common with other African inhabitants of Jamaica, practised. It was called "Obi" and was terrible stuff, the exponents of it actually poisoning their victims in the name of magic. Apparently the mere threat of setting the Obi caused many a man to pine away and die. It sounds like a fruitful source of interest, doesn't it?

From Dallas' book, which is dedicated to Quarrell, and presumably not very objective on points of controversy between Wentworth and Quarrell, it appears that the arrival of the Maroons in Halifax was accidental. They were really en route to Upper Canada, where Quarrell believed they could be advantageously settled on farming land without danger of their escaping by sea. They came in to Halifax to await orders from the home government, having left Jamaica in a hurry before the home government's sentiments re the disposal of the Maroons had been ascertained. While in Halifax they were accommodated in temporary shelters and employed in building Citadel Hill. During the time they waited for word from England, Quarrell was apparently persuaded by Wentworth and Co. that Nova Scotia was a suitable place for the Maroon settlement; when Wentworth wrote in this vein to the Sec'y of State, and the S.S. said "go ahead", Quarrell and Ochterloney certainly fell in with ~~the~~ Wentworth's suggestion.

Dallas' book goes into the whole N.S.-Sierra Leone episode very fully, appending Wentworth's charges against

Quarrell and the latter's reply, which show up Wentworth as a liar and muddler, and Quarrell as a vacillating character - no doubt due to Q's "extreme addiction to pleasure".

I only hope you've been too busy to send to Ottawa for Dallas & Edwards. Only a small part of the latter, which is in 3 volumes would be of use to you, and about 1 1/2 vols. of Dallas.

I've planned to write you today, but haven't been able to do so, as yet, so I'll send this off by itself. That account in The Royal Society of Can. proceedings is certainly a masterpiece of dull plodding compared with the stuff related by Dallas & Edwards - but I supposed Learned Societies expect dull plodding. Went. & Quarrell got into a fine scrap, but not until C. had returned to Jamaica.

I hope you not tearing your hair over the Academics, and that your nervous tension is yielding to the Finksonian influence!

As ever

Margaret