

November 23, 1936.

copy to Dr. King
The Right Honorable W.L. Mackenzie King,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Laurier House, Ottawa.

My very dear friend:

Your letter, which came this morning, is perfectly charming. I feel the heart beats of real affection throughout it. I like everything in it but this most of all. I am glad I was in your mind at Geneva and in Westminster Abbey. The friendship of Luke and St. Paul has always interested me; perhaps because my Parish here is called for St. Luke's. You honor me beyond words when such a friendship suggests my attachment to yourself. As you know, I have never felt it to be a mere worldly thing or entirely human and you have been good enough to reciprocate my feelings. Such a friendship, like virtue, is its own reward. I cherish your attitude toward me and look upon it as a heavenly reward for striving after the ideals of the Gospel. High Church honor has not come my way; your friendship and intimacy has more than compensated. I prize freedom above all the gifts of life. For the sake of it, I have sacrificed the hope of preferment, and am glad of it. To my way of thinking, Christianity is attachment to the Personality of Jesus. It began as a companionship between Christ and a few honest fellows who loved the by-paths of Galilee, its lake-shores and its hillsides. We have been given a setting about Kingsmere and the Danford, where friendship may grow - on walks together by streams and lakes and under the same stars which looked down on the less attractive fields of Palestine and a more wonderful company.

I am glad you found the farmhouse shaping itself to your liking and I hope very much to see it when the holiday comes again. Thank you for your most kind invitation to be with you at Laurier House or Kingsmere. Did I tell you that I am writing a little to satisfy something in myself and to keep my mind from becoming a thicket of petty things. Your mentioning the farmhouse gave me a thrill of desire to inhabit one of its lonely rooms, particularly one which looks over your raspberry patch and your orchard and off to the lights of the Capital. Perhaps, so situated I might find my pen ripping along in thoughts and feelings worthily expressed.

It is a wonderful blessing for our country to have in its Prime Minister one whose set purpose is the Kingdom of God. We are no higher than our ideals. This is the highest ideal I know of, the attainment of it is a long way off. It is something; it is indeed a great deal to strive for it and to keep it before the minds of the people. This you are doing to your own great credit and to our good.

I should like to think that the same motive actuated Germany, Russia and Italy, but unfortunately we may not do so. The danger they present is not in their armies but in their philosophies. We believe in God and in freedom as seen in the one whom we regard as the Son