

April 6, 1930.

My dear Clarke,

Your graphic letter reached me at the Faculty Club at Columbia about ten days ago, but I was in full rush of work and had not an opportunity of writing to thank you for it. But Lionel Curtis, who came to my room, was full of insight and enthusiasm about what he realizes to be the great service to which you have been called in Canada. It was pleasant to feel that, through his talk and through what others said, I was indirectly in touch with you during my short stay in America.

At this juncture, it is the fate of some of us English to have to give ourselves, whatever the cost, to the active diplomatic work of getting, through personal relations and private effort, a new point of view into educational administration, and we are obliged to wear overalls, dig foundations, and plan buildings which we may never see finished. I regret deeply that your time for writing has been so straitened and that the sacrifice which you made in South Africa will be called for in Canada too. But you will always be one of the great forces at work in this agitating time. And I trust that though you have to give up much that you would fain have done, and have done with outstanding eminence of style and cogency, you will have the happiness of feeling that you did what the stranger can - a difficult duty made imperative.

Looking back over the history of English education, one sees that some of the greatest leaders, at each time of crisis, poured their personalities into creative action and so saved what could be saved of the sound parts of the older wisdom and imbued the old tradition with the colour of a new ideal.

Busby did this at Westminster in the critical years of the 17th century: Markham and Eveleigh did it in Oxford when the time had come for re-casting the University's intellectual life: Kay Shuttleworth did it when the battle for state action in the option(?) of education had to be fought and won: Thomas Arnold did it at Rugby. J.L. Paxton and Baden Powell and (though he had more time for writing in earlier days) Percy Nunn, and Percy Jackson are doing it now. Your name will be held in honour for having unselfishly given your best self to work which must be (except to those who watch it most closely) in great degree nameless. But experience will keep you fresh in mind, apt in word and always in the front of the line of fighting, and who could ask for more! This American journey has made a deep impression on me, and I look forward to a good talk when you are in Oxford in June.

Yours very truly,
M. E. Sadler.