

A. Yibert Douglas

Correspondence

1940s

3

Loc 2303.9  
Box 1

NEWNHAM COLLEGE,  
CAMBRIDGE.

TELEPHONE 2478.

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 1949.

Dear Miss Douglas,

Ever since I heard that you had been elected President of the International Federation of University Women, I have meant to write & congratulate you, as it is very distinguished to be head of so important a society. But I am almost always swamped under by the correspondence necessary for the College Roll - which grows continually & makes more & more work.

I am very glad to receive a list of your publications. They shall all be entered in your record here, but as I am so restricted for space in the annual Newnham Letter, as it is now so costly to produce, we now publish only the more recent items. This generally covers those of two years, because of the long delays, owing to the printing-trade being in great difficulties. They are terribly short of trained man-power due to restrictions imposed by the trades unions.

Very many thanks for your good wishes, which I am glad to reciprocate. If you are able to come to England, I hope you will revisit Cambridge & Newnham, & see all our new developments.

I hope you received the last number of the  
Neurosome Letter. I am now preparing the  
volume for 1950.

Yours sincerely

Helen S. Portman

University College, Toronto  
PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

May 11th, 1944.

Dr. A. Vibert Douglas,  
Dean of Women,  
Queen's University,  
Kingston, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Douglas:

It was most kind of you to send me a reprint of your article on Sir Robert Falconer in the McGill News. I have enjoyed thoroughly reading it and I warmly agree with your general estimate of Sir Robert. I must thank you especially for the quotation "a sincere and kind familiarity with wisdom" than which no brief summing up of Sir Robert could be more adequate.

Again with my warm thanks, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Malcolm W. Wallace*

MWW/B

DR. HELEN MACMURCHY O.B.E.,  
122 SOUTH DRIVE,  
TORONTO.

April 17.  
1944.

Dear Dr. Allie.

Thank you very  
much for kindly sending me  
a copy of your "Memoriam"  
of Sir Robert from the  
McGill College News.

It is charming - in fact, it  
is perfect - one could not  
wish for anything better, or  
more full of interest, or showing  
more adequate understanding  
or more perfect taste.

Thank you again.

Yours affectionately  
Helen MacMurdoch.

129 Seneca Parkway  
Rochester, N.Y.

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1942.

Dear Miss Douglas,

You have given me much satisfaction and a great pleasure indeed by sending me your inspired commemoration of

Sir Oliver Lodge

a truly exquisite and strong, yet serene personality, who is still alive in my memory as ever.

I have spent with him many a happy hour in London, and in Bournemouth, and I still keep his good letters and books with heartily inscribed front pages.

You have done well by writing this commemoration which excellently reveals Sir Oliver's true nature and value. Many a friend of his will be grateful to you, and so am I.

I see from the envelope that you are now at Queen's University. I have no doubt that you are well placed there and happy in your work as ever.

With all good wishes,

Yours very sincerely,  
Ludwik Silberstein.

P.S. I enclose a tiny Phil. Mag. paper which has recently arrived, even across the troublous Atlantic.

November 23, 1942.

Dr. Ludwik Silverstein,  
129 Seneca Parkway,  
Rochester, N.Y.,  
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Silverstein:

It was a great pleasure to see your handwriting on my desk this morning. I cannot tell you how pleased I am that you liked my tribute to Sir Oliver Lodge. I have read with pleasure your beautiful summing-up of him. Memory is a wonderful joy when it makes it possible for us to relive happy and inspiring hours with some of the finest people that the human race has produced.

I have been at Queen's University as Dean of Women since 1939. It is very all-absorbing and carries a good deal of responsibility, so that there is very little time left or energy for Astrophysics. However, I finished up a piece of work begun during my last year at McGill, and I am sending you a reprint of it, also the earlier paper done jointly with J. S. Foster, F.R.S. Verwelj damns it but nevertheless admits an unexplained intensity on the wing of the helium line for 4471. Rosseland was more complimentary.

These are terrible days, but it is encouraging to see the search for knowledge not entirely confined to the expediency of war projects. *Thank you for your contribution to Phil Mag.*

I send you my warmest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

AVD/III

July 19<sup>th</sup> 1964



PINE HILL DIVINITY HALL  
HALIFAX, CANADA

Dear Dr Douglas.

It was so kind of you  
to send Mrs Falconer and  
me a copy of the fine  
appreciation of my brother, and  
you contributed to the  
McLille News. I know  
how much my brother enjoyed  
their visit to Cambridge, and  
how pleased he was to meet  
with any Canadians also



were carrying on their studies  
there.

Your narrative of this visit  
is beautifully written, and  
we are very grateful for  
this generous tribute to  
my brother -

With kindest regards from  
Mr Falconer and myself

Yours sincerely

James G. Falconer  
—

CARLETON COLLEGE  
THE OTTAWA ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING  
OTTAWA, ONTARIO

April 27/44

Dear Allin

Thank you for your letter  
and the copy of your article on Sir  
Robert. I read the latter with special  
interest - as your reference to me was  
so kind. Good is interesting as  
showing how events change men's  
minds. I think it is also interesting  
as indicating how the way  
people live affects their opinion  
and what a shock will do  
sometimes to bring them to their senses.

I am very sorry to hear about  
Beaver Hall. Poor Alex. What  
will he do. Beaver has been  
booth, Moches & Sabr back to him

over

I was w<sup>th</sup> Halifax Hmas but  
my brother's health made such  
demands upon me that I  
did not see anyone. I am  
leaving for Halifax Saturday  
again this case is hopeless  
but prolonged

Very Sincerely Yours

J M Dory

Kingston,  
Ontario,  
9<sup>th</sup> May.

Dear Miss Douglas,

Many thanks for so kindly sending me the two reprints, "Astronomy in a World at War" and "In Memoriam: Sir Robert Falconer". The first I have read with interest but only partial understanding, the second has given me great pleasure. I was happy and honored to be in the category of Sir Robert's friends. No one in Canada impressed me more. Indeed I can honestly say that he was the greatest Canadian of his day; great in his faith during the dark days of 40-41, and great in belief in an overruling Providence. This gave him a calm and a serenity which made him a veritable rock in a world of turmoil. His biography will be not only intensely interesting but really important. Few men of his day have met more celebrities and I know that he kept notes of his conversations with them. As these were jotted down soon after the meetings they will form a mine of interesting and reliable anecdotes.

Enclosed are some reprints which may be of use in the library at Ban Righ especially as you now have women medicals. A larger proportion of the girls will probably take up pathology than was the case with the men.

With best regards,

yours sincerely,

James Miller.

Wednesday morning

Dear Dr. Douglas,

Thank you for your kindness in sending me your appreciation of Sir Alvin Lodge, printed originally in the University of Toronto Quarterly. I have read it slowly - as I always read when I have something worth while - with great enjoyment and with great admiration for the writer. I have wondered again and again that we were able to get you away from McGill. You must know now, however, that you belong with us

Your spirit is our spirit.

I am very proud to think  
that I am remembered among your  
friends.

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. Keith

M. R. Taylor  
University College  
Toronto

June 9, 1944

Miss A. Herbert Douglas, M.B.E., Ph.D.,

Dean of Women,  
Queen's University,  
Kingston, Ontario,

Dear Doctor Douglas:

I have been away in the United States for a time - hence my tardiness in acknowledging the receipt of the reprint of your tribute to Sir Robert Falconer in the spring number of the McGill News.

The estimate of Sir Robert which you first made on that Sunday afternoon and during that boat-ride on the Canoe, so gracefully and vividly described by you, and which was confirmed afresh in subsequent years was correct in every respect. Like all the best souls that we have known, he was transparently honest and sincere. He never played a part, nor was he ever the victim of mercurial moods. What he was one day, you could be sure of on the next day. He was in the Christian sense <sup>ὁ</sup> *μεγαλόψυχος*.

May I ask if you have favored Lady Falconer with a copy of your appreciation. I know that she would find it a precious record.

Thanking you for your remembrance of me, I am

yours very sincerely,  
M. R. Taylor

The University of Chicago

Yerkes Observatory  
WILLIAMS BAY, WIS.

July 12, 1945

Miss A. Vibert Douglas  
Queen's University  
Kingston, Canada

Dear Miss Douglas:

Thank you for sending me the reprints of your obituary for Eddington and your presidential address before the R.A.S. of Canada. I had read the latter and had meant to write you before that I have rarely seen anything as inspiring as was this review.

Your obituary is another fine accomplishment. It is undoubtedly the best review of Eddington's life that I have seen. I wish you would undertake to write a complete biography in book size. Such a biography would not only render a service to astronomy but would be useful for students and others who for years to come will be using Eddington's papers without having the advantage of knowing him personally.

Very sincerely yours,

*Otto Struve*

Otto Struve

OS N



Can send you two  
recent papers of my own to keep  
your historical information  
up to date! regretting only  
that I have not them in  
separate pamphlet form.

Yours with best wishes

Dr. Shaw

Queen's Theological College  
Kingston, Ontario

July 7 '95

Dear Dean Douglas,

Many thanks for the two  
articles you were good enough to  
send me - your very beautiful and  
instructive paper on Edinburgh, and  
your signature validating address  
as President of the Royal  
Astronomical Society of Canada -  
both of which I have read with  
great pleasure and profit, and  
with which I am glad to have it my  
hand for subsequent reference.

July 26, 1945.

Dr. Otto Struve  
Director of Yerkes Observatory,  
Williams Bay, Wis.

Dear Dr. Struve:

I am very grateful to you for your letter of July 12 in which you so generously express your appreciation of my R.A.S.C. address and the tribute to Eddington.

With regard to your suggestion, that I consider writing a complete biography, I can only say that I have no doubt Miss Eddington and those most closely associated with him at Cambridge and at Burlington House, will select an official biographer, and put all the material available ~~from~~ there at his disposal. Undoubtedly there should be a Life written. The tributes from astronomers, physicists, and others show how greatly he was appreciated and how highly his work has been valued during his life, but I believe that his reputation will rank higher and higher as time goes on.

In the meantime your own contributions are piling up into an impressive and inspiring, massive record.

I send you my sincerest good wishes for continued success in your research. With kindest regards.

Yours very truly,

AVD/da

Dean.



McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

29 May 1945

Dear Dr Douglas -

I have just read  
your article on Edouard in the  
Toronto Quarterly and thought it  
Excellent. Congratulations.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

J. H. Hattard.

BASS RIVER  
CAPE COD  
MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Dr. Douglas,

How splendid of you to send me your two recent articles! They have been read with special pleasure and have recalled so vividly the evening you addressed the I.F.U.W. and your remarkably clear exposition of your subject. Again, you give your reader the same gratifying satisfaction!

My warm thanks - and best wishes,  
always -

Cordially yours,  
Grace G. Crocker

September tenth  
1945

Isn't it wonderful that the Japanese have surrendered? Maybe before too long we shall have the gathering of the I.F.U.W.

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA



Miss A. V. Douglas, Ph. D.,  
Queen's University  
Kingston, Ont.

116 Sterling St.  
Hamilton, Ontario.  
Feb. 3, 1945.

Dear Dr. Douglas,-

It was thoughtful of you to write me the note which came to hand about a week ago. I, too, had hoped for further conversation, but at such a meeting one is like a bee making very brief calls on each flower.

I have not yet gotten over my wonder at your address on "Astronomy, Physics and Philosophy". It was impossible for me to enjoy it quite as I should have, for always I wondered what should be said at its close. But many have remarked on its outstanding quality. One of our Hamilton men - the head of a large manufacturing concern - told me that he felt as if he knew nothing at all in the presence of such scholarship. For my part I am anxious to see it in the Journal, and I wrote Mr. Hogg urging him to print it all.

You have set such a high standard that I cannot hope to attain to it next year. But I am glad that our Society does make it possible for one to meet such grand people as you.

With many thanks and best wishes,

I remain, yours truly -

Alfred E. Johns.

January 24, 1945.

Dr. A. E. Johns,  
Department of Mathematics,  
McMaster University,  
Hamilton, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Johns:

I want to tell you what a pleasure it was to hand over the Presidency of the R.A.S.C. to you last Friday. Unfortunately I came away from the Library in rather a hurry as I was with two rather elderly friends, whose health has been very uncertain and for whom coming to the meeting was quite an effort. The result was that in my anxiety to get them away I did not see you and Mrs. Johns to say goodbye.

With kindest regards and best wishes for your tenure of office.

Sincerely yours,

AVD/MR

Reprints  
Race addresses. + A.B. Eddington

L. Frank Allen -  
 C.D. Ellis (Strand) -  
 Burton  
 O. Strume -  
 Mendel.  
 A.B. Currie  
 W.M. Sibley -  
 E.J. Pratt  
 Carlton Stanley ✓  
 H.L. Murray  
 Prof. MacLennan  
 H.M. Tory -  
 B.K.S. -  
 Miss Edd. -

W.M. Smart -  
 Miss Eddington -  
 Dingle.  
 Spencer Jones -  
 Prof. Jackson  
 Stratton  
 Shapley -  
 C.P. Gaborchan -  
 O. Strume -  
 C. Eckhart.  
 W.L.M.K. -  
 F.A. Saunders -  
 W.S. Adams -  
 R.A. Daly -  
 F.J.M. Stratton -  
 Edd. only. x.  
 all Race presidents  
 + J.A. Pearce ✓  
 G.P.H. ✓  
 \* Don Hillman  
 \* Meldrum Stewart  
 \* Miriam Burland  
 \* V. Mackintosh  
 Edna Taylor

O.B. Crichin.  
 V. Mackintosh.  
 Gerald H. Brown Ottawa.  
~~W.L.M.K.~~  
~~W.L.M.K.~~  
 C.T. Currie  
 G.C. Webster.  
 Annie Crocker (Wellesley)

G.V.D. 4 -  
 H.G.H. -  
 Karen -  
 MacLean -  
 Coleman -  
 MacLennan  
 W.A. Grant  
 Mrs. V. V. Ham -  
 Mrs. Ross  
 A.B.S. -  
 D.A.K. -  
 H.S.P. -  
 Mrs. Tolley  
 W.D. Light  
 H.F. Hall -  
 A.R.H. -  
 G.L.F. - + F.E.W. -  
 C.P. Martin -  
 F. Prover -  
 B. Rogers -  
 R.C.W. -  
 W.S. Miller -  
 J.R. Jones  
 M. Chown  
 Mrs. "  
 M. Macdonnell  
 M. Gordon  
 H. Lind  
 A.R. Clark -  
 H.B. Clarke -  
 G.W.C. -  
 Nancy -  
 Samuel -  
 Trotter  
 Wright  
 E. Harrison  
 Humphreys  
 Vincent -  
 J.K. Robertson -  
 J.A. Gray -  
 J. Jones  
 Mrs. S. S. -  
 S. K. Li -  
 J. M. Shaw  
 P. Kent -  
 J. Coleman -  
 J. Bennett -  
 T. L. L. -  
 R.K. Sealey -  
 Jeffrey  
 Chipman -



CANADA

QUOTE FILE

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES  
SURVEYS AND ENGINEERING BRANCH  
DOMINION OBSERVATORIES

DOMINION ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY  
VICTORIA, B. C.

July 31<sup>st</sup> 1945

Dear Dr Douglas:-

Many thanks for sending me the reprints of your articles. I have read them with great interest especially enjoying your tribute to Sir Arthur.

would you be so kind as to send me another copy to my file? You will smile when you learn that I am sending this back to Kingston, as I promised Prof. P.G.C. Campbell to send him your biographical sketch of Eddington. So in this case, the prophet has become albane - you are appreciated in Kingston, as well as in distant Victoria.

I enjoyed meeting you rather this May - kindly remember me to him. Really experienced

climby weather at Bridenbury Park. on the 9<sup>th</sup>. An visitors to the D.A.O. - are increasing - we had 200 last Saturday, and 75 teachers of the Provincial Summer School - last night they walked the hill, both ways, to get a peep at the Cluster in Hercules.

Sincerely yours  
J. Pearce

ADG reprint  
sent Aug 6

Dr. A. V. Douglas.  
Dean of Women  
Queen's University  
Kingston, Ontario



Department of  
Physics



McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

July 6, 1945

Dean A. V. Douglas,  
Queen's University,  
Kingston, Ontario.

Dear Dean Douglas:

Many thanks for the two reprints which you so kindly sent. I shall read them this weekend, and I know that they will be enjoyed. By a coincidence, I happened to notice only yesterday in the French magazine "Culture" a reference to your Astronomy, Physics and Philosophy article, and I decided to look up my Royal Astronomical Society journals (which I confess I had passed on to the Library recently without noting the contents) to see if your article was there, as appeared likely if it was your presidential address. Immediately following this your paper arrived.

I enclose a reprint of the obituary article I wrote on Herschel Reilley.

With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

*A. Norman Shaw*

A. Norman Shaw,  
Chairman,  
Physics Department.

ANS/FD  
encl.

July 13, 1945.

Dr. A. Norman Shaw,  
Macdonald Physics Bldg.,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Dr. Shaw:

Thank you very much for your note of July 6, and for the reprint of your tribute to Professor Reilly. There is a sincere and sympathetic appreciation of his many fine qualities in this article. He was indeed a great citizen in the truest sense.

Thank you for referring me to the French magazine "Culture". I do not know it but believe our library takes it. I shall be interested in looking up the reference.

It was a great pleasure to see you and Effie here in Bay. Since then I was in Nova Scotia for 3 weeks and am now busy with teaching and sundry duties in connection with our Summer School.

I hope you will be able to take a good holiday this summer and send my warmest regards to you both.

Yours sincerely,

AVD/ea

Dean.

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER



CANADA

Personal

Ottawa,  
July 12, 1945

Dear Miss Douglas:

I thank you warmly for your kindness in sending me copies of your addresses on "Sir Arthur Eddington, O.M.", and on "Astronomy, Physics, and Philosophy".

I shall always retain a vivid recollection of the inspiring address I heard you give in the theatre of the National Museum of Canada a few years ago.

I shall take the earliest favourable opportunity to read the addresses which you have so kindly sent to me.

*Kind personal regards,*  
Yours sincerely,

*W. L. Mackenzie King*

Miss A. Vibert Douglas, M.B.E., M.Sc., Ph.D.,  
Dean of Women,  
Queen's University,  
Kingston, Ontario.

OFFICE OF THE  
EDITOR



8 ARLINGTON STREET  
BOSTON

*The Atlantic Monthly*

June 26, 1942

Dear Miss Douglas:

Bless you for doing that revision so promptly and with such ready skill. Yours is the retort courteous and a very good one indeed.

Sincerely yours,

*Edward Weeks*

Miss A. Vibert Douglas  
Drumlin Farm  
Lower Sackville  
Nova Scotia

*Re: A Tool with a Creed*

OFFICE OF THE  
EDITOR



8 ARLINGTON STREET  
BOSTON

## The Atlantic Monthly

1 July, 1942.

Dear Miss Douglas:—

Here on the dead run come the proofs of your brief paper which will fill just about two pages in the August Atlantic. As the time is so short, I am going to ask you to wire me if there are any serious corrections, although you can certainly rely upon us to catch any misprints.

Yours sincerely,

*Edward Weeks*

Miss A. Vibert Douglas,  
Drumlin Farm,  
Lower Sackville,  
Nova Scotia,  
Canada.

1559A PINE AVENUE, WEST

MONTREAL

DEC. 1. 1942

R Jan 16  
Dear Albie,

Thank you so very  
much for sending me  
your delightfully readable  
paper on Sir Oliver Lodge.  
I read it as soon as it  
came, and had a strong  
impulse to write to you  
within the hour. But you  
know how impulses like  
that are frustrated.

I was interested, naturally, in  
the matter of the paper -  
Sir Oliver and your various  
contacts with him, deeply  
interested in the fact that  
he had approached you  
because of his interest in  
what you had contributed  
to the knowledge of a great  
subject. I felt proud of you.  
I saw Sir Oliver myself only  
once, and then as an observer  
only. I found myself in the

elevator of the City with him,  
and, looking up at <sup>his</sup> great height  
and remarkable head, my first  
thought was: "has Tenison  
come to life again?" He was  
certainly a person whom one  
could not miss or forget.

But, much as I enjoyed  
your paper, I have still greater  
satisfaction in the evidence  
it gave that you have  
not allowed yourself and  
the resources of your mind

to be completely swallowed  
up by your job, important  
and absorbing as it is.  
You have learned as I  
learned before you that the  
sort of position which you  
now hold demands a  
constant effort to preserve  
the balance between the  
multifarious claims pouring  
in upon you hour after hour,  
and the urge of the inner



special knowledge, the

1559A PINE AVENUE, WEST

MONTREAL

long cultivated interest to  
have attention and utterance.  
It is easy to see that one  
must not err on the side  
of over abstraction. Youth  
with all its hopes, its latent  
power and present weaknesses  
claims the first and best  
support that we can give.  
But if one has in his keeping  
that precious talent or  
special reserve of knowledge

it ought not to be quite  
buried. Your special training,  
far more advanced than  
mine, makes the rivalry of  
Clairius probably more acute.  
It may make you suffer at  
times. But if you can so  
plan and contrive that  
without robbing your children  
you can get yourself an  
hour or two of solitude  
and turn out an article

like this, you are being true to  
yourself, and the children too  
are the better of it. They can  
be proud of you as I am.  
I am writing at too great  
length, but I know so well  
the pitfalls in this field of ones,  
that I cannot get my mind  
quite away from them. I  
know where I stumbled and  
I have seen the effect of the  
opposite kind of stumbling, and  
I rejoice to see you finding  
a better way.  
affectionately yours Susan E. Vaughan

200 Albert Street  
Kingston, Ont.

November 27, 1942

Dear Dr. Douglas:-

Please accept thanks  
for your beautiful appreciation  
of Sir Oliver Lodge. It is  
well done and I am  
glad that you wrote it.

He deserves more than  
ridicule because of his  
scientific work. Of the  
other activities, so much  
Irided, who knows?

Sincerely  
at Clark

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

12/12/42.

Allie My Precious One,

A million blessings  
on you for the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Your Birth Day string is here!

I have just completed my  
Exam. papers.

Stanley told me that  
he has read Sir O.L. 3  
times + loves it.

God bless you  
My Darling -  
Skahal -

G.

THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY  
TORONTO 5, CANADA

CABLE ADDRESS:

ROMA, TORONTO

AGENTS IN ENGLAND:

THOMAS MEADOWS & CO., LTD.

35, MILK STREET,

LONDON, E.C. 2.

12. 2. 43

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Mrs Douglas.

Many thanks for your reference to  
Mr Oliver Lodge. His son Oliver was here  
for awhile, liter-ary, very modern, hard to understand  
did not impress my friends very well. Had  
a note from the Principal so much thanks

for little service. In some way you must  
get one of Prof. Chang's paintings. Do come  
in also see your Prof of Fine Arts  
to see what we obtained. He is a marvel  
pictures very cheap and money goes to the  
Chinese Fund.

Yours very sincerely  
C. J. Curdell

Bay Cottage  
Naxera,  
Virginia.  
Dec. 14. 1942.

My dear Sir

I have read your article on my  
Father with great interest. I think  
you keep the balance well between his  
work for Physics & his work for in Psychics.  
His attitude was the same to both — the  
scientific attitude. It may be questioned  
whether the scientific attitude is really  
adequate alone to deal with spiritual  
things — Some such attitude as  
Ward's in his Prelude seems to be  
needed.

Your picture of Father at Cambridge in  
1923 is very pleasing — you will notice  
that his union of Religion & Learning, (as  
exemplified in St. Edward's on Sunday & the

College lectures on Monday,) are that  
to Funderst of the Cambridge Colleges  
intended - & what was once obligatory  
on the Fellows.

Clerk Maxwell, as you have perceived,  
was Pater's great admirer.

I notice only one error of fact. I don't  
think he could ever be described as a  
'school-master' (p. 113). He began as  
assistant professor to Prof. <sup>Carey</sup> ~~Carey~~  
Foster, who was Professor of Physics at University  
College London, & for London was appointed to the  
professorship of Physics at Liverpool.\*

Thanking you again for the pleasure your  
admirable essay has given me:

I remain yours sincerely

Oliver W. F. Lodge

To A. Vibert Douglas Esq.  
Toronto.

\* See Father's Autobiography entitled  
Past Years.



February 11, 1943.

Oliver W. F. Lodge, Esq.,  
Bay Cottage,  
Naxera, Virginia.

Dear Dr. Lodge:

I want to thank you very much for your letter of December 14. It is a pleasure to me to know that you have seen and enjoyed my tribute to your distinguished father.

With regard to the error of fact, I am wondering what he said in his address to the electrical engineers in Cambridge which led me to believe that he was referring to a time when he was a school master. Possibly he referred to being a teacher. The fact that the title professor is used in the Old Country only for the head of the department in contrast to its general use on this continent may explain my misunderstanding of something he said. In any case, I am happy to know that you found no more serious errors.

Again thanking you for your note and with warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

AVD/LM.

14 letters  
quote from L Silvester.

87 FOREST HILL ROAD  
TORONTO

June 29.

Dear Miss Douglas.

May I say how very  
much we owe to you for the  
success of last week. - both for  
the arrangements and for your  
own capacity to create an  
atmosphere of welcome and of  
everything that one likes to

think of in university life  
I'm glad Dr Wallace found  
you on your desert stand

Yours sincerely

Hubert Russell

\*It could easily be made to point the moral of toleration  
for the seemingly heretical!

Present at Lecture Mar. 15.

R.C.W.  
W. S. Merrill  
Dean Math  
Prof. Earl  
Frost  
Gammeter  
N. Miller  
Humphrey  
Eric Harrison  
H. Harrison  
W. Clarke  
M. Gordon  
J. Royce  
M. M. M. M.

Prof. Bruce  
Robertson  
Ellis?  
Joe Miller  
Melvin  
M. Macdonnell  
L. Bruce  
Rose  
Krothoff.  
K. Johnston.

Dear Sean Douglas,

If I am not  
mistaken, Copernicus  
matriculated into an  
institution of higher  
research exactly four  
hundred years ago.

I should love to read  
a four centenary article  
on him from your pen.  
Why not write one\* for  
the Q. Q. ?

Sincerely yours  
Eric Harrison

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY



April 10<sup>th</sup> 1943

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL, CANADA

Dear Miss Douglas,

I am so sorry that I missed  
your lecture and that I did not see you  
during your visit to Montreal. I tried to  
reach you by telephone on the Sunday, but  
without success. People are unanimous in  
praise of your lecture and we are most  
grateful to you. I hope you enjoyed  
your trip as much as the members of  
Sigma Xi enjoyed your dissertation

Yours sincerely,  
A. W. S. Smith



THE MCGILL CHAPTER OF SIGMA XI

McGill University  
Montreal, Canada

Physiology Department, April 5, 1943.

Dr. A. Vibert Douglas,  
Dean of Women,  
Queen's University,  
Kingston, Ont.

Dear Dr. Douglas:

On behalf of the Executive Committee I thank you for your kindness in coming to Montreal to present the Copernicus Commemoration lecture. Its standard was of an order which is not often attained.

As you know the Committee does not wish that you should bear the expense of this trip and has asked me to inquire what sum we may send to cover it.

Yours very sincerely,

Rhoda Grant, Secretary.

April 7, 1943.

Dr. Rhoda Grant,  
Physiology Department,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Dr. Grant:

Thank you for your letter of April 5. My expenses are the return ticket to Montreal \$10.75 plus \$2.50 for taxis.

It was a great pleasure to me to meet so many old friends at the Physics Building and I greatly enjoyed the Sigma Xi dinner. Will you be kind enough to ask that the charge for having my brother at the dinner be put to my account at the Faculty Club.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

AVD/LM.

Hutchinson  
Schalptt

Knowlton, Quebec,  
June 21st., 1940.

A. V. Douglas, Esq.,  
Ban Righ Hall,  
Queen's University,  
KINGSTON, Ont.

Dear Mr. Douglas :

Please accept my thanks for your kind letter of June twelfth, in which you say such grand things about the Keep Cool editorial in The Montrealer.

Like you I am extremely concerned over the war mind in this country. For myself I have endeavoured to cling to the opinion since the beginning that (a) totalitarian fanaticism must be wiped out but that (b) it can only be wiped out by people who possess adult minds and insist upon clinging to the concepts of liberty themselves as they go about the job. I'm afraid there's trouble ahead, of one sort or another, for those who think in these terms and give voice to their thoughts, but I propose to do so, if only to make life inside my own skin bearable for myself.

Under the best of circumstances there are not many true believers in human liberty in this country, in my opinion. Today most of these are so emotionally upset that all their thinking has gone cockeyed. One thing I do know - admitting that it seems almost fantastic to be trying to think in terms of after-the-war - is that there is going to be a terrific job of work for freemen to do, right

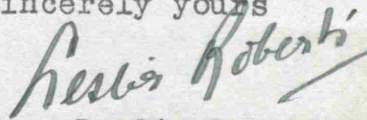


here in Canada, once that day comes. To judge by my own mail, present sentiments seem to be that any man who wants the world to keep its head is immediately adjudged pro-Nazi, or some such amazing thing.

I find solace in one direction, and that is in the fact that the P.M. keeps his feet on the ground, as did my own dear friend Norman Rogers, with whom I served in Ottawa as Special Assistant for some months. But even Prime Ministers are the victims of clamours, as we have seen in recent weeks.

Forgive the length of this letter, which really comes under the head of blowing off steam. And thank you again for your kindly note.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie Roberts". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Leslie Roberts

Streetsville

Nov. 23, 1940

Dr. Alice Douglas,  
Queen's University  
Kingston.

Dear Mr. Douglas,

I wanted to tell  
you how much I enjoyed  
your lecture at Convocation  
Hall in Toronto, last Saturday  
evening. I could not reach  
you in the hall, so I am  
taking the liberty of  
writing you.

my college days when I waded ~~my~~ way  
through Mathematics and Physics at the  
University of Toronto. Professor MacLennan  
revealed to us the world of physical  
science. I was not a brilliant student,  
but I did get a glimpse of the wonderful  
discoveries in scientific research. In  
the short time since I left college they  
have found out a great deal more.

You passed on to your audience, the  
enthusiasm your vision of the universe  
has given you. I found your lecture  
most inspiring, and the photographs  
were beautiful. I only wish I had the  
ability and courage to help a little in  
the splendid contribution you are  
making to dispel ignorance and awaken  
minds in this war-torn world of ours.

Queen's is to be congratulated in  
its Dean for women!

I hope you will not think me presumptuous  
but I did want you to know how I felt.

(Mrs. W. W. M. Pope)

Most sincerely yours,  
Alice M. Pope.

I was thrilled with that meeting for two reasons. First, by your absorbing subject, treated in an unusual and delightful manner; and secondly by the fact that a woman was recognised by the Royal Canadian Institute. (My experience is that such a woman would have to show a little more ability than a man in the same position, but this is between ourselves.)

I was very glad they honored you.

You took me back to

Dec. 24. 1944.  
Windsor Hotel,  
Montreal.

Dear Miss Douglas,

Please forgive a rather hasty note written on my homeward journey.

I have read your paper in 'The Hibbert Journal' with the greatest interest & in the main with warm consent. I am sure you are right in maintaining that education must stress the commonwealth of letters that transcends national boundaries. That is of vital importance. I hope, too, that after the war there may be direct talks of international service which may bring home to the imagination the reality of the brotherhood of man.

I agree with you that belief in the unity of the human race rests in the first instance upon reason & conscience - not on inferences from the life of Christ.

p. 139. we must preach the love of God "in its most universal & undogmatic form". Universal - I agree; but I fear the word 'undogmatic'. The Christian Gospel can never be adequately defined, but it is not indefinite; and 'undogmatic' is nearly a synonym for 'vague' - or may be so taken. The love of God is not a general, paternal attitude. I am sure there can be no definition of the power & beauty of God as manifested through your astrophysics, but you must want to say 'well, at least as powerful as that, as beautiful as that.' I believe the love of God is an abyss as unfathomable as his power & beauty, one ought to stand as much in awe before the wonder of the love of God revealed in Christ as before his power & beauty revealed in the heavens. There are two infinities!

We mortals in our weakness & folly are like drowning men. & God like one on the bank who should shout us

good advice through a megaphone or remind us that, had we listened to him, we should never have come into this plight? or is he like one who should risk or lose his life to save us? you are put off by crude, prosaic, temporary theological definitions or explanations, or that which I suggest - that in some way infinite God comes to our rescue - is mystery beyond conceiving like the mystery of the stars universe, but something not less than this is across the heart of the Christian Gospel.

In particular, the Biblical phrase "blood of Christ", "blood of the Lamb" are a sort of formula, taken, of course, from the ancient sacrificial system, but meaning "the life of him who was dead". I should probably agree with your strictures on the traditional exegesis.

p. 140. Are you satisfied that if the Golden Age should ever come, (1) it would be enduring, (2) it would really justify the long travail or agony of the ages through which it came to be? We must strive for the Golden Age - that is a work of mercy, but I think the meaning of history must be beyond history: the (consummated) Kingdom of God must include those who died child but did not live to see the Golden Age on earth.

I hope these comments are intelligible. I most warmly agree with your main thesis.

Very sincerely  
Kath. Michlem.

Queen's University

9 January, 1939 <sup>40</sup>

Dear Dr. Douglas,

It is very appropriate that I begin, "Thank you, Dr. Douglas." I am very grateful for your courtesy in sending me "Thank you, Stephen Leacock!" As a matter of fact I had read it before, but now I have it and I will stick it inside my copy - or rather my wife's copy of "All Right, Mr. Roosevelt."

I am much obliged to you for

teaching me Voltaire's maxim -  
"Solemnity is a disease". I did not  
know it before and I am adding  
it to my permanent possessions.

You write delightfully. My  
wife had not seen your little article  
and she will be as glad as I  
to have it.

Yours very truly,  
W. M. Reid



Queen's University

6 February, 1971

Dear Dr. Douglas,

I must put in writing what I said to you orally this morning.

First, when your copy of the Hibbert Journal reached me in the middle of the forenoon a few days ago, I at once stopped work to read your noble article "The Future of Mankind". I know what it inspired from you and not even the need of making or reading

Cappan could induce me to postpone  
the pleasure of reading what you had  
written. It is able, and beautifully  
done, as is all your work. The final  
sentence is a splendid climax.

Your very nice words about  
my lectures on Cappan have given me  
unusual pleasure.

Thank you very much

Yours sincerely,  
Wells Reid

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY  
KINGSTON, ONT.

9 Jan 1940

Dear Dr Douglas,

Please accept my warm thanks for your letter; I much appreciated what you said. I am also very grateful to you for sending me the off-print, & even more so for your having written it.  
Thank you, Dr. Douglas!

With my best wishes

Yours sincerely

Hshaw

---

Prof of Classics

H. E. MACDERMOT, M.D., F.R.C.P. (C.)

SUITE ~~1023~~ 1024

1414 DRUMMOND STREET

MONTREAL

November 9, 1939

Dear Miss Douglas

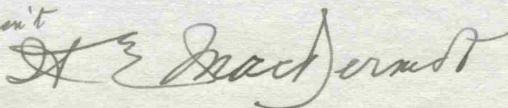
Your ms. on 'All Right In Roosevelt' came, and I sent it on to Professor Leacock as you asked. But I don't doubt that he will agree, and if he doesn't I shall argue with him, because we want it badly. You say just the things I want to say, but I couldn't get the right text to talk from. You have exactly the right one.

I should like to know who the 'old timer' is that you speak of!

Thank you very much indeed. We hope to put it in the next issue.

P.S. I am really not the editor, but the chairman of the Board. But that doesn't matter.

Sincerely yours



Victoria College  
Toronto 5, Canada

Aug. 23, 1940

Dear Mrs Douglas:

I have read with immense enjoyment  
your two articles, and have become simply drunk  
with space.

You have yourself the "greyhound imagination"  
to be able to do that kind of hurdling.

Pascal's prophecy is staggering, isn't it?  
I have always contended that the poetic and  
scientific imaginations are at root the same.

I hope you will find time to go on writing  
bde this.

Yours sincerely,

E. J. Pratt

Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
1940

7 Prince Arthur Avenue  
Toronto

ROYAL VICTORIA COLLEGE  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

Dear D<sup>r</sup> Douglas,

My "huffill bees"  
has been following me about  
so I only saw it last  
week, the day before  
I had to move into my  
flat. That is why  
all my letters have been  
reflected, though that is  
no excuse for reflecting this

me!

What can I say to you?  
Even though perfectly sincere  
and really deep down,  
I know I don't deserve  
what you say, I am,  
equally deep down, very  
much touched and moved,  
not because of what you  
say, but because you  
wished to say it and  
felt you could.

Thank you from my heart.  
The sensible, realistic side  
of me feels I ought to

edit that paragraph  
about me - out of my  
own opinion of W.E.B. at  
R.V.C. "She often let her  
tongue run away with her"  
or "she made snap judgments  
and was therefore often  
unfair" <sup>of unjust</sup> "to individuals -"  
"full of prejudices" etc. etc.  
"she was unacademic" - !!  
As long as you realize  
that I realize, we'll leave  
it and I'll keep my  
fleece & pride in  
what you have done for  
me. I shall always

ROYAL VICTORIA COLLEGE  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL



remember that one of the  
best gifts that we fill gave  
me was my friendship  
with you - and that  
remains.

The whole article pleases  
me - I like the accuracy  
of it and the spirit <sup>of</sup> it.  
You & I both love to fill,  
but are not blind to  
the faults there. She  
does yearn over her a  
bit, but I have seen  
many beloved institutions  
come out of difficult &  
unhappy times - renewed

& strengthened. Let's hope  
that will come

ROYAL VICTORIA COLLEGE  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

from what she has been  
through

I must act better  
with a long letter, for  
know how busy you are.  
The problem of housing  
is a difficult enough  
thing in itself.

I hope you enjoyed the  
summer. "They" enjoyed  
you at Calgary, I heard.  
I'll note of my

address & let me know  
if you come to T. I do  
want to see you.

Perhaps I'll get to K.  
Some time.

My deep thanks again  
and, apart from me,  
congratulations on the  
article. A Scientist  
should not be able to  
write so well in addition  
to everything else you have!  
Yours ever  
Wanda Grant.

Roy Can Inst. address

338 Albany Avenue  
Toronto

Sunday

Dear Dr. Douglas:

It was a pleasure  
to hear you last evening in  
Convocation Hall. Only once,  
previously; if my memory is  
accurate, have I heard a  
woman lecture on the Institute  
programme and on that  
occasion Mrs. Wolcott came  
from Washington. The

Modern public address system  
has solved the difficulty  
that all women and most  
men experience in that  
building.

Your illustrations were  
beautiful and the subject  
matter most interesting and  
as Dr. Melman said "poetic".  
Congratulations!

Yours sincerely,  
Viola Davidson

My Car Just Arrived

ALDERCOIGN  
DUNDAS, ONTARIO

17<sup>th</sup> November 1941

Dear Miss Douglas:

Many of those who were with us on Saturday evening have told me how deeply interested they were in your splendid lecture, as was I also.

There was an odd incident during your talk that I intended to mention to you afterwards but forgot. You will recollect that our past president

who operated the lantern had some difficulty in finding the portrait of Galileo Galilei. Well the operator, who is an Englishman, was John Galilee, whose ancestor, many generations ago came to England from Italy. He told me once that there is a family tradition that they came from the same family as the great astronomer.

Sincerely yours.

W. Harvey M. Nairn

1st October, 1946

Mrs. George McDonald,  
66 St. Sulpice Road,  
Montreal, Quebec.

Dear Mrs. McDonald:

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your kind letter of September 27th. It was a pleasure to meet with the University Women's Club and see so many old friends and to have the opportunity of passing on something of the overwhelming store of impressions which my eight weeks in Europe gave me. One never feels after a talk like that, that one has succeeded in doing a very good job. So many things were left unsaid. Your words are very encouraging. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

A. Vibert Douglas.



4 Rosedale Road

Toronto

Oct. 8 1941

Doctor Robert Douglas

Office of the Dean of Women  
Queens University

Dear Dr Douglas.

It will give me great  
pleasure if you will  
accept the small sketch  
I am sending to supplement  
those masterpieces of yours  
which the foot has no

year out of Eng. - Phys. to do  
some practical work in the Sutton -  
Horsley firm where she is getting a  
tremendous amount of useful  
experience.

Sincerely yours

Beverly Mac Donald.

doubt caught by now. It  
goes in appreciation of  
a most happy week-end  
spent at the Artists'  
Conference, the pleasantness  
of which was due so  
much to your kind  
thoughtfulness.

Sally is taking a

Queen's University

10 October, 1940

Dear Dr. Douglas,

I have been very slow in thanking you properly for the pleasure you gave me in sending me two offprints.

Both were beautiful bits of thinking and writing, - "apples of gold in baskets of silver." Your Calgary address made me realize that I was wiser than I knew in begging off last spring when invited to address the Kingston nurses. I could not have done anything

comparable with your address. This  
is what I sincerely felt about it: it  
would have done supreme credit to  
any speaker before any audience. It  
could not be surpassed.

Like everyone else I have always  
been very proud of our Organ of Women.  
I am now prouder than ever.

Yours very sincerely,  
Walter Hill

66 ST SULPICE ROAD  
MONTREAL

27.9.46

Dear Mr Douglas

You must already know how very much we enjoyed your letter and how very warmly we know feel about - based student - things - what you may not realize is your strength as an advocate - I have come with young Mr Madeline Beaudin an American from Minn. married into me of the oldest - Antenor - families (this doesn't sound very red does it?) She is very intelligent and says you were the best speaker

66 St. James Gate  
Dublin 1

The Stokes agreed with me - so  
You have two generations of able  
bowlers impressed beyond the ordinary.  
I am not so well qualified to  
judge but - I would go over more  
and feel to hear you again -  
Thank you very much indeed

Yours v. Sincerely  
Thos. Howard

FRENTHAM,  
ROLVENDEN,  
BY CRANBROOK, KENT.

14th January 1948.

My dear Douglas,

Many thanks for your most interesting letter of the 3rd January. If I am right in my interpretation of the local Weald Structure, the great river whose delta it is flowed from approximately West to East, and it must have been a very great river. I leave it to you geologists to say where the river had its source, and where it collected the iron which for so many centuries provided the basis for the Wealdon Iron Industry.

Your description of the movement of a plank pushed into water has started a new train of thought in my mind. This perhaps I shall develop on some future occasion.

At the moment I am mightily concerned with my own visual affairs. It is just a little over a year since I had the haemorrhage in my right eye, which tore my retina and destroyed my power of sight. It is just almost ten months since Duke Elder and Stallard told me that I should never see again. This was confirmed by Stallard when he examined me in September. However, in the closing weeks of '47 vague sight began to return, and on Sunday last Stallard came here and thoroughly tested and examined the eye. To his surprise, he found that the three tears that there were in the retina had healed, that the retina had shaken itself out of the folds into which it had fallen after the detachment, and had spread itself smoothly on the vascular layer from which it had been detached. The question now is: "Can the rods and cones recover physiological activity after their long separation from their main source of nutritional supply?"

Stallard tells me that never in his whole experience has he seen anything like this, and therefore he cannot forecast in any way what will happen. Naturally I am hopeful, but shall just have to possess my soul in patience until such time as we know the answer. As I dictate this the actual vision I have is dim and rather suggestive of trying to see through water that has been poured into a glass from which milk has been drunk. There is, of course, no natural focus as I have no lense, and this makes it not easy to be certain how much of the obscurity is due to diminished visual acuity and how much to dispersion of the light rays.

FRANK M. ...  
ROXBOROUGH ...  
BY GRANBROOK, NENTH

Who?

Who?  
← M<sup>r</sup> Take  
Uranium Xtal

In the meantime I am tied to Frensham and its immediate neighbourhood, having been forbidden to undertake railway journeys or even motor car rides except for very short distances and at very low speeds. This, of course, is intended to reduce the risk of shaking the retina away from its new moorings before they have had time to consolidate themselves. I have, however, got Theodore Hamblin coming to see me on Friday, and as he is probably the best optical man we have in Europe, I have great hopes of some clear focus being found possible to attain. For the moment returning vision is a rather twp-edged sword, very helpful in some ways, very difficult in others.

I am writing to Nobbs to-day and giving him my personal news in identical terms.

I was glad to get news of your sister. I must say that from this distance I find it difficult to recognise any very marked positive achievements of U.N.O. up to date. Personally I am very doubtful about the activities of U.N.E.S.C.O. Somewhere in the back of my mind I have a rather vague recollection of one of Whitehead's lectures, in which he discussed the importance of the diversities of the many cultural inheritances of contemporary mankind. He advanced the view, as I remember it, that diversity was essential to progress. I remember being much impressed at the time and I still think that view is right. What you say in your letter about the greatness of Whitehead is profoundly true. In my judgment, his was the greatest intellect of our time, and perhaps in the future, when more have grasped the content of his thought, he will be regarded as one of the greatest if not the greatest thinkers of all times. What an extraordinary trio Bergson, Alexander and Whitehead have been, and how little in the turmoil of two world wars and two periods of economic chaos have the technologists and scientific specialists realised the importance of these three men.

Yours ever,

Gaddes