

Bank House,  
Penicuik,  
Midlothian.  
May 14<sup>th</sup> 1900

Dear Pennell,

You must forgive my not writing earlier. I have had one chill upon another and for over three weeks have been confined to bed, where I still remain. I hardly think it is likely that "Grey Galloway" can be ready this year. They want to make a fine book of it and unless I am much better I cannot hope to get any part done in time.

But that need make no difference to you. In fact I think they will be glad to have your drawings in plenty of time that they may do you justice. I have researched as well as I could in bed, a rough map of a suggested route starting from Dumfries following the [ ] the ways round to Newton Stewart, thence up to Glen Trool and the 'Raiders Country' from which you go over the hill road to New Galloway and Dalry.

Dalry is a good centre with [ ] hotel (Lochinvar) from which you can [ ] for short excursions. The landlady has a [permit] for you to go to the jealously guarded Earlstoun Castle. From Dalry if you have this, you might go to Carsphairn, a [ ] village in the [ ] in any case you might to [ ] by the [ ] side of Loch Ken, passing New Galloway Station, the Duchrae, where I was born to Laurieston, which is the leading village I write about in any Galloway books, and is worth a sketch or two.

Six miles farther on you come to Castle Douglas, where Carlinwark Loch (Lover's walk side) and Thrieve Castle are the main points. After this you can please yourself, you will probably have finished your [ ] by that time so that you can either go to Dumfries by road or return to London direct from Castle Douglas.

Yours as ever

SRC  
(per R.M.C)

PS The best map is [Rast..? ] and [ ] can put it in Dumfries easily.