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G. MACDONALD COLLECTION
CORRESPONDENCE
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Bucknell, Clarence 1874

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Dec: 30th. 1877.
Villa Diana

My dear Mr. Mac Donald.

Your letter makes me most
anxious you should come out, & come
soon. Could you not bring
your husband out of the cold
& fog first of all.

I believe the villa, ground
sale is to be sold for 1600 £
1200 £ to be paid ^{down} & the
remaining ^{on mortgage} 400 £ at 5 p.c.
This would give Miss Patrick.

little income of 20 $\frac{1}{2}$. Her
mother is shortly going off
to England, & if the daughter
can earn a little by lessons
she will probably do well.

Mr. Conque the Vice Consul
says it would be a good
plan for you to have the
idea for a month on trial;
if you liked it well
enough to purchase it, well
& good, if not you might
pay rent for it.

I believe you could this
winter well manage to
let Miss P. have 2 rooms on
the ground floor, if the rest
of the house were fully furnished.
I will add a P.S. about
the exact number of rooms
on each flat, fireplaces &c.

I bid me love,
with renewed wishes for the
new year
Yours sincerely
Clarence Dickwell

I am afraid no letter was
lost - but I got confused thru
the blizzard of the post -
France has been so snow
blocked that trains, if they
came at all, were hourly
late -

==

6 rooms skitchen top flat.

5 next -

5 or 6 ground floor.



Once much like this. If Mr.
de la Rue will come, shall be
very glad

Villa Diana.

Sau Remo.

Nov. 28th

My dear Mr. Macdonald, you could
not have done anything kinder
than write to me so openly about
your wants & cares & hopes - I am
most grateful to you. I was away
at Mentone to see a brother
when your letter came & have
only just returned. Mr. R. Noel
tells me he has written some
particulars about villas to you,
but I gather they are all expensive
ones - I heard the other day
about an Italian one, not
situated in the more fashionable
quarter, but high ^{up} above the
old town.

to be had very cheap, & I suppose
much cheaper still after Thomas -
I shall see about that - I
make enquiries about Platonic
ones, as I believe you have
been accustomed to them, & are
also not very particular, so
that the house is dry & sufficient
large to hold you all comfortably

At the 3 places ^{together} you c^d. probably
ply your trade as you say
successful - but English
I mean that the travelling from
me & the others I think you c^d. at large audiences -
abroad do seem to me extra
the' you wd. hardly earn a living at any one only
hard to please, - and, I think,
don't help or things generous
help much, unless they are

told very plainly in it is "for a
charity", when they become suddenly
generous by taking 2 cheap seats,
or 3 if they make a reduction -
or if something is likely to please
them very much - It seems to me
a pity they don't support the
Platonic Opera company here;
it is not Covent Garden nor Her
Majesty's but ^{the} people do their
best, & the singers sing better
than the Hotel "artistes" -
I & mine wife are glad
to come often to all your
stays, if you will come
among us - or do anything

too care - it would be a treat
to have you & your husband
here - I am speaking very
familiarly too, but you were
both so kind & friendly at
Broadlands, and your
husband's books have been a
great help to me - and
perhaps also, I may add,
that having got somewhat
stranded myself in many
ways, & in a great puzzle
as to what I ought to be
trying to do, particularly, or
derivatively, I feel drawn to
attach myself to any who
at all hold out

sympathetic hands & hearts -

There are few folks at B^{ra} at present - tho' the Queen being there may attract more, & make it a more fashionable place. - report too says, that if she likes it, she will have a villa there. But it is as unlikely that there is a house such as I want for three or four cheap. I know of one or two, & tomorrow (or today) will go off to see about them - & it is between Mentone & S. Remo, & a quiet place for writing with delightful walks for young people - If I were to be there next winter, I should indeed rejoice at
Yours devout.

I hardly know what I said ^{now} in
the letter. I asked Mr. R. Sumner
to forward you. I wanted to ask
Mr. Macdonald if he saw any
light - about my idea of
taking Mr. Faushaw's house
& private chapel - opening the
former to receive poor sick
people (or possibly a family)
& while offering the latter for
the use of the English as a
regular English Church,
usurping it to myself to
teach in it, or invite
conferences & meetings of the

than so-called-religious kind, viz
plays, concerts, lectures &c - I
fancy this free use of it might
be so disagreeable to the greater
part of the residents or visitors
that they wd. sd to work to
collect, & build a church
for themselves, consecrated,
Gothic &c &c - I don't know.
I feel pretty sure, after last
winter, I should not be
acceptable as regular
Chaplain - they said some of
them. I taught heresies,
that I taught & said many ^{false}
wrong, or atleast

very partially-true & very
many foolish things I have no
doubt, but to myself my
gospel seemed truer & better
than that I had originally
heard of men -

I only saw that (very much)
in line & Bodighera because
I feel doubtful if it is
right - I wake up one's
thoughts & desires & speak
by setting down to the huge
machinery or many
imposing
works of London, or to seek
out a new place for myself

When something here seems to
 present itself, as true to me, tho'
 very difficult, no doubt - &
 also doubt if I ought to be
 biased by the thought, ^{was} being
 suggested to me by people, of
 large spheres ^{versus} or small, many
 versus a few -

While on the other hand in so
 small a place as Bordighera
 there is especial danger of
 being considered (or becoming)
 very schismatical in spirit -

I do myself, right enough
 long that Mr. F's chapel
 should be a place, as it has
 hitherto been. There a larger

gospel might be taught. Since
any man (lay or clerical) might
be invited to speak out what
God had taught him - & show
the "Church" might be declared
to be more Catholic than
Italians or English seem to
realize, & it more the all
& the in all.

I fancy if one offered the
Chapel for regular English
Services & resorted to oneself
the above-mentioned nights,
one would do all that seems

true & good - My only difficulty
is the answering the question

37 <sup>ought - a youngish man of
strong & well off</sup> to take what seems an

easy post, abroad in a pleasant
climate, & where the difficulties
& opposition seem likely to
be greater than the encourage-
ments - (and this I thought

your husband might see
some light about)

& I don't think I can
answer, & of course hardly
with a yes -

"are you, C.B., fit for this?"

but one answer to all
questions is "God" -

I hope I - let you hear more
very shortly -

I bid me to be
with very kind regards

Your sincere friend

Clarence Dickkurt.

A year without a snow
or a cross,

No dread of any snow
Bringing loss

Could it be?

A year of flight, with shadows
Scarcely one:

Of fruits in every meadow

~~in every meadow~~
Thistles - none -

What it be?

A year of many losses
and few thorns

A year that brighter closes

Than it draws
me, it be

a year of god's unfolding
wider wings

A year of man's beholding
Better things

It must be.

MS.

Dec 24¹² -

Clarence Bicknell

1879